



Fort Collins, Colorado

July 2010

The Communicator

Into the Future

By Stephen M. Veazey, *church president*

These comments are among the closing remarks delivered June 6 by President Stephen M. Veazey to the World Church Finance Board in Independence, Missouri. They focus on the dire need to improve giving to World Ministries Mission Tithes and his hope for the church.

You are aware—perhaps more than most—of the financial challenges we face as we move into the future. You have seen the World Ministries Mission Tithes (WMMT) and contributor trends. You have reviewed the general options before us. You also have contributed to the possible birth of other choices. I deeply appreciate the spirit of our discussions yesterday in that regard.

Frankly, I am in a dilemma. I am torn between the fundamental enduring hope and faith that is the foundation of my relationship with God, and the realities facing us in the church and the global economy.

I desperately want to believe our people will respond to the vision and case for giving that we will be presenting to them. And yet, I see trends that have not reversed for decades. This weighs heavily on me as I try to balance the prophetic task and the presidential task, both of which are devoted to the long-term health, faithfulness, and viability of the worldwide church.

So, here is what I am going to do. I say “I”
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The Next News Will Be Good

By Paul Davis, *presiding bishopric*

Not long ago, as I was speaking to members about the long-term decline of financial contributions to the worldwide mission of the church, my delivery so moved one person that she interrupted to ask if I couldn’t *possibly* add some variation to my voice. A small note of inflection. Perhaps a lilt. *Anything* that could rescue her from the coma of boredom into which she felt poised to slip.

I felt a surge of sympathy for her.

It’s my job to tell those who care about the church the decades-long decline in contributions and contributors is hurting World Ministries Mission Tithes. Badly.

The decline is forcing us to steadily reduce the number of ministers who serve the mission of the church and to decrease our educational and missionary resources.

I believe many people care deeply about the church. I meet you all the time. So why, I ask myself constantly, do we have such a difficult time communicating about our declining contributions?

Here’s why: It’s not an earthquake. It’s erosion. Erosion never makes it to page one. But erosion can move mountains.
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not because I want to lift myself up before you, but because I can only control my own attitudes and actions. Others will have to decide how they are going to respond to the current challenges.

In the long-term, I am going to trust the Spirit to bless the church and turn our members' hearts to increased generosity in support of our worldwide mission. I do not believe the option that calls for more immediate decreases in funding for personnel will accomplish that, although, that would be the most-prudent business decision we could make based on the current data.

At the same time, to preserve the possibilities for our longer-term strategies to work, here is also what I am going to do:

1. Cathi and I have already increased the amount we are giving to WMMT through the "Pre-Authorized Transfer" process. I am not going to ask anyone else to do what I am not already doing. However, having done it, I am asking you to respond similarly.
2. I am asking the Presiding Bishopric and Integrated Communications to reformat the FY 2011 budget you have just approved to communicate clearly the ministries supported by WMMT in contrast to those supported by other income sources. This will become an initial funding-case statement.
3. Next, I am going to hit the road, take to the air, and pick up the phone to talk to our people; people I know who are deeply devoted to this work. I also will talk to people who are deeply devoted to this work who need some extra "inspiration" for increasing their generosity to reflect their full capacity. I have a number in mind that needs to be committed to increased WMMT for the next five years that will give me

greater confidence in the longer-range approach.

I am receiving some correspondence and messages that state the recent action of the World Conference to approve the counsel I brought to the church is mainly what is depressing tithing. That may be so. However, I want to be clear that as long as I am in the role, I will bring to the church my clearest perceptions of the mind and will of God.

A nonnegotiable for me is that I will not compromise vision, message, and the Spirit's clear guidance in the face of threats from individuals that they will withdraw their financial support if they do not agree with church direction or certain decisions.

Another nonnegotiable for me is priesthood support of World Ministries Mission Tithes. Soon, we will put in place an administrative policy that will state clearly that we will not approve the ordinations of people whose understanding of the gospel and ordained ministry does not include awareness and support of the worldwide ministries of the church through tithing. We've had way too much drift in local congregations and mission centers on this matter.

Is there hope for the future?

This last week I received two correspondences that were blessings of encouragement and hope. The first came from a woman who attended World Conference as an observer. During the consideration of the counsel to the church, she experienced the presence of the Spirit in very strong terms. Following Conference, as she continued to pray about her experience, she felt a strong urge to join the church. At 62 years old she is going to be baptized and confirmed this week. "Why *wouldn't* I want to be part of the Community of Christ?" she asserted as she ended her e-mail to me.

In another correspondence, a young man told me about his struggles over the years that had resulted in several attempts to commit suicide. He described a long process of trying to find direction in his life, including writing letters to a friend who had been successful in his suicide attempt. Through contact with a church member the young man received a copy of Doctrine and Covenants 164. He was deeply touched by what he read and described it as “simple, pure, revealed truth (that) washed my soul in hope and life.” Then he wrote, “President Veazey, I am inviting you to my baptism and confirmation...Know that I want to invite you for I want everyone to feel welcome to come!”

Community of Christ saves lives! Community of Christ saves lives physically, relationally, and spiritually! Our ministry is essential! We need to share that vision and message more broadly with greater passion! It is all about ministry given and received.

Following our meeting yesterday I was on a conference call with 30 people in Honduras who are taking part in MEADS (Ministerial Education and Discipleship Studies), which is funded by the World Church budget. They had spent several days studying Doctrine and Covenants 164 and its vision of the church. They came to understand and appreciate its contents much better and wanted to express their support over the phone to me. How do we help people understand the important link between that kind of educational activity, church mission, and World Church budget support through tithing?

After that, I had a chance to briefly see many World Service Corps volunteers who are leaving on their summer assignments. The World Service Corps is one of our most-successful, young-adult ministries.

Do the participants and supporters of that program understand it is funded by World

Ministries Mission Tithes? How do we make that connection in the minds of young adults so they will become tithing contributors! It can be done if we apply our creative efforts to the need.

Is there hope? Yes there is hope. Hope is our business and the foundation of our faith!



The Next News Will Be Good, continued from
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Give erosion long enough, and the mountain is gone.

For mountains and mission, the health of the whole depends on the actions of the many, acting independently. No group has gotten together with a plan to reduce the mountain to a molehill or to slash the ability of the church to serve its mission. But each year is a little worse than the year before, and the cumulative effect is devastating.

Reason two: Because at any point events could turn for the better, we continue to believe that they will. Surely the next news will be good. Our natural desire to hear the good news, plus the lack of drama in the slow drip of bad news, lulls us into waiting for somebody to do something.

Reason two, put more positively: All around us—even as we keep sounding the alarm about declining contributions—genuine joy and hopefulness keep springing up, probably the work of that Great Interrupter, the Holy Spirit.

The gathering of leaders from the many nations of the church, both before and after World Conference, was for me such a Great Interruption. The mission of the church is well attended by these able, devoted women and men. They know the financial situation—it hits

them first and hardest. But it does not induce gloominess; only renewed determination to carry on the mission.

So, here we are, with two opportunities: an awakening of all members to the great need for tithing to enable our shared mission, and an invitation to joy in shared ministry with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Fort Collins Interfaith Council



Rick Bunch was elected to the office of vice-president of the council at a recent meeting.

WEAVERS



New Standing Committee Appointed

A new standing committee has been appointed to replace the WCN committee as previously announced. The committee is named **WEAVERS**, which is an acronym for:

Welcoming all,
Educating ourselves about the marginalized,
Accepting our giftedness,
Visioning for peace and justice,
Exploring the spirit of diversity,
Responding to our community, and
Serving all.

The committee's responsibility will be to help us more fully live out our covenant of welcome within the community of Fort Collins. Members of the committee are: Dick Foster, Jon Mendenhall, Max Coopwood, Tom Beck, Sharon Troyer, Shirley Remmenga, and Rich and Mary Kohlman, serving as co-chairs. Please contact any member of the committee with ideas and opportunities as we strive to flesh-out our covenant of welcome.

We have had one meeting and the next will occur June 28.

Directory Update



Miller: Jim, Betty, and Ben

Delete: Home number (970) 686-2934

Add: Cell phone numbers:

Jim (970) 231-7134
 Betty (970) 443-5449
 Ben (970) 227-5122

Financial Report



May Income

World Church

World Ministries	\$1,241.75
Oblation	276.00
World Hunger	85.75

Local

Local Offering	\$2,811.0
Building Fund	25.00
2 Cents a Meal	84.00
Family Assistance	45.00

—Betty Jones, CFO

To All of My Dear Friends,



Thank you all for the “beautiful quilt.” I can’t believe you all signed it and I didn’t expect a thing! I knew something was “afoot” only when Sharon asked if I was going to be at church on Sunday. I never imagined something so magnificent. Just knowing all your hands have touched its fabric makes it so special.

Bless you all,

Debbie Jones

Second Sunday Socials

July 11: Annual Picnic
Coordinators, Sharon Fulton and Pat Miner

August 8: Line Dance and Potato Bar.
Coordinators, Voni Simons and Nancy Miller

Picnic in the Park



Sunday, July 11, at City Park, 1500 West Mulberry Street, Shelter #7, 6:00 p.m.

Included:



Hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, chips, drink, table service, and homemade ice cream will be provided.

Please Bring:

A salad or side-dish to share.

Entertainment: There is a large lawn area for games (bring your favorite to share). **Old Town Puppet Company** complete with stage and sound system will perform for us at 7:00. Bring



blankets or lawn chairs in order to more thoroughly enjoy the performance. This puppet company has performed at schools and other venues in Fort Collins as well as traveling to other destinations in the state.

The City Park outdoor pool, playground, Sheldon Lake, City Park Railway, and the trolley are very close in proximity to the shelter house. Your family might want to include taking advantage of swimming, fishing or train/trolley riding during the afternoon before the picnic.

Directions: From the intersection of Mulberry and College Ave. drive west on W. Mulberry St., past Shields, and turn right onto S. Bryan Ave. immediately after the lake. The shelter house is on the left as you near the pool complex.

R.S.V.P. by July 6 to Sharon Fulton (484-6943) or Pat Miner (674-1848)

Don’t forget BUG SPRAY & SUNSCREEN!

July Birthdays



James Miller	07/01
Jay Ytell	07/04
Joan Green	07/04
Merly Pagat	07/05
Josh Birks	07/06
Eric Bouch	07/09
Robin Higgins	07/09
Rich Kohlman	07/10
Christy Harms	07/11
Larry Slocum	07/12
Marilyn Doig	07/13
Thelma Slocum	07/17
Betty Jones	07/17
Evelynn Birks	07/17
Shelton Robinson	07/19
Logan Miller	07/20
Madison Clark	07/22
Avis Varra	07/26

August Glacier View Reunion

The August Glacier View Reunion will be held August 4–8. Shandra Newcom would like to encourage as many members of the congregation who can, to plan to attend this reunion. John Chatburn and David Brown will be the guest ministers. Additional details for this reunion can be found at the Rocky Mountain Mission Center Web site, <http://cofchristrm.org>.

Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery Schedules



Keyboard:

- ❖ July 4: Jean Newman
- ❖ July 11: Tom Beck
- ❖ July 18: Service at la Paz
- ❖ July 25: Sharon Fulton

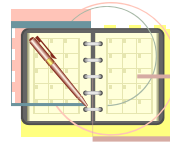
Greeters:

- ❖ July: Kathy Bridwell and Betty Jones

Nursery:

- ❖ July 4:
- ❖ July 11:
- ❖ July 18:
- ❖ July 25

July Calendar



Check the Web site

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

July 4: Communion and First-Sunday Giving
July 7: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Worship Coordinators, 7:00 p.m.

July 11: Annual Congregation Picnic
Two Cents a Meal offering

July 14: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Shawl Group, 1:30 p.m.

July 15: Leadership Meeting, 7:00 p.m..

July 16: Friday Morning Breakfast Club
meets, 8:30 a.m.

July 18: *Communicator* items due.
Worship with Loveland and Greely at
la Paz

July 21: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.

July 28: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.

Upper Room



The *Upper Room* gathering is a wonderful once-a-week experience. We are diversified in our Bible study backgrounds. We discuss, compare, and encourage one another as we find deeper meaning to the daily scripture messages. There is love and respect as participants share ideas. Each week we leave refreshed, creating the desire to return the next week. Come join us. Can't meet at this time but would like to share in a similar experience? Contact Pastor Sharon Troyer.

—Shari Smith



If you are receiving this newsletter by e-mail, Thank You! If you are receiving a printed copy and do have e-mail, please consider receiving it by e-mail instead. Not only will you receive it in beautiful color, but you will be saving the congregation between \$.50 and \$.75. The cost of mailing, ink, paper, and labor. It's good stewardship for the earth and for the congregation. And, if you receive it by e-mail and need it printed, you can always print it on your printer and still save money for the congregation.

Thanks for your consideration.

Contact Rich Kohlman
rkohlman@comcast.net to change to e-mail delivery.

Radical welcome is the spiritual practice of embracing and being changed by the gifts, presence, voices, and power of The Other: the people systemically cast out of or marginalized within a church, a denomination and/or society. . . Radical welcome is concerned with the transformation and opening of individual hearts, congregations and systems so that The Other might find in your community a warm place and a mutual embrace *and* so that you are finally free to embrace and be transformed by authentic relationship with the margins.

—*Radical Welcome*. Stephanie Spellers, pg. 6.

Community of Christ



220 East Oak Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

First Class
Stamp Here

Mailing Label Here