
Question Time: Interviews with Two New Priesthood Members at Oak Grove --- by Elder Charlie Booth

During 2008, two of the men ordained to the Priesthood at Oak Grove were Bill Green (Deacon) and Darryl Postlethwait (Priest). Both of these men were over the age of 40 when they accepted the call to service. They agreed to share their testimonies and unique perspectives by answering a series of questions.

Bill Green

Ordained a Deacon on May 11, 2008, Bill said he had no inkling that a call was coming. He and his wife were asked to meet with Presiding Elder Vim Horn, Phillip Freeze and Ron Lidberg after a worship service one Sunday. The call surprised him, even though he had been asking God for months what He wanted him to do and where his place in His work was. Bill did not consider that it might be in His priesthood because, "I did not perceive in my mind that I was worthy of that."

Bill's wife Cindy had told him she felt he would have a priesthood call someday, but, "I would always just make some joke about there being no chance of that." Lori Smith also had a talk with him, saying she felt that Bill would receive a call soon, but he didn't know how to answer her because he did not believe it. "Afterwards," Bill noted, "I had several people tell me they knew the call would come and that kind of stunned me."

Bill wrote, "I believe one big [*change that led to the call*] was when Cindy talked me into joining a Spiritual Stewardship group a couple years ago. It allowed me to get to know some people on a more personal level, to see how others struggle and triumph in their personal lives. When I finally made the realization that I needed a personal relationship with my Savior and I had to trust my all to Him, some doors were opened up in my mind. Two years ago at a Christian music festival I stood up and told God I was willing to be His hands and feet on this earth, and, for the first time in my life, I was willing to step out in faith. I began praying daily for God to show me what it was He had in store for me, to show me what role He had for me in his kingdom. I also began to ask the members of our stewardship group to pray that I would discover what my role would be."

Since being ordained, Bill is more involved in the services. He notes he used to be one of those who just showed up, didn't participate in anything, then went home. "I am continually learning that I have more knowledge buried in my head about the things I believe than I give myself credit for. I have more self-confidence in those areas even though I have a long way to go. I have found that I can be useful in areas that I never would have believed before."

He recognizes the need to learn more about the responsibilities of his office. "I need deeper knowledge of the things the church believes so I can give sensible answers when challenged. I need to commit important scripture references to memory so I can pull them out even when I don't have my scriptures handy."

One area Bill says he has trouble with is that of his personal gifts. "I do not see me as having anything in particular to offer except a willingness to help out wherever I am asked to."

Bill notes that coming to the church as an adult and going thru his personal struggles might help him relate to people going through the same things. "I can offer a perspective of having to learn what this church and its teachings are all about and having to compare that with things I had been taught earlier in my life."

When asked what advice he would give to unordained men who attend Restoration Branches, Bill offered this: "Get a closer relationship with God and start asking him where he can use you. Everyone needs to be involved on some level. There is so much work to be done and the Lord needs all to help get his message out. The worship experience I have found is much more satisfying when you are involved."

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Darryl Postlethwait

Ordained a Priest on Mother's Day, May 11, 2008, Darryl said he had not felt anything was imminent when Aaron Smith spoke to him and his wife Lisa in the foyer before an earlier 10:30 service, asking if they had some time because he and Presiding Elder Vim Horn had something to talk to them about. "I knew right then what we were going to talk about. . . We went into the Library and Vim shared with us about an experience that he had and felt that I had a calling to the office of Priest. They explained the process of how it got to that point, answered several questions and we talked about what happens next."

Darryl explained that he really didn't know the call was coming, but that the seed had been planted many years before. "When I was younger, sitting in church, I would look at the Priesthood members up front and I always had thought that I might have that opportunity someday. I also had a couple of people mention to me that they felt that I had a calling to the office of Priest." In addition, High Priest Leonard Smith ". . . actually started getting me used to the idea about a year earlier. He kept asking me when I was going to be up front. A couple of people said that they felt there was a calling and even the work that I would be doing."

When asked if there had been things happen in his life in the recent past that led to his call, Darryl responded, "This is hard to say. I know that we did not always attend regularly. We felt that we needed to make attendance a priority. I've felt that I needed to be a better example to my kids. I can't say what brought about this call, just that it is His time and His plan."

As a new Priesthood member, Darryl knows he needs to study more: "We went through several months of Priesthood training that were very beneficial. I need to know my scriptures better to be able to minister more effectively." He also notes, "I have tried to make myself more approachable. I've always been quiet and that is quite often misinterpreted. I hold myself to a higher level of accountability than I used to. I have always known that I was accountable for my actions, but now I am more sensitive to how things might be perceived."

Like Bill, Darryl also struggles with the issue of personal gifts: "This is a tough one for me. We spent some time in our Spiritual Stewardship group a couple of years ago exploring what we think our gifts and talents are. I have given this a lot of consideration and there really isn't anything that I have been made aware of."

Darryl finds opportunities in his profession to offer ministry, noting, "When I go out to jobsites, I work with a lot of people in metal fabrication shops. People notice that I don't use the same kind of language or frequent the same establishments as a lot of the vendors and contractors that they typically see. It actually helps in our relationship as well as opening up other discussions about beliefs. I find that they also feel that they trust me."

As far as advice he shared with unordained men who attend Restoration Branches, Darryl replied, "All things happen in God's own time. He has a plan for everyone. I have only been a Priest for about six months, but we've been members of Oak Grove for about seven years, and there has never been a shortage of jobs or areas where we could get involved. There also is no set age when God calls men to His Priesthood. Stay active and be willing to do whatever He asks."

"I hold myself to a higher level of accountability than I used to." — Priest Darryl Postlethwait

"Two years ago at a Christian music festival I stood up and told God I was willing to be his hands and feet on this earth . . ." — Deacon Bill Green