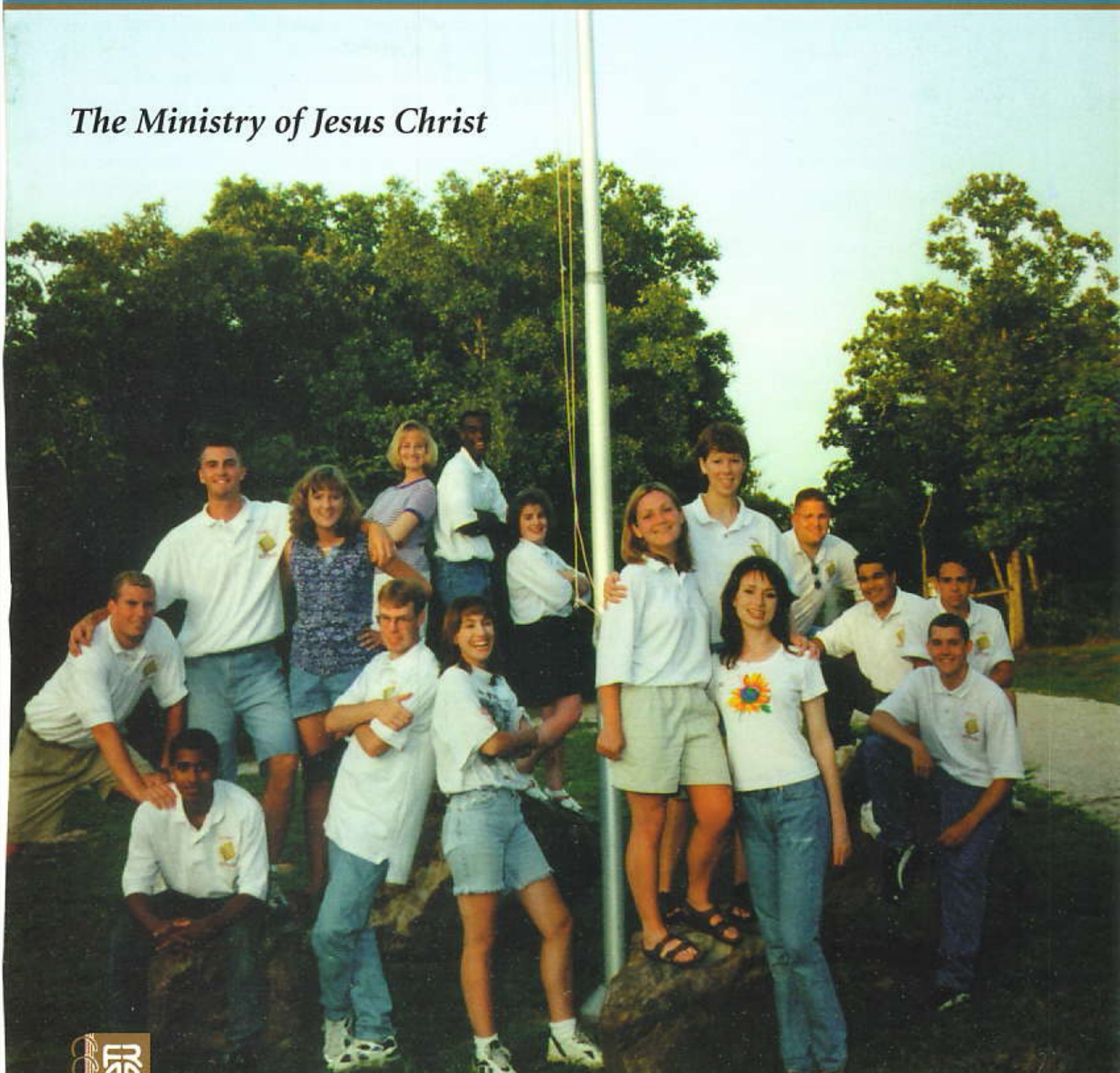


# The Witness

VOLUME 97

NUMBER 94

*The Ministry of Jesus Christ*



FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA



# The Witness

VOLUME 97

NUMBER 94

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Through research, publications, seminars and related projects, members of FRAA seek to assist in bringing forth the light contained in the ancient scriptures of the Book of Mormon. A contribution to the Foundation for Research on Ancient America is tax deductible.

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Cover:  
1997 FRAA Interns at Johnsville, Oklahoma.  
Photo by Tom Mitchell.

## Message from FRAA



This past summer the programs sponsored by FRAA focused on youth of all ages. A Book of Mormon Day was held at the Center Place Restoration School in Independence, Missouri. The kids were introduced to interactive games on CDROM that included Book of Mormon stories and principles. Activities for the senior high students included a prayer and testimony service at the Temple Lot.

A new and exciting activity this summer was Children's Story Time held every Friday morning at FRAA's Tree of Life Bookstore. Children participated in storytelling, scripture reading, muppets, and flannel graphs.

A Book of Mormon Day for Kids was also held in Independence. About 150 kids were amazed as Moroni came riding in on horseback, with sword drawn, declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*The Witness* magazine continues to go to 16,500 homes. Your paid subscription is essential for this to continue. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your contribution today!

## Contents ...

<b>The Sword of the Spirit</b> .....	<b>3</b>
by Alice Wellington	
<b>The Munich Mummies</b> .....	<b>8</b>
by Renee Wersching	
<b>Doing More Than is Required</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Editorial Committee	





# The Sword of the Spirit

by Alice Wellington

It occurred to me one day that most sermons and quite a few Christian books are based on as few words as just one verse from the scriptures, sometimes even just one word. It amazes me that the content of each of the scriptures is so full of divine information that we often have to conduct theological analyses, do Greek and Hebrew word searches, delve into historical records, create word pictures and personal analogies, and draw from volumes of personal experiences to understand the meaning packed into those few words from God. He truly is awesome!

## The Authority of the Word

The scriptures are God's word to us (II Timothy 3:14-17 and II Peter 1:20-21; I Nephi 3:68 RLDS, I Nephi 11:25 LDS; III Nephi 13:3 RLDS, III Nephi 27:26 LDS), our "rule book", as it were, for following Christ. Just as students taking a test do their best when they know and obey the guidelines of the test, humans, too, function better when we know and follow life's guidelines. And, just as having a grading scale on a test is necessary for evaluation and motivation, so too having a standard for evaluation in life is crucial. One of the major desires clients have of psychotherapy is to find meaning in life. We need to realize that life truly is a test, a probation (I Nephi 4:52 RLDS, I Nephi 15:32 LDS), in which God gives us our guidelines and standards through the scriptures. His desire is that we be obedient to his "rules" so that we

might live lives free from the chains of sin and ultimately live with him in eternity.

God also desires that we not be distracted by other imitative voices that seek to confuse us about his rules (John 10:1-15). The only way to distinguish between God's voice and the imitators' voices is by reading God's word frequently and asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit. An eloquent illustration of this was given by Ruth Graham (wife of Billy Graham) as she recalled a dinner party at which she sat across from a high official of Scotland Yard who oversaw the detection of counterfeit bills. She commented to him, "You must study a lot of counterfeit bills." His reply was an immediate "No". He said that he studied only authentic currency so that he would be able to identify



*Alice Wellington, her husband Mark and sons Ryan and Ben.*



***Separation of church and state has been grossly misinterpreted.***

a counterfeit at a glance. The D&C 52:4b RLDS (D&C 52:14 LDS) states, "And again, I will give unto you a pattern in all things, that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and he goeth forth deceiving the nations."

Those of us who choose to acknowledge that the scriptures are God's word, that Jesus Christ is God incarnate and who follow the rules, or commandments, are called Christians. Jesus Christ said very plainly in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." We find his commandments in the scriptures. Christianity is not just another religion; it is *the* very breath of life. Jesus Christ is our creator and our God (Genesis 1:3 IV, Genesis 1:1 KJ; Isaiah 42:5; John 1:3; Acts 14:15; Colossians 1:13-17; Mosiah 1:102 RLDS, Mosiah 3:8 LDS; Helaman 5:66 RLDS, Helaman 14:12 LDS). Yet even some Christians equate Christianity with all other human ideologies. There are those who propose that because of our varied backgrounds, we should have a collection of philosophies/theologies available to meet our varied needs. It's true that we all come from varied backgrounds and our growth in Christ will not be identical. But as with varying physical growth, where we all still need the same foundation of the earth to stand on, so it is with varying spiritual growth: we all still need the same *foundation* of our creator's word, the scriptures, to stand on.

According to Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary, Christianity is defined as "the system of doctrines and precepts taught by Christ, and recorded by the evangelists and apostles." A Christian is defined as:

1. A *believer* in the religion (doctrine) of Christ.
2. A *professor* of his belief in the religion (doctrine) of Christ.
3. A *real disciple* of Christ; (that is) one who believes in the truth of the Christian religion (doctrine), and stud-

ies to follow the example, and obeys the precepts, of Christ; a believer in Christ who is characterized by real piety. (Emphasis added)

Therefore, if you are truly Christian, you will proclaim what Jesus Christ claims! Instead, it appears that Christians are being tempted away to philosophies and theologies that appeal to "the natural man," that is, to the human tendency to find excuses for ungodly thoughts, desires and actions by redefining sin. But clearly, any philosophy that appeals to the natural man is not Christianity (I Corinthians 2:14; Galatians 5:17; Mosiah 1:119 RLDS, Mosiah 3:19 LDS).

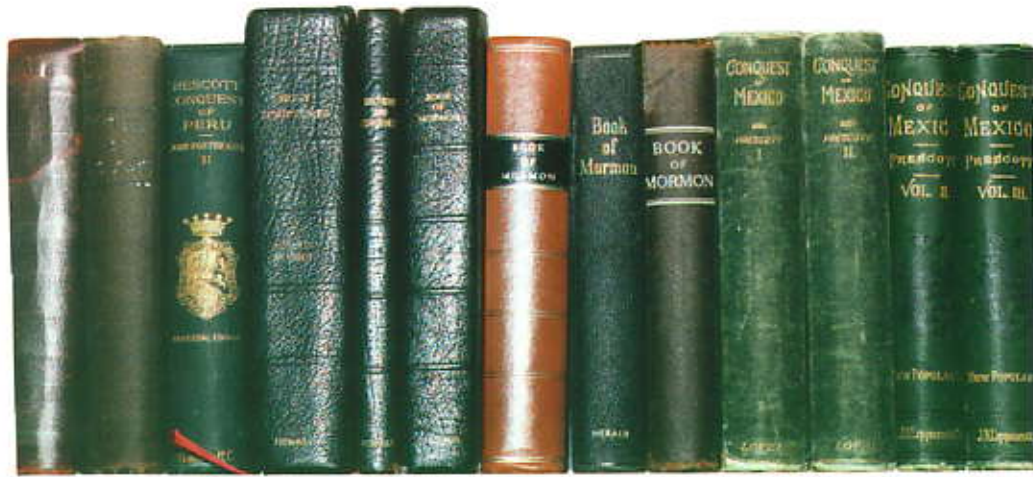
### **Doubt of the Word**

A dangerous cancer has invaded the body of Christ. It is the cancer of doubt in God's word. The cause is worship of the natural man and of his gods, intelligence and education, which masquerade as reason and logic (Proverbs 3:5). Though this generation was carefully seduced many years ago to be a generation of doubt and skepticism (II Nephi 12:24-41 RLDS, II Nephi 28:20-32 LDS), the most recent and nearly fatal attack on the scriptures seems to have occurred in the 1960s. In that decade, psychological warfare began on all kinds of traditions, from the man's role, the woman's role and the child's role, to truth as an absolute and the country's definitions of morality and sin. Doubt in the validity and authority of God's word became the *rule* instead of the exception.



Among the many traditions challenged, two of the most precious, prayer and reading of the scripture, were legally removed from public schools in 1962 and 1963, respectively, based on the logic that there should not be just one religion taught. And to assure



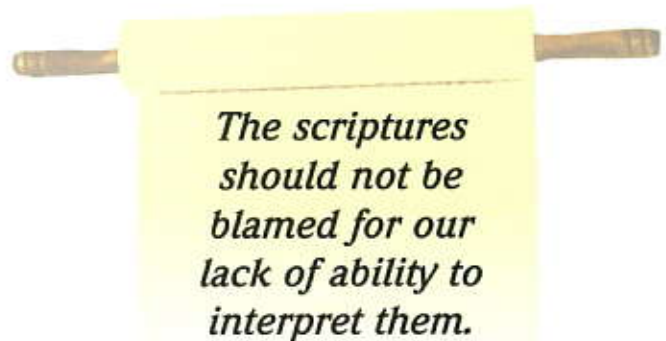


that one religion wasn't favored over another, the courts defined "separation of church and state" as meaning *no* religion in public schools at all. A review of the diaries of our founding fathers, the authors of our Constitution, demonstrates that their intent was for schools to be based on Christianity, just as the government, the Constitution, and life in general in this country were based on Christianity. Our founding fathers even dedicated the first English translation of the Bible in 1782 to schools. They knew who their creator was, and they knew that if we ever denied him as our creator, our country would fall to iniquity, as it has today (Ether 1:35 RLDS, Ether 2:12 LDS). Separation of church and state has been grossly misinterpreted. Its true meaning is simply to insure that no state religion would be imposed or controlled by the government.

Though the given excuse for this new interpretation of the meaning of the separation of church and state was the intent to educate without the influence of religion, a religion was adopted as the replacement for Christianity, the religion of science. The definition for religion varies quite a bit today from what it was during our nation's infancy in the early 1800s. At that time the meaning of the word "religion" pointed everyone to Christ, but today it simply means "a specific and institutionalized set of beliefs and practices generally agreed upon by a number of persons or sects" (The Random House College Dictionary, 1975). Therefore, science meets the definition of a religion. Within the scientific community, there is, and has been for quite some time, a religious discipleship of the theory of evolution. Although simply a theory, evolution was and is taught as fact.

Unfortunately, because of constant indoctrination about evolution for more than one hundred years,

today the theory of evolution is taught as the truth. It has actually replaced the truth with doubt for many Christians, doubt in the Holy Scriptures where it is clearly stated that *God created* plants, animals and the human race, all "*after their own kind*" (Genesis 1:15-27 & 2:29 IV, Genesis 1:11-26 & 2:23 KJ). Creation was not an accident. So while evolution as a religion is only about 150 years old, Christianity is 2,000 years old, and the Old Testament, which points to Christ, has endured for 6,000 years. What the judicial system failed to recognize in the 1960s and continues to ignore is that any educational curriculum



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interpret them.***

must study the origin of the human race, and any study of our origins will always involve "religion," for where we have been has a direct impact on where we are going.

Questioning traditions in the 1960s, though, wasn't as much the problem as not being rooted in understanding the reasons for the traditions. There were certainly some social practices that needed to be questioned and changed, such as racism. But racism is actually a good example of the result of a culture that misinterpreted God's word because of not being



rooted in Christ. The parable of the sower in Mark 4:15 states, "And these are they likewise which receive the word (of God) on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness, and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time; and afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended." The scriptures should not be blamed for our lack of ability to interpret them. Interpretation comes from the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit is given only when we believe that Christ is who he says he is (John 7:39). Therefore, because people misinterpreted or simply did not read the scriptures, and did not understand racism, their assumptions led them to falsely accuse the scriptures of promoting racism.

### Reproach of the Word

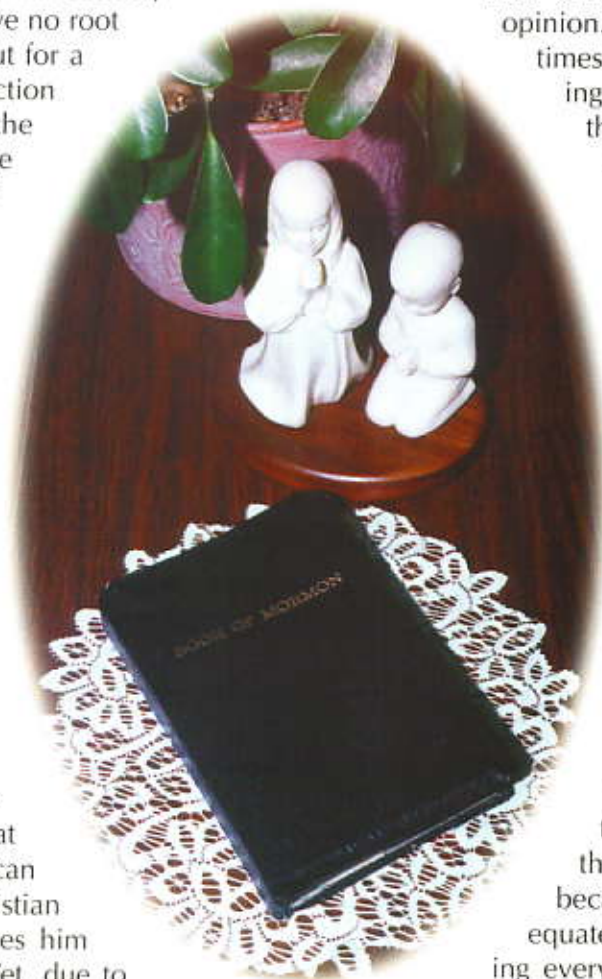
It is the *worship* of doubt in the authority of the scriptures that concerns me the most. How can anyone who calls himself Christian deny the very resource that gives him his title, identity and mission? Yet, due to ever-changing times and cultural pressures, some Christians believe the scriptures are outdated. And some allege that belief in the scriptures as the authoritative word of God limits God. Others claim the scriptures don't meet the needs of abuse victims, particularly victims of child abuse, and go so far as to claim the scriptures actually promote abuse. They then conclude that referring to God as male or

"Father" is retraumatizing for the victims. Finally, violence in the scriptures, some say, could never be endorsed by a loving God.

First of all, culture is a *result* of popular opinion. If we use culture or changing times as an excuse, in effect, we're saying that we care more about what the world thinks than what Christ thinks. We are more willing to conform to, than have an impact on, our world. But aren't Christians supposed to be the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:15 IV, Matthew 5:13 KJ)? It's as if some of the hesitation to embrace the scriptures as the authoritative word of God is motivated by fear of embarrassment: "What if the scriptures aren't true? I'll look like a fool." May I offer another perspective? What if they are? Still others consider the scriptures "politically incorrect," as the saying goes.

The underlying assumption of this philosophy is the adoption of the theory of evolution as fact because our "evolving" culture is equated to an evolving species, meaning everything is moving from simple to complex, from uncivilized to civilized. At that point the dictator of life's meaning becomes the newest cultural trend, rather than God's word. Jesus addressed this very attitude in John 12:42 & 43 "...but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." Paul boldly declares, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

With respect to limiting God, I believe the crux of this argument goes back to the support of the idea that varying needs require varying religions. Does belief that Christianity is the only way to eternal life limit God or limit us? If God is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and eternal, then he should know what leads to eternity and what doesn't. As parents, we see beyond our children's comprehension of a hot stove and its danger. Each child may have to learn in his own way or timing that a hot stove hurts, but chil-



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***We are empowered  
through Jesus Christ!***

dren's varying learning styles don't change the hotness of the stove. Our job is to protect and teach them regarding this and other dangers. This often requires limiting our children's actions. Belief that Christianity is the "narrow way" only limits us, not God. God is beyond our comprehension, and trying to comprehend him is futile, just as comprehending a hot stove is futile for a child. But comprehension is not necessary for obedience.

As for childhood abuses, adult thinking and perceptions are certainly affected, and I don't wish to treat them lightly. However, it is well known in the profession of psychology that there is nothing worse for a victim of abuse than to perpetuate a "victim" attitude; rather the best treatment is to *empower* the person. Who among us is without some type of abuse according to the all-encompassing definitions given today? In truth, human nature thrives on victimhood to avoid responsibility. All of humanity is evil and fallen; there is not one among us worthy of the presence of God because God is pure and we are filthy (Job 15:16 & Isaiah 64:6). There is not one among us that can be called psychologically healthy! The good news is that Christ covered those of us who believe

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authority.***

on his name with his blood so that we could enter the presence of God and be made whole, no matter what we've experienced in childhood or adulthood. Romans 8:28 states, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

We are empowered through Jesus Christ! While culture, or popular opinion, and adult victims of childhood abuse would prefer to ruminate on their woes, Christ would prefer to heal them and does.

Finally, the violence in the scriptures is a result of the agency God gave humanity. His anger, which is holy and righteous, unlike human anger, is our assurance of his love, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" (Hebrews 12:6-7). True love requires emotional investment, and anger is evidence of emotional investment. Like a good parent, God pours out his blessings as well as his chastisement. He will not stand by while we destroy ourselves, his creation. He has and will intervene when we disobey his commands. There are consequences to spiritual disobedience just like there are consequences to childhood disobedience.

Perhaps the real reason for not accepting the authority of the scriptures is the unwillingness to submit to a higher authority (Mosiah 1:108 RLDS, Mosiah 3:12 LDS). We're so used to doing everything our own way, we don't want to submit to God's way. Are we so enamored with ourselves and our finite abilities that we are willing to forsake the eternal and magnificent rewards that Christ promises in exchange for our own limited and temporary gratification? Let's not forget the lesson Saul learned when he rejected God's word because of human pride, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king" (I Samuel 15:23). And though David was "a man after God's own heart," (I Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22) and his intentions were honorable in bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, he too experienced God's chastisement when he failed to consult and obey the

*Continued on page 13*



# The Munich Mummies



by Renee Wersching

In 1474 "Genoese seaman Christopher Columbus used projections made by German mathematicians and Italian map makers at Sangres to revive the ancient Greek knowledge that the earth is round" (*The People's Chronology*, 1994). I recall giggling when I was in elementary school at the thought that the people of Columbus' day actually believed the earth was flat. School children may soon be giggling again in their seats as increasing developments reveal the likelihood that planned voyages to America occurred long before Columbus.

How did academia determine who discovered America? According to Salvatore Michael Trento, in *The Search for Lost America* it was determined by a report issued in 1894 by John W. Powell, the Director of the U.S. Bureau of American Ethnology.

The Smithsonian issued the 12th "Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution" which flatly denied ... any evidence existed for a non-Indian people visiting America before the fifteenth-century discovery by Columbus. The framework of the report eventually became the official doctrine and dogma behind American archeological thinking (*The Search for Lost America*, p. xx).

Roberta C. Smith in *The Ancient American* expounded on the effect of Powell's report. She states:

As a result of his pronouncement, faculty members who thought otherwise were politely asked to leave our colleges and universities. Students of ancient American archaeology were no

longer required to recognize ancient Old World scripts or artifacts, because anything of that nature that they found could only be of modern import. Either that, or it was [considered] a deliberate fraud (*The Ancient American*, issue 12, p. 3).

When Dr. Svetla Balabanova of the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Ulm, found nicotine and cocaine in 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummies, it was no surprise she doubted the accuracy of her own tests. Although small amounts of nicotine are present in a wide variety of plants and foods, the high concentrations sought by smokers can only be found in tobacco, a plant known to grow solely in America. The Egyptian mummies contained 35 times the dose for smokers. While varieties of the coca family grow in Africa, only the South American species contains the drug cocaine. A few botanists may theorize that there could have been ancient varieties of tobacco which have now disappeared, but a disappearing coca plant cannot be explained (*The Mystery of the Cocaine Mummies*).

Sandy Knapp of the Natural History Museum of London, reporting in a British TV documentary, observed that "Finding cocaine in these Egyptian mummies, botanically speaking, is almost impossible. I mean, there is always a chance that there might be some sort of plant there, but I think there is some sort of mistake. There is something wrong there. I can't explain it from a plant point of view at all" (*The Mystery of the Cocaine Mummies*, p. 6). This evidence is difficult to explain due to popular beliefs. But Helaman 2:10-13 RLDS (Helaman 3:10-14 LDS) in the Book of Mormon indicates that



shipping was a method of trade for the people in the land northward around 2,100 years ago. However, since God's ways are not man's ways, those who are highly esteemed in their fields are confounded.

Dr. Balabanova inspected all the laboratory equipment to rule out contamination. She also performed the hair-shaft test to ensure her tests on the mummies were beyond reproach. This is a distinct forensic technique that can show that the deceased has consumed a drug and rule out contamination at the same time. Hair samples are washed in alcohol. Then the washing solution itself can be tested. If the testing solution is clear, but the hair test positive, then the drug must be inside the hair shaft. "Even a single dose of cocaine can be detected if sensitive methods are employed" (*Analysis of Hair for Cocaine*, p. 15).

After obtaining the same results with the hair-shaft test, Dr. Balabanova stated, "There's no way there can be a mistake in this test. This method is widely accepted and has been used thousands of times. If the results are not genuine, then the explanation must lie elsewhere, and not in my test, because I'm 100 percent certain about the results" (*The Mystery of the Cocaine Mummies*, p. 2). *Equinox*, a British television documentary series, began an investigation to determine whether the tests were false or the mummies not truly ancient Egyptian. Rosalie David, Keeper of Egyptology of the Manchester Museum, was chosen for this task.

The Munich mummies belong to the city's Egyptian Museum, which is housed in the former palace of King Ludwig I of Bavaria, who initiated the collection. Inside the museum is the sarcophagus of Henut Taui, the Lady of the Two Lands. Henut Taui was said to have come from a tomb reserved for the priests and priestesses of the god Amun in Thebes. Apart from Henut Taui, most of the Munich mummies are of unknown origin. David was unable to view the mummies due to a museum policy based on religious respect, so she settled for books and research papers from the museum. In spite of earlier doubts, she said, "From the documentation and the research which has been carried out on the Munich mummies, it seems evident that they are probably genuine because they have packages of viscera inside, some with wax images of the gods on them and also the

state of mummification itself is very good" (*The Mystery of the Cocaine Mummies*, p. 3).

Dr. Svetla Balabanova started requesting specimens of other ancient human remains from universities. More data from Egypt accumulated as she tested more than 3,000 samples. Among the samples was tissue from 134 naturally preserved cadavers from an excavated burial ground in the Sudan, once part of the Egyptian empire. The dates on these bodies were still many centuries before Columbus sailed to America. About a third of them tested positive for nicotine and cocaine.

At the same time, Rosalie David tested the mummies under her charge in Manchester. "We've received results back from the tests on our mummy tissue samples and two of the samples and the one hair sample both have evidence of nicotine in them. I'm really very surprised at this" (*The Mystery of the Cocaine Mummies*, p. 8).

After several years of being accused of false and contaminated results, Dr. Balabanova was delighted to hear that nicotine had been found in the Manchester mummies. The results of her tests are helping to pry the hands of science off the textbooks of history and reveal that a certain report accepted as truth for more than a century is, in fact, only theory.

In the book *The Ra Expeditions*, anthropologist Thor Heyerdahl proved the Atlantic could be crossed in a primitive reed boat. Any ancient civilization with more sophisticated boats could have done the same. The *Equinox* narrator summarized the evidence this way, "The tale of Henut Taui shows that in science facts can be rejected if they don't fit with our beliefs while what is believed proven may actually be uncertain. Little wonder then that a story that began with one scientist, a few mummies and some routine tests, in no time at all could upset whole areas of knowledge we thought we could take for granted" (*The Mystery of the Cocaine Mummies*, p. 9).

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Renee Wersching is a member of The Witness editorial committee. Renee and her family attend The Church of Jesus Christ Waldo Avenue Restoration Branch.

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# Doing More Than Is Required

**I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants.**

**Mosiah: 2:43 RLDS, Mosiah 4:26 LDS**

The Lord requires his people to impart of their substance only according to that which they have. There are special people, however, who do much more than what is required. When we watch the ten o'clock news, we might hear the familiar voice of a newscaster reporting on Mother Theresa, who is well known for her selfless good deeds. Unfortunately, the media doesn't begin to cover the numerous accounts of people like Mother Theresa who give both spiritually and temporally to the point of self sacrifice. Unlike the sober-faced reporters we witness on TV, I tell this story with a lump in my throat and the realization that I must give much more than I do.

On January 12, 1997, a group of people from The Church of Christ (Temple Lot) began their annual journey to Honduras. Their purpose was to build small wooden homes for people living in houses made of plastic bags or shacks made of sticks. The Honduran government now helps the poor with monthly checks, but in Danli (population 50,000) only seven families are being helped. One of the homes the team repaired was "made of sticks, plastic, cardboard and pieces of anything and everything," said team member Sharon Toms.

Sharon, from Independence, Missouri, made the journey for the first time this year. It was an experience that touched her so much she said, "I will never be the same again." Sharon stayed for the most part at the pulperia (grocery store) and comedor (feeding center) sleeping on, or sometimes under, a table. A sleeping bag cushioned and protected her from scorpions and bugs. Meals consisted mainly of beans, tor-

tillas, rice, some tropical fruit and sometimes chicken. From day to day there would be various people who would join them at dinner, and they would divide the small portions among all who were present, even when there were twelve extra mouths to feed.

During the day, when team members weren't building houses, they would visit the poor and sick of the village, passing out toothbrushes, playing with the children, handing out school supplies and doctoring wounds. An elder would administer to the sick. Evenings consisted of Book of Mormon classes that drew 24 to 38 people each night throughout the week. On Sundays, 35 to 72 people attended services. Herb brooms and empty cement sacks were used to sweep the floors for church services held at the partially constructed home of Johnny and Nana Gill. Some people walked miles to church barefooted and sang many hymns while standing.

When they are not helping with the missionary effort, the Gills live in Minnesota. John farms and Nana works extra jobs to earn the money to travel to Honduras. They have done this for the past 11 years. Writing about Nana in her journal, Sharon says:

We rode together today in the back of the truck talking about Mother Theresa and giving one's all in the service of the Lord. I told Nana that is how I saw her. She truly gives all she has. Who else goes to work just to make money to give away to the poor? She drives hours on the snow in Minnesota to work or picks apples in the summer heat.

She works even harder in the equatorial climate of Honduras. On one of the houses, for example, con-





struction began at six in the morning on a rainy day and continued for 11 hours.

Sharon's journal paints a vivid image of a world far different than comfortable North America:

We used gourds as shovels to bail water from the holes we had previously dug. No boards are the exact length. They all have to be cut. The saw is very short, and hammers have a six-inch handle with a 22-pound head. The wood is very heavy as it is full of sap. The nails are bad, too. The metal is so weak that they bend if not hit squarely.... New help came when we were exhausted, reviving our

spirits—a bike to go for nails [and] my clear water bottle [used] as a level.... Nana thought of putting a window in the house. I hadn't thought of that. Of course she [the resident] couldn't have had one before with a plastic house. When we asked her about a window, she only wanted one just big enough to peek out. We gave her a 24" by 24", complete with a windowsill flower box.

Although many of the people are poor, the land is rich. One beautiful day Sharon wrote, "Picked a lemon larger than a grapefruit and made lemonade ...swam in the river by a waterfall. It was beautiful and cold.... Saw gold in the river. Drank water out of a spring." The hearts of these wonderful people are as rich as the land they dwell in. They joyfully received the spiritual and temporal gifts from the missionary team. Each night as Sharon prepared for bed there would be about 20 native women and children waiting to give her a hug or a kiss on the cheek, unafraid to show their love and appreciation.

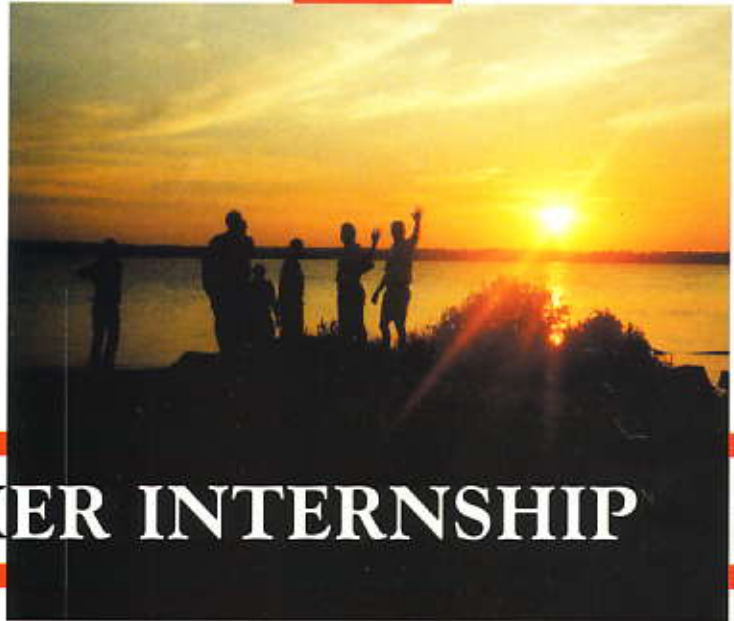
When resources were depleted, the weary, yet strengthened, team began the trip back to their homes in the United States. It was difficult to leave but a necessity. Team members will now start earning enough money to return in the fall of 1997 to build more homes and relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ. Sharon is excited to return!





The 1997 FRAA internship (see cover) has come to a successful conclusion. Once again the Holy Spirit touched hearts and changed lives. Not only was this a rewarding experience for the record 16 young people who participated, it was also an uplifting experience for the hundreds of people with whom the interns shared their gifts, talents and testimonies. We at FRAA want to take this opportunity to thank you for making this another outstanding experience and for giving so generously of your time, energy and finances. We would especially like to thank the Church of Jesus Christ Blue Springs Restoration Branch, Buckner Restoration Branch, Colbern Road Restoration Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ, The Lexington Restoration Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ, Church of Jesus Christ Oak Grove Restoration Branch, South Crysler Restoration Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ and The Church of Jesus Christ Waldo Avenue Restoration Branch for their financial support.

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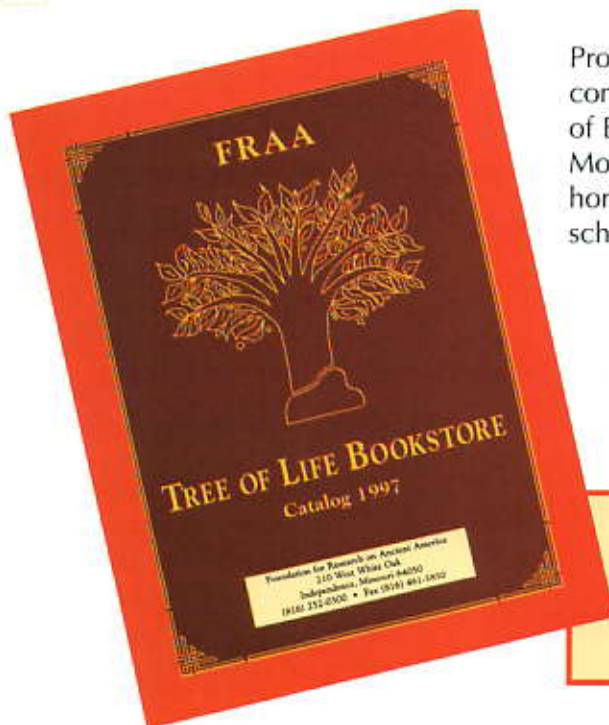


*Interns on the bank of the Mississippi River at Nauvoo, Illinois.  
Photo by Julie Finley.*

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## The Sword of the Spirit

*Continued from page 7*

Pentateuch—the Mosaic Law that consists of Genesis through Deuteronomy (II Samuel 6:1-13; Exodus 25:14,15; Numbers 4:15).

### The Word of Love

We would not be here if it weren't for Jesus Christ. Our lives would not be sustained by the air we breathe, the gravity that keeps our feet on the ground or any of the other resources that we depend on but take for granted if it weren't for Jesus Christ (Acts 17:24-28). We even take for granted his mercy and compassion without which we would all be dead because "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Why is it so hard for the human race to say, "Thank you, Creator and God, Jesus Christ!?" He lovingly designed our beings and our world. He lovingly pre-



***His loving character can be seen most vividly through our own roles as parents***

pared creation for us. Then Jesus told us about his creation and love in the form of the scriptures. He wants us to know that he is our heavenly parent, that he created us and that he died for us; he wants us to know him and obey him for our benefit.

His loving character can be seen most vividly through our own roles as parents; he planned it that way so we would understand his love for us. When we lovingly prepare our homes for the children that we "create," we mimic his preparation for us. And like our creator, we are very anxious for our children to know that we are their parents. In fact, the first words for most babies are "mama" and "dada," not by accident but by design, because we want our children to know who we are, and they want to know who we are. Can you imagine allowing your children to decide for themselves whether you and your husband or wife are their parents or not? Can you imagine being a child, living with two grown ups and not knowing who they are or why you should obey them? Yet there are many parents who, while they expect their children to know who their earthly creators are, believe their children should decide for themselves who their heavenly creator is, or if he even exists.

Our heavenly father demonstrates through our strong attachment to our children his strong attachment to us. So why do some deny him? It would be almost too painful to imagine what it would be like for our own children to deny us as their parents. Almost daily on talk shows and in other forms of media we see highlighted the desperate searches of adopted children to find their birthparents and vice versa. The need for an identity and a heritage is as overwhelming in the human dimension as it is in the spiritual realm. And if our true spiritual heritage in the scriptures is not acknowledged, then we'll adopt a substitute to fill the void, one that may satis-



fy for the moment, but has no worth for eternal fruits or rewards!

While we strongly encourage our own children to recognize our authority as their parents, and sometimes demand it, Christ has given us the option to *choose* him. Choosing to follow Christ is *not* like choosing a college or a job or a dessert, though these choices appeal to the natural man. Choosing to follow Christ means *giving up* our lusts (for status, security and sweets) and *giving in* to Christ's Lordship. It

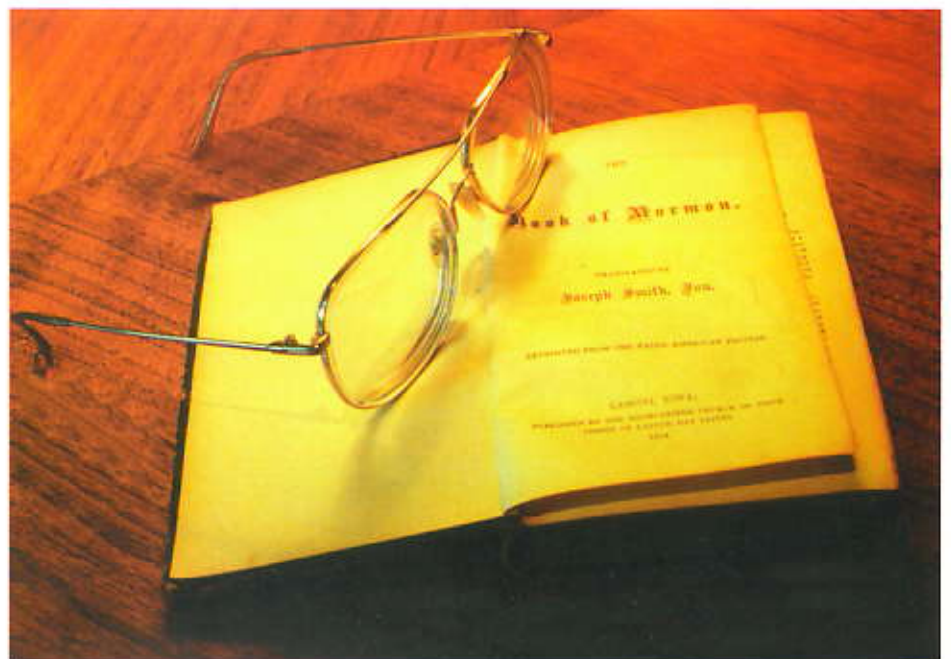
***Choosing to follow  
Christ is not like  
choosing a college or  
a job or a dessert***

means finally acknowledging the truth that has already been established from the beginning without any of our "help" and that truth is Jesus Christ, our Creator and our God. Though there are theologies that teach what people want to hear in order to justify their lifestyles and ungodly desires, the fact remains that Jesus is our heavenly creator, and our denial of him or his teachings in the scriptures will not prevail against the truth of Jesus Christ. If we persist in our denial, however, the truth will prevail against us (II Timothy 2:12 and Matthew 10:29 IV, Matthew 10:33 KJ). This is the consequence of spiritual disobedience. Christ's teachings are timeless because *he* is *timeless* (D&C 17:4a RLDS, D&C 20:17 LDS), he is *changeless* (Hebrews 13:8; Mormon 4:68 RLDS, Mormon 9:9 LDS; D&C 17:2g RLDS, D&C 20:12 LDS), *knows all* (I Kings 8:39; I Chronicles 28:9; II Chronicles 6:30; Job 21:22; Job 36:4; D&C 6:7b RLDS, D&C 6:16 LDS), *sees all* (Job 31:4; Psalms 139:1-10; Jeremiah 23:23-24), and *can do all things* (Genesis 18:13 IV, Genesis 18:13,14 KJ; Job 42:2; Matthew 19:26; Revelations 19:6)!

***When we doubt the  
scriptures, we lose  
sight of God's  
standard, and when  
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make up our own  
standard***

### **The Word of Warning**

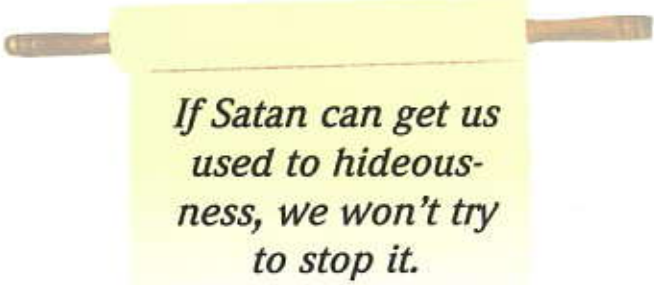
Since the fall of Adam, there has been a conspiracy to move us—mankind and especially Christians—away from God. But it is not a conspiracy of man; no one man or group of men could plan something so effectively or live long enough to see the conspiracy succeed. Instead, it is a spiritual conspiracy and the key ingredient for its success is the cultivation of doubt about the scriptures' authority in the minds of Christians. When we doubt the scriptures, we lose sight of God's standard, and when we lose sight of God's standard, we make up our own standard. When we choose *not* to read the scriptures daily in study and consultation, meditating on their life-giving





message, or when we venture to test the warnings of the scriptures rather than the blessings, we open the door for Satan's deceptions. And those who have opened the door to Satan's manipulations and believe his lies have become pawns in his hands for destroying the body of Christ from within by perpetuating doubt in God's word. Sometimes this spiritual warfare is subtle, such as intimidation through sarcasm, or peer pressure encouraging doubt, or lying and distorting the truth. Sometimes the warfare is downright obvious, such as violence and sexual perversion on television which serves to inoculate us and numb our senses so that we become immune to our God-given emotions of being repulsed by these obscenities. If Satan can get us used to hideousness, we won't try to stop it and we may even participate in it. Noah should be a hero to those of us who wonder if we're on the right track when we get persecuted for believing the scriptures are God's authoritative word and practicing what the scriptures teach. It is worth noting that the persecutors in Noah's day didn't live to repent.

Does all of this sound too harsh, too judgmental? Listen to what Jesus said, "Repent, therefore, and enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and

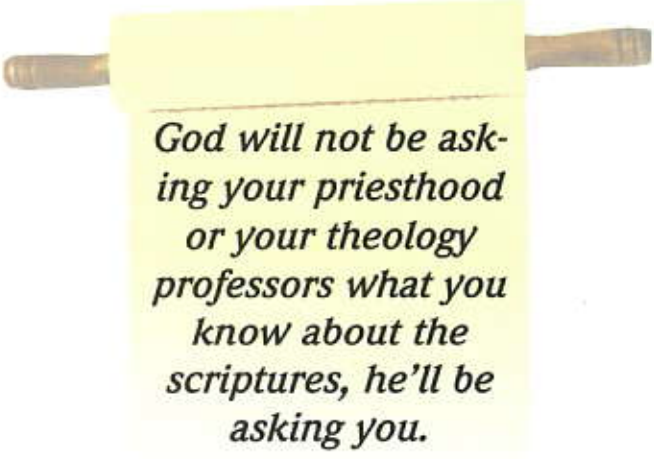


***If Satan can get us used to hideousness, we won't try to stop it.***

many there be who go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it," (Matthew 7:22,23 IV, Matthew 7:13,14 KJ); III Nephi 6:25-28 RLDS, III Nephi 14:13-16 LDS) and "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth," (Revelations 3:16).

Our souls are in danger because of doubt in God's word, the Holy Scriptures, but unfortunately the most innocent of all are at the greatest risk, and they are our children! Whether we are parents, or simply adults in close proximity to children, our doubt gives them nothing firm to stand on, and they are already

wobbly enough! Some say it's indoctrination to teach our children that Jesus is God, our creator, but then isn't it indoctrination to teach them to say mama or dada? While most of us learn to say mama or dada at an early age, it's usually years before we learn to say "Abba" (Father). If we don't teach our children the truth, the world will be glad to indoctrinate them with its "truth" and it does.



***God will not be asking your priesthood or your theology professors what you know about the scriptures, he'll be asking you.***

I'm not an expert on the scriptures, but the Holy Spirit is, and the word of God is the sword of the spirit (Ephesians 6:17). Are you calling on the Holy Spirit? Until recently I found myself relying too heavily on the priesthood to educate me about the scriptures. I put the responsibility on their shoulders for my scriptural knowledge and didn't bother to verify their interpretations or quotations. That made it a whole lot easier for me to question, doubt and even reject the scriptures because I wasn't going to God directly for discernment (Moroni 10:4-9 RLDS, Moroni 10:4-8 LDS). Could this be the case for you? God will not be asking your priesthood or your theology professors what you know about the scriptures; he'll be asking you. So breathe in the word of God. Be filled with his spirit. Let the truth sustain and equip you! To God be the glory, in Jesus name!

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*Alice Wellington lives in Edmond, Oklahoma with her husband and two sons. They worship at the Church of Christ Restoration Branch in Oklahoma City. Alice is a licensed clinical psychologist.*



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