

To the New CM Ward

Cooper Mountain Ward Sacrament Meeting November 24, 2008

Mike Baird

Intro

- Felt I should address the ward this first Sunday
- Welcome *everyone* to the *new* Cooper Mt Ward
- Purpose of a Ward

"During His mortal ministry, the Savior organized His Church and established congregations of believers. Members of His Church meet together to worship, learn the gospel, and serve and strengthen each other.
(That is what we *do*. Why?)
The *purpose* of these congregations is to help all people 'come unto Christ, and be perfected in him' " (Handbook of Instructions pg 13)
- Or another way to put it the purpose or why of a ward is
 - Strengthen us as families and individuals
 - Bring us to Christ
- We do this by
 - Worship together
 - Teach each other the gospel
 - Serve each other
 - Support and strengthen each other

Ward Statistics

- 538 individuals, 228 HH, 219 non HH/spouse,
 - larger than CM before MH was split out
- 36 YM & 31 YW
- 100 Primary + 11 Nursery
 - 19 achievement days girls, 26 cubs & 11 yr scouts,
- Sacrament attendance:
 - January 11:
 - July-Dec 2008 average: 188
- Introduce the bishopric

Ward Reorganization

- We view this as a reorganization of the CM Ward
 - Not just fitting in the new members into holes in the structure of the old CM Ward
- We don't have to make all the changes the first week
 - In fact just getting through the first Sunday is doing great!
 - Bishopric feels it important that we visit everyone first
 - #1 thing on our to do list
 - I will visit all the active new members
 - Often that visit may be with counselors
 - You will also receive visits from Quorums and RS and other leaders
- Patience as we do this reorganization
- You may have temporary assignments
 - Primary or cubs
 - VT, HT
- Reorganization - Changes to the whole ward
 - Needs of the ward are different
 - Domino effect
- During the next week or so the bishopric will be receiving from the Aux & Quorums
 - Lists of needs
 - Lists of what we could do
 - Recommendations for callings
- Everything will then fall into place
- This I have received a witness of

4 Things we all need to learn about Callings

#1 - *It is the Lord's Church*

- 5th Article of faith

We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof

- My responsibility as bishop is to find the His will and do it, not do just do what Mike Baird thinks would be cool, or best for me, or even what Mike Baird thinks is right or logical
 - No - Find the His will and do it
 - Fortunately – Auxiliary and Quorum leaders
 - Prayerfully make recommendations
 - Fortunately – Bishopric to counsel with
 - As a bishop I do not go forward without being united with the rest of the bishopric
 - As a bishopric we *only* go forward when we are united that we understand God's will
 - TESTIFY – I have seen how the reorganization will work and am at peace in this process
 - Don't know but a few callings yet but it will come together

#2 - "Its not where you serve but how"

- J Ruben Clark
"In the service of the Lord, it is not where you serve but how. In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one takes the place to which one is duly called, which place one neither seeks nor declines" (Conference Report, Apr. 1951, 154.)
- Terms that do not apply to callings
 - "promoted", "demoted", "fired", "forcibly retired"
- Concepts associated with business organizations
- "Promoted"
 - I was not "promoted"
 - Scoutmaster → High Council
 - Varsity coach → Bishop
 - Trust me - it is no promotion to be called as bishop
- "Demoted"
 - First of all to be *demoted* you would have had to have been *promoted*
 - I was not "demoted"
 - EQ Counselor → Nursery
 - Bishop → ??
 - No matter how long you have been serving
- "Fired"
 - We do not "fire" people in the church
 - Just because our calling is changed we shouldn't feel fired
 - M. Russel Ballard
"Assignments should be made, responsibilities should be delegated, and members should be allowed to fulfill their stewardship as best they can. Counsel, advise, persuade, motivate—but don't do the work for them. *Allow others to progress and grow, even if it means sometimes getting less-than-perfect results on the reports.*" ("O Be Wise," Ensign, Nov. 2006, 17)
 - If you don't receive the same calling in this ward that you had in another
 - That is not a reflection on how you served in the other ward
- "Retired"
 - If you don't receive a calling that is as heavy a load don't feel that you are being "retired" or "calling-challenged"

#3 *"Its not about me"*

- Mike Baird
"This is one of the greatest lessons the Savior taught us. Service in his kingdom is not about ourselves but it is about whom we serve. As in all things He is our exemplar in this too. For Him it was not about Him, otherwise his glory would have been that of the world, but instead it was about you and me. All He did was for us. He descended below all, wrought the atonement and brought about the resurrection for you and me and gave glory to the Father."
(Private correspondence 2007)
- Steven D Dalton
"If we keep seeing ourselves as an instrument in His hands, with no agenda of our own, with no thought or desire for personal gain or gratification, without ANYTHING other than to bring glory to His Holy Name, then He CAN use us as instruments." (Personal Correspondence 11/21/2008)

#4 *The Lord qualifies those whom He calls*

- Thomas S Monson
"Now, some of you may be shy by nature or consider yourselves inadequate to respond affirmatively to a calling. Remember that this work is not yours and mine alone. It is the Lord's work, and when we are on the Lord's errand, we are entitled to the Lord's help. Remember that whom the Lord calls, the Lord qualifies" ("Duty Calls," Ensign, May 1996, 43)
- TESTIFY about callings

Consistency in doing the basics

- I am concerned that we sometimes feel overwhelmed
- I am concerned that we sometimes feel we are not going to get to live with our Heavenly Father
- I am concerned that we feel that "enduring to the end" means do I have to endure endlessly feeling hopeless or overwhelmed or not happy
- Perhaps we don't feel that way
- In dealing with these feelings I'd feel to address one principle:

Consistency

The Lord would have us be consistent

What do I mean by consistent?

- What do I mean?
 - Too often our efforts are very high which is inevitably followed by too low
- Elder Neal A Maxwell:

"Given our weaknesses, however, paced progress is essential, much as God used six measured and orderly creative periods (followed by respite) in preparing man and this earth. There is a difference, therefore, between being steadily and effectively or "anxiously " engaged, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, being frantically engaged one moment and being passive and detached the next." (Notwithstanding My Weakness, pg 3)

In what should we be consistent?

The basics

- Repent
 - Daily
- Scripture study
 - Personal
 - Don't read 100 pages one day and none for weeks
 - Family
 - Parents – it may be all you can get for your children
- Prayer
 - Personal
 - Don't pray for 1 hour one day and none for weeks
 - Family
 - Pray for your children that they hear you
- Family Home Evening
- Church attendance
- Temple attendance
 - Regular private worship
 - Regular Ward temple outings
 - Adults
 - Youth
 - 11 times 6-Sat, 5 Wed
 - Most important thing we do
 - Testify & Promise

In the Ward

- Applied this principle to the Ward
- Example
 - Ward Welfare Council determined rather than a single large humanitarian "event" every year
 - big effort
 - No effort the rest of the year
 - Sustained effort
 - Called Shumakers

- Every month a focus – contribute what you can

Living the Gospel

- Bruce R McConkie
 "You don't have to live a life that's truer than true. You don't have to have an excessive zeal that becomes fanatical and becomes unbalancing. What you have to do is stay in the mainstream of the Church - keeping commandments, paying your tithing, serving in the organizations of the Church, loving the Lord, staying on the straight and narrow path. If you're on that path when death comes - because this is the time and the day appointed, this the probationary estate - you'll never fall off from it, and, for all practical purposes, your calling and election is made sure." ("The Probationary Test of Mortality," Devotional Address given at University of Utah Institute of Religion, January 10, 1982, p. 11.)
- Every day we simply do our best
 - Keep the covenants we have made
 - Keeping the commandments
 - Only find peace if you are keeping the commandments

Bad Hair days happen

- Elder Boyd K Packer:
 "We live in a day when the adversary stresses on every hand the philosophy of instant gratification. We seem to demand instant everything, including instant solutions to our problems. We are indoctrinated that somehow we should always be instantly emotionally comfortable. When that is not so, some become quite anxious - and all too frequently seek relief from counseling, from analysis, and even from medication.
 It was meant to be that life would be a challenge. To suffer some anxiety, some depression, some disappointment, even some failure is normal. Teach our members that if they have a miserable day once in a while, or several in a row, to stand steady and face them. Things will straighten out. There is great purpose in our struggle in life." (That All May Be Edified, p. 94.)
- Pick ourselves up, Repent if needed, Do our very best the next day

How do I know if I'm on the right path?

- Did I keep my covenants today?
- Do I find peace in spite of what is going on all around me?