



THE WITNESS

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*And he shall be called
Jesus Christ,
the Son of God,
the Father of heaven and earth,
the Creator of all things,
from the beginning;
and his mother shall be
called Mary.*



From the Board...

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
 (2 Nephi 9:66 RLDS) [2 Nephi 19:6 LDS]

How beautiful are the words of the prophets that unite our thoughts on the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior! The story of His miraculous birth continues to cause us to marvel at the glory of God. Though the coming of the Messiah had long been anticipated by many, it was recognized by few. The wonder and glory of the event was lost to all but the ones whose hearts were prepared to receive Him. Today, as long ago, those ready to receive Him look up with wondrous amazement and again receive the precious opportunity to bow down in humble adoration.

In this joyous season, we find the light of Christ expressed in so many ways. Our hearts are renewed with hope as we witness frequent examples of inspired worship, unselfish giving, placing others' needs before our own, visiting the lonely, comforting those that mourn, caring for the sick and sharing the loving fellowship of family and friends. During these times, it's easy to remember that Jesus Christ is the only hope of the world and the true cause of good within the lives of people.

We trust this past year has brought you the richest of blessings that only come from He who came as a babe in a manger. May you be filled with the peace and joy of knowing Him. We also pray your new year will overflow with many blessings as you always remember, with praise and thanksgiving, the source from whence they come.

Jesus Christ extends to all the promise of things the eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor has entered into the hearts of men. This is God's gift of salvation to the world through His son. We celebrate the birth of this greatest gift with you.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*



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*Cover photo courtesy of Dale Godfrey
 Snow Canyon State Park, St. George, Utah
 Cover scripture (Mosiah 1:102 RLDS) [Mosiah 3:8 LDS]*

THE WITNESS

THE Word MADE Flesh

by Dan Kroesen

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us... and because he dwelleth in flesh, he shall be called the Son of God... and moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be no other name given, nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent.

(Matthew 2:6 IV) [Matthew 1:23 KJV]
(Mosiah 1:116, 8:29 RLDS) [Mosiah 1:10, 15:2 LDS]

At the close of the year, as the days get shorter and the nights grow colder, my heart and mind is renewed afresh with the thoughts and ponderings of the birth of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In my imagination, like those simple shepherds, I, too, am drawn to the warm glow emanating from the manger where the son of God was ushered into this earthly world so many years ago. Oh to have seen His precious face! To have been witness, if even for just a brief moment, to God's ultimate gift to mankind, His son Jesus Christ, in infant form. To behold, as John wrote, "his glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth". Looking on, I wonder what Mary must have felt as she first wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, or Joseph thought as he looked over Mary's shoulder at the helpless infant before him? In those first quiet moments in the manger, I can't help but additionally wonder if either of them remotely comprehended the eternal enormity of the precious life they held in their arms?

And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary. And lo, he cometh unto his own, that

salvation might come unto the children of men, even through faith, on his name.

(Mosiah 1:102-103 RLDS) [Mosiah 3:8-9 LDS]

In his book titled, *The Gift for All People*, author Max Lucado so eloquently writes, "It all happened in a most remarkable moment... a moment like no other. For through that segment of time a spectacular thing occurred. God became a man. Divinity arrived. Heaven opened herself and placed her most precious one in a human womb. The omnipotent, in one instant, became flesh and blood. The one who was larger than the universe became a microscopic embryo. And he who sustains the world with a word chose to be dependent upon a young girl. God had come near. He didn't come as a flash of light or as an unapproachable conqueror, but as one whose first cries were heard by a peasant girl and a sleepy carpenter. Mary and Joseph were anything but royal. Yet heaven entrusted its greatest treasure to these simple parents. It began in a manger, this momentous moment in time. He looked anything but a king. His newborn face, prunish and red. His cry, still the helpless and piercing cry of a dependent baby. Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat. This baby had overseen the universe. These rags

keeping him warm were the robes of eternity. His golden throne room had been abandoned in favor of a dirty sheep pen. And worshipping angels had been replaced with kind but bewildered shepherds.”

We will soon gather together as friends, family, and saints to celebrate the birth and life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To celebrate the word of God, the love of God made flesh. To thank God for the ultimate gift – His son Jesus Christ.

He was born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the same word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. For in the beginning was the Word, even the Son, who is made flesh, and sent unto us by the will of the Father. (John 1:13-14,16 IV) [John 1:13-14 KJV]

Have you ever noticed that when the moon is on the horizon, whether eastern or western, the moon looks larger than when it is overhead? While, in fact, the moon neither gets larger nor closer as it orbits Earth's atmosphere, it appears to look larger on the horizon because we have objects to compare it to closer to the ground. We have perspective. We have scale. The moon on the horizon doesn't seem as insignificant or distant as it does high overhead in the heavens. Christ living in the flesh brought God closer. We were given perspective. The gospel that had been taught by the prophets since the beginning of time was lived out by Christ. The word was no longer just a collection of pages of commandments passed down through time. The “Word” was made flesh. Christ's life became the gospel. His earthly existence became the benchmark by which we measure our earthly existence. He not only talked the talk, but He walked the walk, and He did it perfectly.

Prior to the birth of Christ, mankind had seen small glimpses into who He was and would come to be here on Earth. The faithful Biblical heroes, prophets and great men who lived on Earth before Christ's coming were, in some way, living metaphors for Christ. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses and Joshua were all men of God; men who each fulfilled God's purpose for their lives. Yet these men individually were not enough. So God sent his son. Jesus' life in the fleshly form was a living embodiment of the attributes of those who had gone before. Noah was commanded of God to build an ark to preserve his family from the ensuing floods. Metaphorically, Jesus is Noah, saving humanity from disaster. God covenanted with Abraham that he would make him a father of many nations. Jesus, likewise, is the father of a new nation. Just as Isaac was placed on the altar by his father, Christ too was placed on the altar and sacrificed for all of mankind. Just as Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, Jesus was sold for a bag of silver by a brother He loved so dearly. Like Moses, Jesus calls us as slaves to freedom. And ultimately, He points the way to the Promised Land for you and me, just as Joshua did for the Israelites.

When God sent His son, He made sure that He accounted for everything. Christ came to this earth and lived as we live. He didn't leave us with any excuses to not live our lives after Christ's. He came as an infant in the meekest of beginnings and grew up the earthly son of a tradesman, not the son of nobility. During His life, He experienced sadness, loss, hunger, ridicule, criticism and betrayal. Undoubtedly, Jesus knows how we feel. We are precious to Him – so precious that He became like us so we would come to Him.

And behold, he shall be born of Mary at Jerusalem, which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed, and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God; and he shall go forth, suffering pains, and afflictions, and temptations of every kind; And this that the word might be fulfilled which saith, He will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people; and he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; And he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.

(Alma 5:19-22 RLDS)

[Alma 7:10-12 LDS]



I am reminded of a story of a young boy who went into a pet shop, looking for a puppy. The store owner showed him a litter in a box. The boy looked at the puppies. He picked each one up, examined it, and put it back in the box.

After several minutes, he walked back to the owner and said, "I picked one out. How much will it cost?"

The man gave him the price, and the boy promised to be back in a few days with the money. "Don't take too long," the owner cautioned. "Puppies like these sell quickly."

The boy turned and smiled knowingly. "I'm not worried," he said. "Mine will still be here."

The boy went to work – weeding, washing windows, cleaning yards. He worked hard and saved his money. When he had enough for the puppy, he returned to the store.

He walked up to the counter and laid down a pocketful of wadded bills. The store owner sorted and counted the cash. After verifying the amount, he smiled at the boy and said, "All right, son, you can go get your puppy."

The boy reached into the back of the box, pulled out a skinny dog with a limp leg, and started to leave.

The owner stopped him.

"Don't take that puppy," he objected. "He's crippled. He can't play. He'll never run with you. He can't fetch. Get one of the healthy pups."

"No thank you, sir," the boy replied. "This is exactly the kind of dog I've been looking for."

As the boy turned to leave, the store owner started to speak but remained silent. Suddenly he understood. For extending from the bottom of the boy's pants was a brace – a brace for his crippled leg.

Why did the boy want the dog? Because he knew how it felt, and he knew it was very special. Like the little boy, Jesus sees you and me with a heart of compassion.

In the second chapter of Philippians, we read the words of Apostle Paul who wrote, "...Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." (Philippians 2:5-11 IV/KJV)

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast,
But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.
No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of mankind!
O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
To those that fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is none but who love him know. Amen"

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20 IV/KJV)



There once was a very wealthy man who, along with his son, shared a passion for collecting art. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest treasure to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet, and many others adorned the walls of the family estate. The widowed elder man looked on with satisfaction as his only child became an experienced art collector in his own right. The son's trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art dealers around the world.

As winter approached one year, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The art collector awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days, his worst fears were confirmed. The young man had died while attempting to evacuate a wounded fellow soldier.

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with dread. What was left to celebrate? His joy was gone.

Early on Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the grieving man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls seemed to mock him. Of what value were they without his son to share in their beauty? Opening the door, he was startled to see a young man in uniform. It was a soldier, with a large package in his hands. He introduced himself to the man.

"I was a friend to your son," he said. "As a matter of fact, I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you."

As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the man's son had talked so much about art, and the joy of collecting masterpieces alongside his father. "I'm something of an artist myself," the soldier said shyly. "And, well, I wanted you to have this."

As the old man unwrapped the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of

the man's son. Though the world would never consider it a work of genius, the painting somehow captured the young man's expression. The likeness was uncanny. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the soldier, promising to hang the picture above the fireplace.

A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task. True to his word, the painting went above the fireplace, pushing aside a fortune in works of classic art. His task completed, the old man sat in his chair and spent Christmas day gazing at the gift he had been given.

During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He would later learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet cut him down.

Fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease the old man's grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. With the famous collector's passing, the art world eagerly anticipated a great auction. According to the collector's will, all of the works would be auctioned on Christmas Day, the day he had received the greatest gift.

The day soon arrived, and art dealers from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. Dreams would be fulfilled this day; many would soon claim, "I have the greatest collection." The auction began, however, with a painting that was not on any museum's list.

It was the simple portrait of a young soldier...the collector's son.

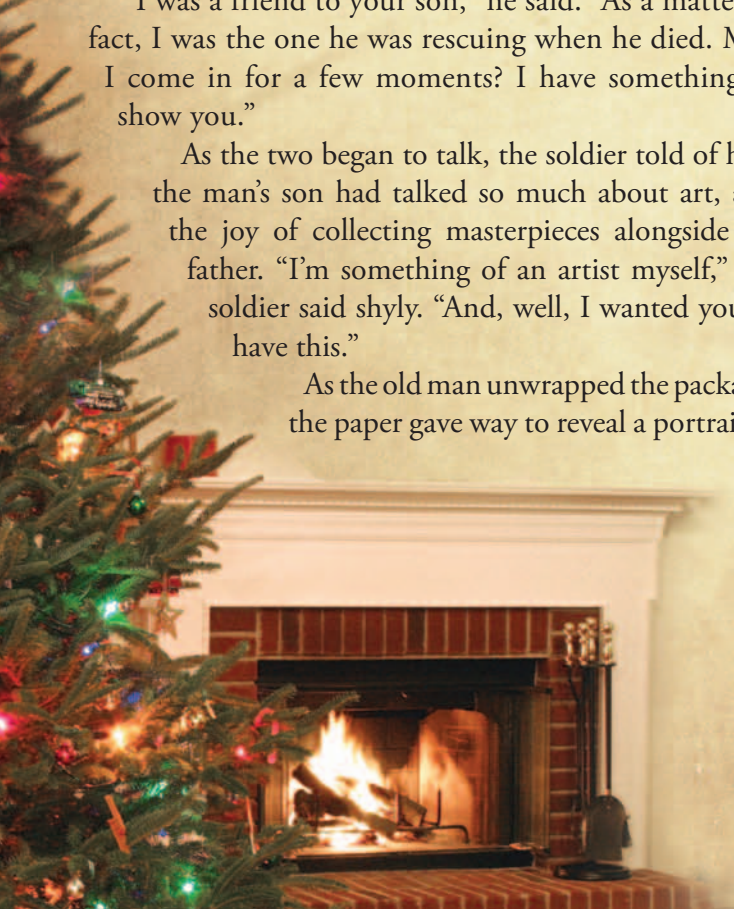
The auctioneer asked for an opening bid, but the room was silent. "Who will open with a bid of one hundred dollars?" he asked. Minutes passed and no one spoke. From the back of the room came a gruff voice, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son." More voices echoed in agreement. "Let's forget about it and move on to the good stuff."

"No," the auctioneer replied. "We have to sell this one first. Now, who will take the son?"

Finally, a neighbor of the old man spoke. "Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That's all I can spare. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it."

"I have ten dollars," called the auctioneer. "Will anyone go higher?"

After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice, sold!" The gavel fell. Cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it."



But at that moment, the auctioneer looked up at the audience and quietly announced that the auction was over. Stunned disbelief blanketed the room. Finally someone spoke up. "What do you mean, it's over? We didn't come here for some picture of some old guy's son. What about all of these paintings? There are millions of dollars worth of art here! I demand that you explain what is going on!"

The auctioneer replied, "It's very simple. **According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son...gets it all.**"

For in the beginning was the Word, even the Son, who is made flesh, and sent unto us by the will of the Father. And as many believe on his name shall receive of his fullness. And of his fullness have all we received, even immortality and eternal life, through his grace. For the law was given through Moses, but life and truth came through Jesus Christ. For the law was after a carnal commandment, to the administration of death; but the gospel was after the power of an endless life, through Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father. And no man hath seen God at any time, except he hath borne record of the Son; for except it is through him no man can be saved." (John 1:16-19 IV)

Years ago, my grandmother gave me a book titled *Streams in the Desert*, and in it is an account of a striking Christmas card that was once published, with the title, "If Christ Had Not Come." The card represented a clergyman falling into a short sleep in his study on Christmas morning and dreaming of a world into which Jesus had never come.

In his dream, he found himself looking through his home, but there were no little stockings hanging on the mantle, no Christmas bells or wreaths of holly, and no Christ to comfort, gladden and save. He walked out on the public street, but there was no church with its spire pointing to Heaven. He came back to his library, but every book about the Savior had disappeared.

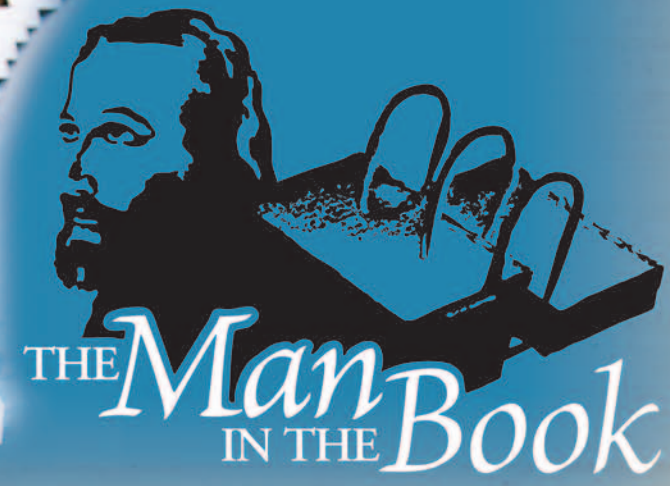
There was a ring at the door bell, and a messenger asked him to visit a poor dying mother. He hastened with the weeping child and, as he reached the home, he sat down and said, "I have something here that will comfort you." He opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise, but it ended at Malachi, and there was no gospel and no promise of hope and salvation. He could only bow his head and weep with her in bitter despair.

Two days afterward, he stood beside her coffin and conducted the funeral service, but there was no message of consolation, no word of a glorious resurrection, no open Heaven, but only "dust to dust, ashes to ashes," and one long eternal farewell. He realized at length that "He had not come," and burst into tears and bitter weeping in his sorrowful dream.

Suddenly, he woke with a start, and a great shout of joy and praise burst from his lips as he heard his choir singing in his church close by:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us be glad and rejoice today, because He has come. And let us remember the annunciation of the angel as told in the second chapter of the book of Luke, "the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11 IV/KJV)



SANTA-CALI-GON 2010

Claire Burford

This was my first time being a part of The Book of Mormon Foundation booth at Santa-Cali-Gon Days. Some of the volunteers, after praying together, headed out into the crowd to look for witnessing opportunities. Others, including myself, stayed at the Book of Mormon booth to hand out free water. The hope was that, as people were drawn to the cold water, that we might have a chance to offer them Living Water as well. On our table, we had both regular and pocket-sized copies of the Book of Mormon, free for the taking (unless the visitor was already a church member). There was also a picture of Jesus and a small replica of what the gold plates might have looked like. We hoped our display would prompt questions and open opportunities to share our testimony of the Book of Mormon and faith in Jesus Christ.

To be honest, I felt shy and unsure about talking to people, but I really wanted to be a part of the work. There was no peace in so many of the faces that passed by. Some seemed to be truly searching. At first, I felt disappointed that all I seemed to be doing was handing out cups of water to the constant stream of pale, thirsty people. So many visitors took a quick drink, only to rush off again without even a glance at our table. Lord, I prayed, I don't feel I am making much difference, just handing out cups of water. Immediately I was reminded of when Christ said that whosoever gives a drink of cold water in His name will in no wise lose their reward.

Finally, a few opportunities opened to talk with some of the visitors. I invited a young man to take a copy of the Book of Mormon, which he did, but I felt so embarrassed that I blanked on what to say next! Nevertheless, he graciously accepted a copy and said he would read it. I have since prayed that the Spirit of the Lord



will work in his heart, despite my blunders! Next, I had an opportunity to share with a lady who had never heard of the Book of Mormon. This time, I was a little more prepared. I told her a brief history of the Book of Mormon and how it is a second witness of Jesus Christ. She was interested and took a copy. I was also aware of my brother and sisters at work in the booth and listened to them share with visitors.

The other half of our booth was open for free face painting.

Again, the hope was to attract families to our booth so we might have a chance to share with them.

One of the young ladies who had been face painting all morning needed a break, so I took her place. I had never face painted before, but it was not difficult, and I was soon enjoying myself immensely. The little ones had so many interesting things to tell! Still, I wondered if I was making a difference for the gospel. I prayed while I painted and asked the Lord if there was anything He wanted to teach me. Soon, I began to notice the lack of peace that characterized many of our visitors. One mother kept criticizing her daughter, telling her that what she wanted on her cheek was "dumb." Another mother complained loudly about how long they had been standing in line. Some did not handle their children in a loving way. One young man even told his father, when criticized, that he did not love him! This was not the case with every family, of course, but I was sad and disappointed to see what sort of home life many of these young ones must lead.

A missionary once said: "Just love the one in front of you." As I prayed for each child in front of me, I spoke to them as brightly and positively as was possible, making such comments as, "Oh, that's a good idea. You're so smart!" It was so wonderful to see a face light up. I wanted to convey to each child that he or she was somebody of worth. One child's mother must have been listening, because as I was speaking to her daughter, asking her questions and offering kind words, the mother softened her tone toward the child. That was so encouraging!

I was glad to be a part of the Book Mormon's presence at Santa-Cali-Gon Days, even if it was only for an afternoon. Jesus Christ offers us so many opportunities and ways to witness. It is our great privilege to respond.



STEP BY STEP, BREATH BY BREATH

A TESTIMONY OF SANTA-CALI-GON DAYS

by Kelli Pedersen

Most of us have heard the phrase, “Take a step of faith.” Well, during our event at Santa-Cali-Gon Days, we literally relied upon our Creator, for each step we took. From looking at the weather forecast to sharing the love of God, faith was required to sustain our group.

The set-up day is always a bit tricky. People are just getting home from work, and not many want to come out and put together a huge tent at 7 o’clock at night! This year was just perfect, however. No worry, no fuss. We had ten people help out, and that turned out to be the best number to setup our tent! Working without the manual, our crew managed to put the contraption together with speed and ease. God molded our attitudes and hearts toward compassion and understanding. Is it not amazing to see how God can take a sticky situation and turn any frustration or fear into a testimony of love? He is perfect and, despite the assurances of torrential rain that night, we worked under pleasant breezes and the bright moon.

How wonderful is He to pour out blessings even before we had given a single Book of Mormon away? His works are truly breathtaking!

In an effort to provide the best opportunities for our volunteers, we strive to have a priesthood member at each shift. Having the authority of God’s priesthood in our booth brings a stronger measure of both power and peace.

By the time we were ready to open our doors on Friday, the shift consisted of two ladies, and we realized our objective of having priesthood support in the tent had fallen short! No sooner had we thought of this, than two gentlemen came to visit our booth. While they seemed amiable, they attacked our beliefs in a subtle way that was engineered to show us faults and gaps. No matter what answer was given by our group, they were determined to disagree and fear for our eternal souls. Shortly after they arrived, however, a trusted man of the Restoration stopped by for a cup of water. Just having his presence in the booth bolstered the conversation and gave us courage. God knew this person was needed and provided before it was known to us. He also wanted us to learn this lesson before it was truly needed on a later day.

Throughout the weekend, there were more testimonies concerning the right people being at the right shift just for the person they were meant to be a witness to. From a deaf lady stopping in when we had a girl who knew sign language, to a surprise volunteer and artist being at the booth when we needed a relief face painter, the testimonies continued all weekend.

There was one particular testimony of this variety that was needed more than we could have imagined.

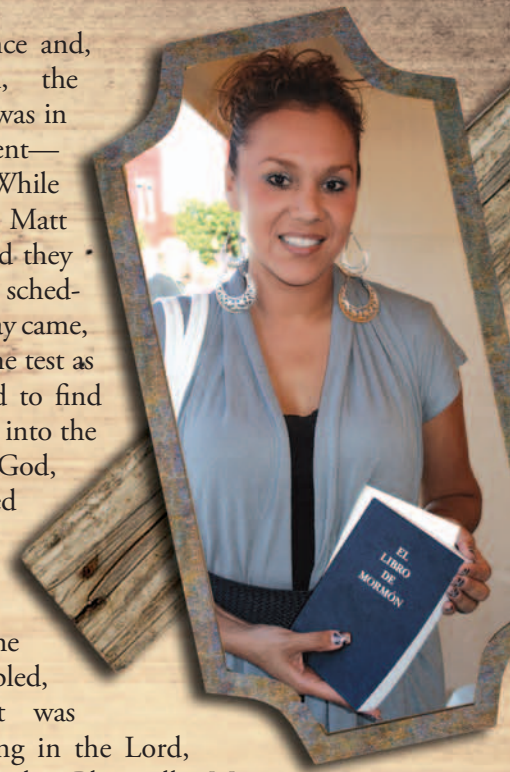
The Friday morning shift

was a learning experience and, when looking ahead, the Monday morning shift was in the exact same predicament—no priesthood support! While keeping this in prayer, Matt and Aaron Brown agreed they could assist during this scheduling gap. When Monday came, our resolve was put to the test as Melissa Pedersen arrived to find our tent blown half-way into the street! By the grace of God, a man walking by helped her put it back into its place. But the drama was not yet over, for the winds continued! As the shift members assembled, the foremost thought was prayer. After counseling in the Lord, we went into attack mode! Physically, Matt and Aaron were needed to help hold down the tent. Without them, we most certainly would have decided to take the tent down early and call it a weekend. But, because of both their spiritual and physical support, we were able to brave the high winds and finish the calling God had given us for the weekend.

It was truly provincial that we did stay up that day, because we gave away our remaining 25 copies of the Book of Mormon, handed out many more cups of water, had an influx of 15 unanticipated volunteers, and sang Zion Bound for a sweet man who asked if we could sing! If we had left, 25 people would not have been offered the Book of Mormon, 15 of our youth would not have been able to stretch their witness in this way and we would not have had the beautiful opportunity to minister through song for that one man.

We had over 60 volunteers and gave away 200 copies of the Book of Mormon! That is 60 more saints who are ready to testify in more random circumstances and wherever the Lord leads. Giving away 200 copies the Book of Mormon creates 200+ more opportunities for the people of Independence to pick up this book in the perfect timing of the Great I AM. It may never be known to us how or when those books are to be used. But, for the glory of God, please keep them in your most ardent prayers on behalf of the Kingdom.

Each volunteer who came had the chance to share at least one look, one smile, one book for the sake of Jesus Christ. It was in His name that we went, and it is in His name that we go forward from here. We should not be afraid, but grow and build upon these experiences to walk closer to the Zion life of which we speak. If there was one theme that resonated throughout the weekend, it was, “Don’t give up now. It is more important than ever to stay the course and know God as you have never known Him before! Zion will be.”



Walking *in the* Spirit

by Bud Drummond

***This I say then, Walk in the Spirit,
and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***

(Galatians 5:16- 26)(Mosiah 9:59 RLDS) [Mosiah 18:26 LDS]

From the title, you may have guessed I want to share with you about walking in the Spirit of God. As Restoration saints, we know that allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives is the only way to achieve genuine spirituality. Only as committed followers of Christ, can we overcome the snares and pitfalls of this world. Therefore, we are called to walk in the Spirit of God daily.

In the scriptures, the word “walking” does not always mean a physical activity. Most of the time, it describes the Godly and consistent conduct of a believer. Walking in the Spirit means we come to a point where we rely completely on the power and ability of Christ who dwells within us. When we do, the distinguishing characteristics of a true believer become obvious.

There is a difference in living God’s way and living the world’s way. Some of you may think this is a pretty obvious statement, but let me explain what I mean. The rules for living the Christian life are set down in the scriptures. Not only do these commandments seem difficult, but they also remain impossible for those who insist on continuing to live as a “natural man.” Think of them as the heavenly standard God sets forth for true believers to live by. He never intended them for those who insist on living outside His kingdom. Therefore, a person not in covenant with the Lord can’t live by them. In fact, these divine principles are not lived by us at all; they are lived through us as we yield to the Holy Spirit within us.

Let’s look at some of the requirements God places on true believers. Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you; that ye also love one another” (John 13:34 IV/KJV) (Mosiah 2:27 RLDS) [Mosiah 4:15 LDS]. What’s the first thing that comes to mind

when you hear this verse? If you think like me, you have no doubt it means we are to love our neighbor as our self. After all, that’s the second great commandment! We have a tendency to see these two scriptures as interchangeable. When we do, we miss the mark of their true meaning. After all, even the worst drunk in a bar is able to love his neighbor as himself.

God is calling us to a higher commandment, a new commandment. The true standard for loving is not me, it’s Jesus. Let me give you an example. I am overweight. If I truly loved myself I would not be overeating. Instead, I would be willing to forego the extra food that affects my health and happiness. That’s one standard based on my own personal desire and experience. The other standard is Jesus, who was willing to literally die for each of us. That’s the standard of God. Which standard do you want me to follow when it comes to loving you? Jesus shows us the type of love that makes it possible for us to love the unlovable and to even love those that mistreat us. This is the kind of love with which God in Christ loves us.

Let’s look at yet another requirement for a higher Christian response. These are the words of God as expressed by apostle Paul: “giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:20 IV/KJV) (Alma 5:40 RLDS) [Alma 7:23 LDS] On the surface, this verse seems easy enough to follow. But look at it again. It says to be thankful always in all things. Does this mean we are to give thanks even when life seems to be conspiring against us, are in the depths of despair or

experiencing those painful trials that affect all of us? I believe that's exactly what it means!

In 1 Thessalonians 5:13-17 (IV/KJV)(Mosiah 11:149 RLDS) [Mosiah 26:39 LDS], we find a list of admonitions such as "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing." We are talking about being filled with inner joy, even when circumstances on the outside are not very good. It also means keeping an open line of communication with God, so prayer is a constant habit in our life and not just a crisis experience only.

The true believer faces a powerful enemy. The scriptures clearly state that Satan is an archenemy of God and His people. There is no real problem between Satan and unbelieving people or who our Protestant friends call "unsaved" people. The unbelievers have not been delivered from the powers of darkness and translated into the kingdom of Christ through the experience of new birth.

Also, Satan is one of the foremost promoters of religion. He encourages those religions that promote human excellence and deify humans, or those that promote themselves as an alternative to Jesus. Likewise, as Restoration saints, we need to recognize the need to be true to what was restored by God in the latter days and quit trying to be Protestants. The scriptures tell us we are to be transformed daily into the image of God. We, as a church and as individuals, often are trying to make God in our image and the church into just another version of mainstream Christianity. In James 4:7 (IV/KJV) (Alma 28:19 RLDS) [Alma 61:14 LDS], we are told to "resist the devil, and he will flee from you." But there is only one way we can resist the devil, and that is to yield to the Holy Spirit within us.

Though Satan is inferior to God, he is superior to humans, and he cannot be overcome by humans alone. A Christian's conflict with Satan is as fierce as Satan can make it. To confront him in our own power is to demonstrate we are helpless as a newborn baby. However, God knows of our helplessness and provides the resources with which we can overcome the adversary. 1 John 4:4 (IV/KJV) (Alma 16:153 RLDS) [Alma 32:28 LDS] reminds us that "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." The "He" that is in the believers is the Holy Spirit. So if we are to overcome the enemy of our souls, we must walk in the Spirit of God. We must live our lives daily in the conscious presence of His wondrous power.

The old nature of man is still part of us. The scriptures teach that when one receives Christ as Lord and Savior, they are bought back from the kingdom of Satan. We are talking about our spiritual body. On the other hand, these bodies in which our spirits reside are not yet redeemed. They will not be redeemed until Christ returns. Until that moment, we must live in these unredeemed bodies that are subject to sin and to disobedience toward God. Our redeemed spirits are in constant conflict with our unredeemed physical bodies. Satan cannot touch our spiritual bodies, so he attacks our

physical bodies. Why? Because these bodies are the temple of The Holy Spirit, who dwells in us. We overcome this old nature by daily renewing our dedication to the Spirit of God within us. We walk daily in His power and strength. As we do this, "we die daily to the flesh," as stated in Paul's words.

God says it this way in Galatians 2:20 (IV/KJV) (Mosiah 3:11 RLDS) [Mosiah 5:8 LDS]: "I live; yet not I, but Christ who liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me". Quality Christianity emerges as the Christian surrenders and yields to the Holy Spirit within.

I want to close by discussing what is involved in yielding to the Holy Spirit.

To yield means to give up, to surrender and to give place to. To yield to the Holy Spirit opens the door to God's best for us. It's important for us to understand that when God tells us to yield to the Holy Spirit, it is not only a commandment, but a plea for believers to live the kind of lives that will mark them as the children of God. It's only by yielding that we can hope to live lives that will demonstrate this identity. To yield is to also exercise our agency. We can't produce the Christian life in ourselves alone but must also allow it to be done by the Holy Spirit. So the issue is not whether we do it ourselves, but rather our willingness to let God do it through us by yielding to the Holy Spirit within us.

The important thing to understand is that God's leadings will always be according to the Scriptures. It's never true with God that the end justifies the means. God does not sacrifice minor principles to accomplish an ultimate goal. As we yield ourselves to God, we increasingly come to have the mind of Christ. We actually come to think like Him. If we yield ourselves to Him, He is able to convince us of what is wrong and also give us clear understanding of what is right.

Sometimes we get the idea that sacrifice involves pain, and the Christian who has sacrificed to do the will of God must be a sad-faced, morbid person. That's just not true, for the person who sacrifices their will for the Lord's always finds peace, joy and true contentment.

It is true that sacrifice that costs you nothing is worth nothing. So when you fast, make sure it's to the Lord. As an example, don't give up peas when you already don't like them or give up a television program you don't watch and expect the Lord to bless your offering.

We live in what can be frightening and terrible times, but if we walk in the Spirit, we need not be afraid. If we walk in the Spirit, we will find peace. If we walk in the Spirit, we will find joy.

Note: Elder Bud Drummond passed through the veil of this life on October 15, 2010. He was scheduled to preach the last Sunday of October in Ottumwa, Iowa. This article represents the written thoughts of his sermon.

THE 2010 BOOK OF MORMON DAY FOR KIDS



What a blessed day we spent at the Book of Mormon Day for Kids this year! We were greeted with excited and happy faces early on October 2. Children were ready and willing to give their all in the investigation of Lehi's vision. The Living Hope Restoration Branch gym was peppered with children donning bright green tee shirts with the Stela 5 printed on them. What a sight to behold! We started the day with a brief message from our pastor, Dayn Cederstrom. Transforming the gym into a movie theater was our next endeavor, popcorn and all, as the children were engaged in a children's movie of Lehi's vision. As the movie ended, our next journey began. Children were guided through stations representing the different aspects of Lehi's vision. We were very blessed to have so many willing individuals in charge of our stations. Our current Book of Mormon intern leaders, Lynn and Sugar Baumgart, gallantly led our children through the fountain and river of filthy water station, which included a tactile experience of misting water as they passed through their tunnel. In the next station, Nicole Capps, former Book of Mormon intern, conveyed the message of warning to our children to watch out for the mist of darkness. Sarah Lade, dressed as Sariah, engaged the children with her station representing the tree of life, culminating in tasting its delicious fruit (marshmallows). Current intern Jenna Davis, adorned in jewels and a golden crown,





entertained the children while teaching a lesson on the dangers of pride and the desire for worldly possessions over righteousness at the great and spacious building station. Past Book of Mormon intern Matt Fleming and his mother, Gayle Fleming, shared the importance of holding fast to the rod of iron. At each station, the children collected materials to create their own flip book in which they glued a scripture and a visual reminder. They also received pieces of a puzzle that would ultimately be a picture of the Stela 5. Amanda Lade and Kelda Glandon directed the music, as the children learned Book of Mormon songs. Deanna Griffin and Michelle Morris worked diligently with the children, making a scaled-down model of Lehi's vision in crafts class. Ben Nelson and Ben Fleming led in recreation by having many themed activities in which the children participated. A puppet show by Jenna Davis and Johanna Peabody was enjoyed by everyone as the day came to a close. What a wonderful way to learn of the Book of Mormon in an environment so kid-friendly that it would encourage them to want to return next year! Thank you to so many people who worked behind the scenes setting up, being group leaders, preparing the noon meal, snacks and cleaning up. Many blessings were received at Book of Mormon Day for Kids 2010.

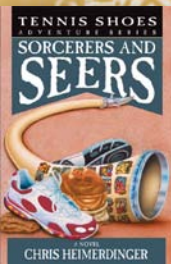
We are thankful for this year's experience and look forward to next year with excitement and a continued desire to teach our young ones the ways of the Lord.

In His Service,

Lorrie Look
Director



Give the *Gift* of Faith

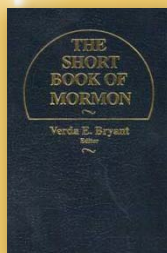


Sorcerers and Seers

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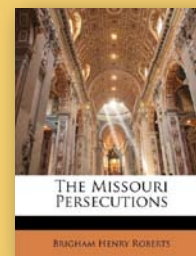


The Short Book of Mormon

By *Verda E. Bryant*

An abridgement of the Book of Mormon with selected passages to

relate the story and message using the language of the 1908 version but with modern punctuation. Easy to read and understand especially for youth and nonmember friends. Softcover, 394 pages **\$12.00**



The Missouri Persecutions

By *B. H. Roberts*

Originally published in 1900 in Salt Lake City, republished in

2001, this history details the Saints’ settling in Missouri, the reasons for the suspicions of their neighbors, the subsequent persecutions, and the exodus to Illinois. The author was an eyewitness to many of those events. Softcover, 291 pages. **\$13.95**



Angels and Enemies

By *Kimberly Case*

The first in the Journey to the Promised Land series of historical romance novels that detail the characters in Lehi’s and Ishmael’s families. In this book, the bold and independent Lydia, eldest daughter of Ishmael, resists the matchmaking, and the impossible journey that lay ahead of them. . . .only to discover that a great

plan designed and created by the divine, is also extraordinary in the details. In the vast and deadly wilderness, Lydia discovers more to the fiery and rebellious Laman than she ever thought possible. Softcover, 216 pages **\$14.95**

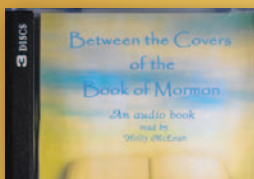


An Oasis in the Desert

By *Kimberly Case*

The second book in the Journey to the Promised Land series. Deborah thought she knew herself, but across the circle of a wilderness camp, she met the mocking eyes of Lemuel, which told her she was far from understanding the world. In the sweeping saga that took her family from its comfortable home

near Jerusalem to the wild desert, Deborah clashes with Lemuel, second son of the venerable Lehi. In An Oasis in the Desert, Deborah must make a choice between Lemuel, who fights her at every turn, and Zoram, a man who matches her warrior spirit. Softcover, 216 pages. **\$14.95**



Between the Covers of the Book of Mormon on audio CD

This 3 CD set contains 53 chapters of stories and scriptural concepts directly gleaned from the Book of Mormon. The

original book, written by Verda E Bryant, became a restoration classic and was first published in 1945. The words can be easily understood and enjoyed by people of all ages. Now in audio book form, this classic can be enjoyed in the car on trips, while jogging, or before bed in the comfort of your child’s bedroom. It also makes a great gift that shows the love of Christ in a unique way. **\$15.00**



Cumorah! Board Game

Spin the Liahona and get started collecting as many Plates cards as possible on the way to Palmyra. Each stop is an event in the Book of Mormon with scripture references.

Cumorah! is a board game for the whole family. The Liahona spinner is attached to a laminated “playing board” which can be rolled up for easy storage. Also included are “Plates” cards, “Prophet” cards, player markers, and easy to follow instructions. 24”x17” **\$10.00**

2nd Witness Designs

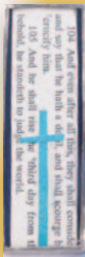
introduces jewelry for the Book of Mormon believer. All pendants are handcrafted with scripture quotes, beautiful glass beads and lead-free solder.



1x2" dog tag keychain; aqua and red #013
\$13.00



Medium 28" silver chain; 3x1" pendant; beads in hues of blue. #002
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Back



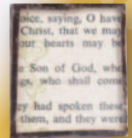
Wire collar; black, silver and copper beads; 1"x 1 7/16" dog tag #015
\$31.00



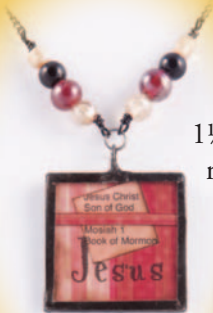
1x2" dog tag keychain; browns #011
\$13.00



Fine 26" black chain; 1 1/2" square pendant; olive, red and black beads. #008
\$35.00



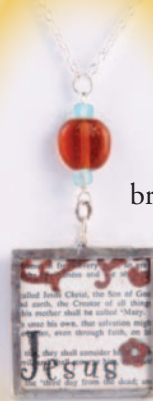
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Fine 28" black chain; 1 1/2" square pendant; ivory, red and black beads. #006
\$35.00



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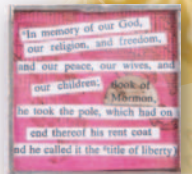
Fine 26" silver chain; 1 1/2" square pendant; brown and blue beads. #005
\$35.00



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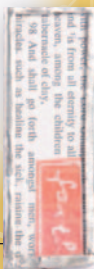
Fine 30" silver chain; 2" square pendant; pink and silver beads. #010
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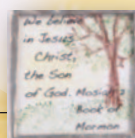
Medium 23" copper chain; 3x1" pendant; blue beads. #003
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Back



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Lyndsay Ballantyne~ After our class on witnessing, I started to get really apprehensive about sharing with the evangelicals on our trip to New York. The class was really insightful, but when it was over, I felt like all I had was a smattering of information and scripture references I hadn't been able to successfully join together. I felt inadequate in my knowledge of the scriptures, and my notes wouldn't help me know how to begin sharing the gospel.

My friend, Regan, another one of the interns, was excited about witnessing and had marked her King James Version with verses we could use to back up our beliefs and to make cross references. I didn't start doing the same because it just wasn't something I wanted to deal with yet, and I didn't feel like taking the time I thought would be required to make sense of my notes.

One day, though, I did decide to sit down with Regan and highlight a few verses. I asked if I could use her notes and, as I went through them, everything made sense to me. The information no longer seemed disjointed.

I now feel like I'm so much more prepared to witness. I know that if I look to God and ask Him, He will give me those words and verses I will need when I need them. It is my prayer that He will be able to use even me as an instrument in His hands.

I am thankful to the Lord for not only blessing Regan with the ability to take good notes, but also for blessing me as I searched His scriptures. He paved the way for me even before I thought to call on Him for His help and guidance.

Editor's Note: An editorial oversight prevented the publication of Lyndsay Ballantyne's testimony in the Fall 2010 Witness. We apologize to Lyndsay, and are pleased to include it in this issue.

Book of Mormon Retreat

Directors: Howard and Karen Parker

When: January 21-23, 2011

Where: Odessa Hills Campground

Who: Youth 18-24 years old

"Truth will set you free"

Moroni 10:4-6

