

Is not this the fast that I have chosen?
Mike Baird – Sacramento Meeting, June 26, 2006

Introduction

- A matter has been weighing on my mind
- Presented this matter to the Ward Welfare Council – felt I should speak today

The Doctrine – Our responsibility to the poor & needy

- Mosiah 4:14 – our children
- Mosiah 4:16 – succor others
- Mosiah 4:19 – we are all beggars
- Mosiah 4:20 – Lord doesn't suffer us to beg in vain
- Mosiah 4:21 – then we should succor others
- Mosiah 4:26 – Retain remission of our sins
- Mosiah 4:27 – in wisdom and in order

Principles established to accomplish "Wisdom and Order"

- Lord's way
"Through the Church, the Lord has established a way to care for the poor and needy and help them regain their self reliance" (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 14)
- Personal responsibility for children, spouse & family
 - Consistent in doctrine of our responsibility to care for our families
"When Church members are doing all they can to provide for themselves but still cannot meet their basic needs, they first should turn to their families for help." (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 14)
- Church will then help
 - Consistent in doctrine of our responsibility to succor others
"When this is not sufficient the Church stands ready to help" (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 14)
- Bishop's responsibility
"Bishop is entrusted with the sacred responsibility of using Church funds and commodities to care for the poor and needy members of the ward" (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 14)
"The Bishop is the Lord's agent in using (these resources) *the Lord's storehouse* to assist the poor and needy (D&C 42:34)" (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 14)

Wisdom & Order – Lord's Storehouse

"The Lord's storehouse includes the time, talents, skills, compassion, consecrated materials and financial resources of faithful Church members" (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 15)

- Fast Offerings
- Other Ward Resources
- Other Church Welfare resources

Other Church Welfare resources

- Bishop's storehouse
- Deseret Industries
- LDS Employment Services
- LDS Family Services

Other Ward Resources

- Time, talents, skills, compassion, and consecrated materials of ward members

Fast Offerings

- Primary source of Lord's storehouse
- Where possible commodities are provided so members can use their cash to pay obligations
- Used to provide for basic necessities
 - Food not from our FO
 - Shelter - rent, house payment, electricity & gas bills etc.
- *On my mind* - we are short of meeting our needs – way short
 - Scope – meeting only little more than 2/3 (70%) of our needs
 - Scale – thousands of \$
 - Consistent

A Generous Fast

- In presenting to Welfare Council – felt I should present information & a call to ward members
- Calling upon us as ward members to give a generous fast donation
 - Not just a one time thing either

What is a generous Fast Offering?

- Joseph Smith:

"Let this be an [example] to all saints, and there will never be any lack for bread: When the poor are starving, let those who have, fast one day and give what they otherwise would have eaten to the bishops for the poor, and every one will abound for a long time. ... And so long as the saints will all live to this principle with glad hearts and cheerful countenances they will always have an abundance." (History of the Church, 7:413)

- Spencer W Kimball:

"Let's also teach our obligations relative to the law of the fast. Each member should contribute a generous fast offering for the care of the poor and the needy. This offering should at least be the value of the two meals not eaten while fasting.

Sometimes we have been a bit penurious (stingy) and figured that we had for breakfast one egg and that cost so many cents and then we give that to the Lord. I think that when we are affluent, as many of us are, that we ought to be very, very generous. ...

I think we should ... give, instead of the amount saved by our two meals of fasting, perhaps much, much more—ten times more when we are in a position to do it." (Conference Report, Apr. 1974, p. 184)

- I'm not going to say what a generous Fast Offering means to you
- I will say that I feel that most of us would be considered affluent in the sense that President Kimball was speaking of

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- Isaiah 58: 4-11