



Standing Together

STANDING TOGETHER

“Uniting Christians for Greater Spiritual Impact”

Spring 2005, Vol. 1

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Search Ministry of Boise hosted two LDS / evangelical dialogue events, including first ever *GO DEEP ON ONE*, which was a two hour conversation covering the topic of Apostasy and the LDS view of Restoration. The CD is available through our ministry office.
- ST was a guest of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for recent dialogue event on the validity of the Resurrection.
- 7th annual Utah County Good Friday Service held in American Fork
- Over 700 attended 1st ever Community Easter Celebration at Thanksgiving Point Amphitheater
- 2nd annual Standing Firm One Day Ministry Conference held April 19th

STANDING FIRM MINISTRY CONFERENCE BIG SUCCESS

Just this past week on April 19th, Standing Together hosted for the second year in a row a one day ministry conference called, *Standing Firm*, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sandy, Utah. Last year close to 30 pastors and ministry leaders attended this event, and this year our numbers rose to nearly 50. What a joy it was for us to see so many new pastors join us, and for additional church staff members to attend as well. During the three morning sessions presentations were made by Pastor Eric Van Rhee of the Adventure Four-square, Pastor Jim Ayers of Valley Assembly of God, and Standing Together Director Greg Johnson. Eric shared some important aspects regarding the development of a creative strategy for doing ministry in the local church. Jim Ayers shared from his heart as he told the story of how his congregation has gone from a season of brokenness and pain to a time of renewed purpose and healing. Greg unveiled the new acrostic of S.T.A.N.D for Standing Together. **S** is for Standing United, **T** is for Transformational Ministry, **A** is for accountability, **N** is for non-compromising, and **D** is for dialogue. After an incredible lunch was served, the pastors gathered again for the second part of the conference. We were honored to have Dr. Craig Blomberg of Denver Seminary and Dr. Craig Hazen of Biola University discuss their interaction with leading Mormon scholars over the last several years. In an attempt to communicate directly with Utah pastors and to receive their input on this topic, both Craig's offered a presentation then took a time to answer live questions. It was an awesome day to see the growing relationships between pastors and to come together for growth and encouragement.

EASTER CELEBRATION AT THANKSGIVING POINT

In Psalm 133, the great Psalm of unity, we are told that were unity exist, “there the Lord bestows His blessing.” In continued fashion, we see the promise of this Psalm being lived out here in Utah where churches and pastors are striving together in unity. Earlier this year our ministry associate, Erik McHenry and I began to dream up the idea that God should allow the evangelical community of Utah to host an observance of Easter at the famed Thanksgiving Point Water Garden Amphitheater. Well, Erik made some calls and wrote up a proposal getting our foot in the door with Thanksgiving Point even after he was reminded that the facilities were not open on Sundays. “Funny thing,” we said, “Easter is always observed on Sunday!” Well, the rest of the story is that they gave us the whole place, free of charge. Four different churches provided wonderful music from a soloist, to a choir, to two wonderful praise teams. Additionally, pastors Mike Imperiale from 1st Presbyterian, Bill Young from the Rock, and Tim Henderson from Integrity Christian Fellowship preached about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all to hear. We were told by the staff of Thanksgiving Point that they estimated a crowd of over 700 in attendance. Our hope and prayer is that a new community tradition has been born, an Easter expression of evangelical Christian witness for the whole community to hear!



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PASTORS' WIVES CLUB BEGINS FOR WIVES OF SENIOR PASTORS

On February 1st our ministry initiated a small gathering of pastors' wives to discuss the possibility of starting a *Pastors' Wives Club* to encourage the wives of senior pastors, and to build up one another. This is something that God had laid upon Jill's heart about four years ago and rekindled at the end of last year. The pastors' wives were very excited about this possibility, and so, on March 1st we held our first meeting in the church café of the Adventure Foursquare in Draper. The group has met two additional times now, and has really begun to bond together.

One thing that a lot of people don't realize about pastors' wives is that because of the joys, frustrations, and uniqueness of being a pastor's wife, it is very difficult to have a friend. A friend from church may cause jealousy, she might not be trustworthy, or being a lay-person, would not completely understand the demands and complexity of the position of pastor's wife.

This group has provided an outlet for pastors' wives to express their hearts in a way that is understood because of our shared role within our individual church bodies. We spend our time fellowshiping with one another, discussing a book about the privileges and expectations of a ministry wife, and praying for each other. Relationships are building outside of our group time as well, and God is using each of us in each other's lives to build each other up to better minister to those that have been placed in our lives.

FAMILY NEWS

With my belly expanding day after day, our little Cali Jan expresses to me often "I love my baby". At this point she is unaware of the disruption to her daily routine that the arrival of our little one will bring to her life. Cali's ever expanding vocabulary and sense of self-confidence continue to amaze us. Reagan is enjoying learning to read after telling us at the beginning of the year "I will never learn to read". He starts T-ball next month. Indiana is doing great in school, and in honing her basketball skills. All three of the children have really enjoyed the new children's program at our church and love to spend time with their friends.

I am about 18 weeks along in this pregnancy and doing well, except for breaking my little toe coming out of the laundry room yesterday. Ugh! Greg and I are planning a four day get away trip without the kids, at the end of this month. Thanks for all your prayers.

PRICE REDUCTION!!!

Ravi Zacharias Utah Lectureship

In the Pursuit of Truth

Available through standingtogether.org in DVD and CD format. You can also call our offices at 801-474-1363 to order a set for yourself.