

Elder D. Todd Christofferson
Alumni Chapter Conference Address – November 1, 2007

Alumni Chapters' Relationship with Church Leadership

Foundational Aims of Brigham Young University closely match those of the Church

World Wide Training meetings now focusing on specific goals

- Building Faith in Jesus Christ
- Strengthening Families
- The message of the Gospel
 - o Methods of delivering the message
 - o Characteristics of good Latter Day Saints
 - o Helping the Church to be able to stand on its own

President Hinckley moving toward Church Leadership Decentralization

- Move more of the responsibilities from Church Headquarters to the areas
- Magnify the callings of Stake Presidents & Area 70s
 - o These callings to be spiritually and organizationally self reliant
 - o The mantle of leadership falls increasingly on their shoulders
- Accentuate Councils
 - o Area, Coordinating, Stake, Ward
 - o Councils at each level are to seek the needed revelation
 - o Get to the people – Emphasize individuals and build up peoples lives
 - o Help members, young men and women receive ordinances

Ways that BYU Alumni Chapters can work effectively within decentralization

- Focus more on people and less on events just for the sake of holding events
- Help Priesthood leaders with their responsibilities
 - o They need chapters to be self reliant
 - o They need people with enormous ability to give time
 - o People with intellect have capacity to give in more diverse ways
 - o Help Priesthood leaders to meet the aims of BYU
- Recognize achievement, service, character & promote it
- Recognize other groups in the area whose aims are the same
- Career networking and mentoring, that can help ward employment needs
- Be an example
 - o Show others what your life has gained by being part of BYU
 - o New Testament - Taking up ones cross
 - Matthew 16:24 - Means to deny oneself of all ungodliness
 - Luke 9:23 - Deny self, take up cross daily
 - Luke 14:27 - Set this in your hearts, that you will do what I command you

Yours efforts will bless church and the Lord will give to you added capacity to act.