

Kaysville, Utah. He was eulogized as a “double martyr” for his near-fatal wounds in Carthage Jail and for his sacrifice for religious principles.

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## TEA

Devout Latter-day Saints do not drink teas containing caffeine. This practice derives from an 1833 revelation known as the WORD OF WISDOM, which states that “hot drinks are not for the body or the belly” (D&C 89:9). Hyrum SMITH, Assistant President of the Church, later defined “hot drinks” as COFFEE and tea (*T&S* 3 [June 1, 1842]:800), thereby establishing the official interpretation for later generations (see DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS: SECTION 89). Caffeine, a cerebral and cardiovascular stimulant, has caused health concerns in recent years. The revelation has not been interpreted as proscribing herbal teas, for it states that “all wholesome herbs God hath ordained for the constitution, nature, and use of man” (D&C 89:10).

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## TEACHER, AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

A DEACON in the AARONIC PRIESTHOOD is, when worthy, advanced to the office of “teacher” at age fourteen and serves for a period of two years. Teachers meet together regularly for gospel in-

struction and other activities. Latter-day scriptures indicate that “the teacher’s duty is to watch over the church always.” His authority is “to warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ” (D&C 20:53–59). Teachers can function in all the duties of a deacon. In addition, they are to observe the counsel of the bishopric and teachers quorum president, prepare the SACRAMENT, perform HOME TEACHING, usher or speak in Church MEETINGS, be an example of moral integrity and uprightness, care for the poor, and help maintain the meetinghouse and grounds.

As the organization of the New Testament Church took form, teachers played a primary role (Acts 13:1; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 1:11; James 3:1). The qualities teachers were to exhibit included reverence, temperance, and integrity (Titus 2:1–15). Postapostolic sources indicate that teachers served under prophets and later under bishops and that these higher offices comprehended the teaching function as well.

Teachers are organized into a PRIESTHOOD QUORUM of up to twenty-four members (D&C 107:86). Each quorum is headed by a presidency acting under the direction and supervision of the ward bishopric. To be ordained a teacher, candidates must be carefully interviewed by the bishop for personal worthiness and then approved in sacrament meeting by the members of the ward.

Teachers meet weekly on Sunday for instruction as a quorum and at other times for social activities or service projects, often with the YOUNG WOMEN or other YOUNG MEN. In the United States and other areas, some of these activities are organized around the SCOUTING program designed for young men of this age group.

The Book of Mormon mentions teachers frequently, but—unlike modern teachers—they evidently were adult leaders of their congregations and held the Melchizedek Priesthood with administrative powers (Mosiah 23:17; 25:19; 26:7; Alma 4:7; 15:13).

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