

Memorial Service for Lloyd M Rasmussen  
Remarks by Shari Francis  
December 8, 2010

## CHURCH SERVICE

As Doug has described, my father excelled in the business world. But in addition to that and what he would consider more important, he also spent countless hours in the service of the Lord and to his fellow man. My father led by example and there was never any doubt about his view on things. There are too many callings to list but, to name a few, within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints my father served as a Bishop, a Stake President, a Regional Representative (now known as Area Seventy) a Mission President, and a member of the first Newport Beach Temple Presidency. My sister Susan will share some of his feelings and experiences in regards to the temple.

In these positions he interacted frequently with general authorities of the church. In our home is a Bible signed by church leaders that have stayed there. This list of signatures is long and, to name a few, includes:

Elder Bruce R. McConkie,  
Elder David B. Haight,  
President Marion G. Romney  
President Howard W. Hunter,  
President James E. Faust,

While these valiant men trained and instructed my father in his Priesthood responsibilities there was one that held a special place in his heart. That would be President Spencer W. Kimball. My father wrote:

“In March 1972, President Spencer W. Kimball, who at that time was the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, came to our Stake to call a new Stake President. He stayed in our home.

He had just returned from Japan and was suffering from a chest cold. This was a more serious problem for him because of his throat operations. Friday night, after interviewing a number of the brethren, we had returned to our home and he had retired for the night when I heard him call for me. He was having a restless night and asked for a chair to be put in his bedroom and that I give him a priesthood blessing. After the blessing I returned to my bedroom and the next morning he said he had rested well. The next day he called me to be the new Stake President.”

Later my father wrote: “Again it was President Kimball who changed my church service. He had ordained me a Bishop, set me apart as a Stake President, blessed me in the temple, and extended the calling to become a Regional Representative. When called to be a Regional Representative, my comment was that I would serve where called, but that I had only been Stake

President for four years. He replied, "Yes, I know, but this way you will serve a larger number of people."

During the eight years as a Regional Representative my father served as chairman of the temple and genealogy committee, chairman of the farm committee for the church's 4,000 acre farm in Blyth, vice chairman of the education committee and one of the three regional representatives assigned to plan the area conference at the Rose Bowl where approximately 80,000 members of the church in Southern California came to participate. As President Kimball had stated, in this position he really did serve and bless the lives of a "large number of people."

In 1990 the Portland, Oregon mission was split and my parents were called to lead the brand new Eugene, Oregon Mission. Opening a new mission is especially difficult because you start with little infrastructure and need to quickly build it into a thriving mission. By applying lessons learned, long hours, hard work and faith, my parents prepared the mission to quickly grow from 81 missionaries to 160 in just over 6 months. By the conclusion of their 3 year mission, they worked with more than 500 missionaries, touched the lives of countless Oregonians, and loved them all. My father wrote:

It is not easy being a missionary. Trials, tests and challenges are always present. Heartache and disappointments are frequent. Poor health and sickness attack, but then the miracles occur. Miracles are witnessed when peoples' lives are changed as they accept the Savior, are baptized and receive the Holy Ghost. Missionary's lives are changed when they participate in

the sanctifying process and mature as Disciples of Christ.

Through faith many miracles have occurred as our sick have been healed and our endurance has been rewarded.

As described, my father served alongside prophets, apostles, regional and stake authorities and led a valiant group of missionaries, but he seemed to be the happiest serving as a home teacher and working individually, behind the scenes, with those that needed spiritual, physical, or temporal assistance. As his Home Teaching companion, I remember going on our family visits but also assisting in all types of cleaning and moving projects. I know he enjoyed these experiences more than any other because he felt like an instrument in the Lord's hands to bless these individuals and families.

My father was clearly an active participant in the lives of many. He sought out the needy and was continuously engaged in good works. His application of faith, hard work and a willing heart provided many spiritual impressions and personal revelations as he was often instructed what to do. In his written history, he says:

“I have learned that when one is working hard and seeking inspiration it will come simultaneously as it comes to others. I have made decisions and known they were right and then later received direction stating the same conclusion.”

My nephew Daniel Rasmussen “Danny” described his Grandfather Lloyd this way,

He took the Church and his discipleship seriously and consequently left us with a deep and abiding reverence for the sacred and a perspective that when you put first things first, things will work out. Passive discipleship was not tolerated in his home. No one ever wondered whether grandpa would follow the prophet or not; everyone knew he was on the Lord's side, and his life is full of fruits of that fidelity to the cause of Christ.