

## Stake Conference - Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Opening Hymn – “Did you think to pray?”

Opening Prayer - Jeff Young

7<sup>th</sup> Ward Choir - “My Shepard will my wants supply. . .”

The new Stake Presidency was sustained,

**Kimo Esplin, President**

**Kevin Ludlow, 1<sup>st</sup> Counselor**

**Joseph Staples, 2<sup>nd</sup> Counselor**

Nine years ago Elder Holland called President Jonathan W. Parker to be the stake president. Yesterday he was released. Elder McKay read a letter signed by the first presidency commending him on his many years of dedicated service. Joseph Smith described those leaders who serve at the dedication of the Kirtland temple in these words: “. . . those who serve in positions of leadership, their families will be blessed and have everlasting remembrance from generations to generation.” Elder McKay testified that both he and Elder Grow felt the hand of the Lord in directing them as they selected a new president.

### Testimonies

#### **John Parker:**

Being stake president has been a wonderful experience for me as well as a great blessing for my family. I sustain the new stake presidency with all my heart. “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another.” Ours is a very loving stake. I have learned more during the past nine years than those I have attempted to teach. Ours is a journey in discipleship. We must try to do as the Savior did. Never be casual in your commitment to the gospel. Be diligent and mindful in keeping the commandments.

I am grateful for my two counselors and for the high council providing prospective to all who have served in the stake. I love and appreciate all of you. I wish to thank the bishops and pay tribute to Bishop Hunt of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, who recently passed into immortality. I recognize your dedication and service. Love binds us together in this important work. Now let us all go forward in this great cause. Let us strengthen one another as we draw even closer to the Savior.

#### **Randy Luke:**

Four years ago I stood at this pulpit as new member of the stake presidency. I was very nervous then. I am more nervous today. I have felt the spirit. I am grateful for all of you who serve though out the stake. It is a wonderful place to live and grow. I know that God lives, the Atonement is real, and that our Heavenly Father loves us.

#### **Bert Ringwood:**

Your love and support has been a great blessing in my life. President Parker and President Luke have had an eternal impact on my life. My wife has also been a great support as has been our

children. I sustain and support the new stake presidency. I am grateful for peace I feel today. When change come the Holy Ghost can bring peace into our lives.

**Kevin Ludlow:**

I want to assure members of the Fourth Ward that I am not inactive. My wife and I served an inner city mission. Then we were called to assist the young adult singles ward. So we have not attended our home ward for quite some time. As we live the gospel our lives are better. The next life will be marvelous.

**Joseph Staples:**

When I was called to replace President Funk as a mission president I was shown a transfer board containing 200 pictures of the young missionaries. I asked, "How will I ever learn all their names?" President Funk replied: "They all wear name tags." This new assignment is much more daunting. The last time I talked at this pulpit was at the funeral of my 17-year-old daughter. I am grateful for my family and for all the families in our stake. Thanks for helping us raise our children and thanks for helping prepare temple worthy families.

**Kay Esplin:**

When President Parker learned of the death of our daughter he sent someone to give me a blessing. We appreciate all the leaders and teachers who have served us over the years.

**President Kimo Esplin:**

I need your prayers. I was at a soccer game when the call came at 3:00 p.m. to be at stake leadership 4:00 o'clock meeting. I was shocked. After being called to be the new stake president I was told I that I had just thirty seconds to provide the names of my counselors. I knew immediately who they were to be. This was a wonderful manifestation that the Lord was close. During the past twenty years we have sent five children out on missions and have had the stake president in our home. It's been has such a blessing. Great power is manifest when the stake president places his hands on their head to set them apart to serve a mission. Thirty years ago Kay and I made a promise that we would do whatever we were asked to do. We are grateful for this new calling.

**Elder McKay:**

Confusion abounds in today's world. Leaders must teach the people the difference between what is holy and what is profane (common and unholy.)

**Elder Grow:**

Described the history of keeping the Sabbath holy from Moses and the Exodus to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. He admonished deacons to understand that when they are passing the sacrament they are officiating at a funeral, the funeral of Jesus Christ. We should not use our electronic devices or be disrespectful during the sacrament. Christ said to his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, "*Could you not watch with me one hour?*" By keeping the Sabbath day holy and showing respect during the passing of the sacrament we become sanctified.

Closing Song by the Choir - "Redeemer of Israel"

Closing Prayer - Julie Slaugh, Stake Relief Society President