

Dennis Hoskins Funeral Remarks

Bishop Cameron Ford, April 22, 2020

Given to a small family gathering at the mortuary before the casket closing due to COVID-19 related limitations.

(Note: Due to funeral time limitations and the pandemic circumstances, these comments were given from notes jotted down. I've recreated what was said from these notes and my memory as best I can.)

My name is Cameron Ford and I am Dennis and Cynthia's Bishop. I am honored to have been asked by the family to conduct these services. I'd like to share a few brief personal thoughts about Dennis. We've lived in the Kaysville 11th ward for 19 years. We have known Dennis for all of that time. My understanding is that he had just emerged victorious from his battle with alcohol a few years prior to our moving into the ward. His wisdom from that victory blessed the lives of countless individuals as he influenced and taught youth in his work at Mountain High.

Even in my own personal life, he has had a significant impact. He and brother Kent Offret have been our Home Teachers/Ministering brothers for the last few years. He had a very positive effect on our youngest son who struggled with his testimony during his youth. My son would always willingly listen to brother Hoskins because of the wisdom he had gained through his battles with addiction, his experiences with troubled youth, and his testimony of the Savior.

As with all of you, the Ford family will miss him. We will miss his warm smile and happy countenance.

We all know that death is part of life. It is part of God's plan of redemption that we should pass through the veil of death and onto another stage of our existence. However, it is always hard to say goodbye, especially when there seemed to be such health and vibrancy just prior to our loved ones passing, as in the case of our dear brother Hoskins.

President Russell M. Nelson, once said:

“Death separates “the spirit and the body [which] are the soul of man.” (D&C 88:15.) That separation evokes pangs of sorrow and shock among those left behind. The hurt is real. Only its intensity varies. Some doors are heavier than others. The sense of tragedy may be related to age. Generally the younger the victim, the greater the grief. Yet even when the elderly or infirm have been afforded merciful relief, their loved ones are rarely ready to let go. The only length of life that seems to satisfy the longings of the human heart is life everlasting.”

In times like these, I find great comfort from the following scripture:

“Now, concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection—Behold, it has been made known unto me by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow.” Alma 40:11-12

This is what Dennis is experiencing right now. Something for all of us to look forward to.

I testify these things are true, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.