

Steve Dalton Memorial Service Thoughts

My relationship

- Honored to speak here today
- Share some experiences and thoughts
- Not sure how to refer to him
 - 24 years ago it was - Steve as I got to know him as we served as counselors together for bishop Piper in the Cooper Mt ward
 - Then it was bishop Dalton when he became the bishop of our ward in 1999
 - Three years later it was President Dalton as he became our stake president
 - But I believe that the two titles that meant the most to him however were Daddy and “Dana Dalton’s husband”
- I First got to know him well when we served together as counselors in the bishopric of the Cooper Mt Ward
 - So many new people in the ward we would be visiting new members a couple nights per week
 - This past year I had someone in our stake mention to me that he remembered when Bro Dalton and I visiting his family welcoming them to the ward.
- I served as scoutmaster for Danny, Tony and James then later as their bishop when they were Priests when I was called to replace their father when he was made stake president
 - Scout master policy for fathers - Danny’s first campout
 - Snow Campout. Was wet and miserable weather

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- Prior to that what I remember of Steve camping was him in a motor home at the ward campout wearing flip flops.
- Steve went on many campouts even though that was definitely not his thing - he did it for his boys
- I remember him at Scout camp in his chair directing activities and in his unique way making each boy feel that he was one of their greatest friends and admirers
- When I was scoutmaster and bishop he was there for his sons

Study of Doctrine and love of Teaching

- Loved the doctrines and principles of the gospel
 - Loved to study them
 - Loved to discuss them
 - Loved to teach them
- We shared this favorite Quote from Elder Packer
 - “The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior”
- Steve would study and outline as if were to give a talk about a subject
- Conversations with him, particularly later in his life when his health made it difficult to be active with other things, whether they began as casual conversations or as a counseling session the talk would swing around to the application of a principle or doctrine of the gospel.
- As bishop he initiated quarterly adult firesides and as Stake President initiated Saturday night adult meetings so he could teach and interact. He did other firesides such as his firesides on Marriage
- My monthly PPI's with him
 - I would schedule to be last

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- We would take care of our business then talk
 - What is on your mind bishop he would ask?
 - We would then discuss different topics - usually what I was preparing for a fireside or 5th Sunday lesson.
 - I would always feel bad for keeping him up late but Dana always would say how much he loved it
 - I learned from him if you will get the doctrine right when teaching all else will follow out naturally
 - This practice continued after I was released. I would still email him about doctrinal topics
 - After he was released I made it a point to discuss things with him still
 - Almost every talk since I was called to serve in the stake presidency I would email back and forth with him about my topic to get his viewpoint and to bounce my thoughts off of him.
 - In this he always had my back
 - On one occasion I had a very sensitive topic I was going to cover for a 5th Sunday discussion. I spent quite a bit of time preparing and discussing with Steve. When the Sunday came in the middle of opening exercises he came in and sat in the back. One of my counselors leaned over and said something to the effect of “Oh no President is here you better do it good”. I didn’t say anything but I remember thinking “Oh yes, President is here to support me”.
 - These discussions, his teaching and his support was truly a blessing in my life

Priesthood leader 9.5 or 12.5 years

- We all honored him and gladly and lovingly followed him and was taught by him
- Many of us had experiences with him that I'm sure we could relate where he taught us and we recognized in him traits of the Savior
- I would like to share one trait that I along bishop Oldham have a unique perspective on - He was a great follower.
- For nearly 6.5 years I was his bishop while he was my stake president.
- He would go out of his way to let people know that while he was the Stake President - that he honored, sustained and followed his bishop as his priesthood leader in matters in his capacity a member of the ward.
 - He made it very clear that he deferred to me when it was matters fell under the mantle of the bishop
 - Introduced me to visiting general authorities as "my bishop"
 - I'll never forget
 - Brought one general authority across the foyer
 - Introduced me as "my bishop - the best bishop in the world"
 - General authority shook my hand, paused and looked me in the eye for several seconds and then turned to President Dalton and said something like "I can tell he is a good bishop because he has the Spirit with him"

Beloved by all of us

- Amazing memory so that he could remember all of our names *and* details of our lives
 - We were amazed that he could remember personal details about us
 - Even those of us who knew him well

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- How is your brother Jim's new business venture going?
- He used this in many ways
 - Unbeatable in Jeopardy
 - Startle us in a meeting by calling us by name
 - I never knew when he was going to call on me and ask me to share something that we had talked about who knows how long ago
- But the most christ-like was how he genuinely showed interest in each one of us.
 - Each of us could say
 - He knew me and cared about me
 - Each of us felt like we were his friend and that the care for us was indeed genuine
 - This in turn made him beloved by all of us in the stake
 - Youth -
 - Drove him around
 - Call out by name
 - "Group Hug" at the Trek
 - I truly believe this ability to have each of us know that he knew us, cared about us, loved us, that we were his friend was one of his spiritual gifts
 - As I watched him over the years with the members of our stake I have come to realize that this gift is a type or a reflection of how it will be with the Savior
 - We will see that the savior knows us, cares about us and loves us.

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I testify that because of the the atonement that brought about the resurrection that you (Daltons) will be reunited with your husband and with your father.