

# The Priesthood Quorum – A Safe Haven

## Stake Priesthood Leadership

April 10, 2016

### Stake Conference

#### Priesthood Leadership Meeting

Presiding: President Ludlow

Conducting: President Esplin

Organist: Roger Horne

Chorister: Bruce Reese

Opening Hymn: #147 "Sweet is the Work"

Opening Prayer: Nicholas Tellez, 1st Assistant to the 6th Ward Bishop.

Aaronic Priesthood speaker, Alex Hansen, 2nd Ward, Deacon Quorum President

Aaronic Priesthood speaker, David Shumway, 9th Ward, 2nd Assistant to the Bishop

Melchizedek Priesthood speaker, Mitch Olsen, 3rd Ward, High Priest Group Leader

Melchizedek Priesthood speaker, Rick Hansen, Stake Clerk

Men's quartet: "High on the Mountain Top"

Lance Rowell, Ben Walker, Kurt Haws and Jesse Vance

Speaker, President Ludlow:

#### I. Rick Parasol Story

- A. I met Rick Parasol this past year when he expressed interest in buying one of my properties. Because of his accent I asked where he was from.
- B. Rick was born in Poland in 1935. The Nazis invaded in 1939. 3,500,000 Jews were in Poland at the time and it is estimated that over 90% were destroyed.
- C. Soon after the Nazi's invasion Rick's family was "relocated" to the Jewish ghetto. At age 8 he became a "hidden child" and at great risk handed over a barb wire fence and into the care of a Polish Catholic family. He never saw his parents or family again. The catholic family hid him from the Nazis until the wars end in 1945. This catholic family was Rick's safe haven.
- D. Life on the run started to end in 1947, when as a 12 year old orphaned boy, he was placed on the ship Exodus which took Holocaust survivors to Israel. No one to watch over him he told me he felt "free" jumping from deck to deck. He said he could have gone overboard and no one would know because he belonged to no one. Arriving in Israel he was taken in and helped by strangers & orphanage. Soon he was in school and received an education. When he was 18 he enlisted in the Israeli army and served the mandatory three years and saw combat in the Suez Crisis in 1956
- E. Upon completion of his service in the army, a distant relative from San Francisco tracked him down and brought him to the United States. He ended up attending and graduating the California Polytechnic State University. He worked for several years as an engineer and then

taking what little he saved he began to **buy and sell real estate**. Rick became one of the **largest apartment owners in San Francisco** and today owns residential and commercial property in several states.

## II. **The Priesthood Quorum**

- A. **ASK: What is a haven?** “a place of safety and refuge.” Synonyms are **refuge, retreat, shelter, sanctuary, asylum**. **What is safe?** “protected from or not exposed to danger or risk; not likely to be harmed or lost.” Synonyms are: “**secure, protected, shielded, guarded.**”
- B. So a Safe Haven is a: **Secure, protected, shielded place of safety and refuge where we are not exposed to danger or risk; and not likely to be lost.**
- C. **What are the safe havens in our life?**
1. Home
  2. Temple
  3. Quorum –
  4. The Bishops office
  5. YOU – are a safe haven to many people
- D. **What are the characteristics that make or should make your quorum a safe haven?**
1. Just like a home a quorum is a place that lets you in.
  2. It is a brotherhood.
  3. It is a welcoming place.
- E. **What is the purpose of quorum instruction?**
1. Strengthen husbands, fathers, and single brethren. In essence our quorum strengthens all men.
  2. Think about the best quorum instructor you ever had. What made him great?
  3. Why is it important that the instructor draw out responses from quorum members?
    - a. **Because it gives members of the quorum the chance to bear their testimony & they teach themselves.**
    - b. The rungs of the learning ladder
      - Lowest – Hearing
      - Next – Visual
      - Top - Responding
  4. Why should we pay attention to the instructor? **Why wouldn't we?** Here is a brother who has **prayerfully thought about what the Lord wants us to know**. He has “treasured up in his mind continually the words of life that they be given *to him* in the very hour *you and I need it.*” (D&C 84:85)
- F. **Quorums are meant to rescue**
1. There were **back to back** talks in Sunday morning general conference referencing Lehi's vision – the tree of life and the great and spacious building. 1<sup>ST</sup> NE. 8:27-29.
  2. Total endowed members of the stake – 1,812. Endowed w/o current recommends – 467 = 26%
  3. Total Elders & Prospective Elders in stake 792.  
Prospective Elders – 313 = 39.5%
  4. What can we do to keep/make our quorums a safe haven, to help those who are being mocked to re-grab the iron rod a little harder?

5. Brethren – do we serve missions in our life, study the gospel, attend our church meetings, partake of the sacrament, receive our endowment, and attend the temple and then **NOT DO** what we can to help create a safe haven in our priesthood quorums
6. It was the safe haven in Rick’s early life (Catholic family) that **saved his life** and helped him become successful. Our safe havens give us hope and confidence in this life, it will help us deal with hardships, and prepare us for unimaginable happiness in our eternal life.
7. **\*\* YOU** – are a safe haven to many people. **WHY? Because the Priesthood is the ultimate safe haven**
8. My prayer is that we will do all we can to make our quorums stronger and better safe havens.
9. This is the Lord’s church. **It is divine! It’s not by chance! We are his Priesthood holders. He trusts us to do His work!!**

Remarks, President Esplin

Closing Hymn: #334 “I Need Thee Every Hour”

Closing Prayer: Jason Hokanson, 3rd Ward, First Counselor in the Elder’s Quorum