



Standing Together

STANDING TOGETHER

“Uniting Christians for Greater Spiritual Impact”

Summer 2005, Vol. 2

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:

- June 18th Ezekiel Conf. in Draper draws 125 + where most respond to Gospel Invitation.
- Denver Seminary President, Dr. Craig Williford, shares desire for greater public partnership with ST
- The Johnson's enjoy a family vacation at Focus on the Family's *Pastor's Get-A-Way*
- ST team of six attend Peter Drucker Training in Orange County
- ST Participates with *Utah For Jesus Outreach* in Utah County during first week in July
- Greg and Robert Millet of BYU attend *Galatians in a Week*, with Dr. Gordon Fee, at Regent College in Vancouver
- Erik McHenry, Ministry Associate, weds former ST Intern Aug. 6
- Intern Robyn Thomas returns to Biola for Sr. year

GOD MOVES AT RECENT EZEKIAL CONFERENCE

With significant reservation, I accepted a recent invitation to preach at something called, “The Ezekiel Conference,” which was held in Draper, Utah. The reason for my apprehension is that the leadership of these conferences and most that attend are practicing members of the Mormon Church. When I inquired as to why they extended such an invitation to a non-Mormon, evangelical pastor, they replied that they knew I was a friend of the Mormon people. With no guidelines or limitations, my message to the group was clear and entitled, “Whom Do You Say that I Am?” from Matthew 16. Following my message, fellow evangelical missionary John Bailey, lead the entire congregation in a beautiful and succinct Gospel presentation which was wonderful. I can still remember praying that someone might actually stand to their feet when John offered the invitation to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. But to my astonishment, almost everyone in the room stood to ask Jesus Christ into their lives! Believe me, my cynical heart was full of doubt, but then I heard the still small voice of the Spirit gently correct me and whisper, “You don’t need to doubt this, just rejoice over people’s responses.” For over an half hour I was greeted and hugged by so many who thanked me for the message I preached about the Person, Work, and Purpose of Jesus Christ. Like myself, you may be asking, “no way, how can this be, what’s happening inside the Mormon Church that something like this might occur among Mormon people? I must admit frankly, I do not know, but God is on the move, like Aslan of Narnia, here in Utah among the Mormon people, God is moving!

DENVER SEMINARY OFFERS THEIR SUPPORT

In late June, Jill and I met with Dr. Craig Williford, the President of Denver Seminary. We thought we would be asked about our ministry and how the work of unity and culturally sensitive outreach is going here in Utah. Instead, Dr. Williford thrilled us with the news that the board of trustees had approved a plan to become more publicly involved in the Mormon/evangelical dialogue that has emerged over the last five years. As an alum of Denver Seminary, it was so encouraging to receive the support and encouragement from Dr. Williford that the seminary is confident that God is moving anew here in Utah. Many of you would know that Dr. Craig Blomberg, Professor of New Testament at Denver, is already quite involved in the national dialogue now taking place between evangelicals and Latter-day Saints. As the co-author of the landmark book, “How Wide the Divide?,” his contribution to our work among the LDS has already been enormous. To be sure, there are those who have become critical of the missional approach to Mormon outreach being advanced by Standing Together and a growing list of others, but the news of Denver Seminary’s new commitment to stand with us surely adds to the credibility of our philosophy. Lastly, Dr. Williford invited Bob Millet and I to campus next March to present our dialogue, “A Mormon and an Evangelical in Conversation,” and have agreed to do so!”



Standing Together

STANDING TOGETHER

PO Box 685
Lehi, UT 84043-0685

Phone: (801) 474-1363

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LEHI, UTAH 84043
PERMIT NO. 4

Address Service Requested

Like to get this newsletter electronically? E-mail us and you will!

Galatians in a Week

During the last week in July, Bob Millet (my LDS friend and BYU Prof.) and I spent a week at Regent College in Vancouver BC studying Galatians with Dr. Gordon Fee, well known NT scholar and meeting with Dr. John Stackhouse. Galatians powerfully teaches that our relationship with God comes only through the free gift of Jesus Christ. We are saved by Jesus + nothing, and then we walk in the Spirit. The week was amazing! Bob was significantly influenced by Dr. Fee and the text of Galatians. At weeks end, he said, "well, I'll never teach the book of Galatians the same." Our belief is that God is using Bob to help other Mormons focus on grace and redemptive theology.

Matching Grant & 1st ST Golf Tournament

God really blessed the \$12,500 Day's Inn matching grant given to us in June. Over \$16,000 has been added to the grant above people's regular giving. Board member Dr. Tim Hedrick even hosted our 1st ever ST Golf Tournament in CA which brought in close to \$4,000 (A BIG thanks to the Hedrick's). Thank you all so much for your prayers and financial support! As our staff and ministry expenses grow these resources are critically needed.

September Gift: Ravi lectures on CD!

Any gifts to Standing Together in September will receive the Ravi lectures on CD. If you never got to hear these historic messages, you need to.

This summer the Lord blessed our family with three fun experiences. We spent a week at Focus on the Family, at their Pastor's Get-A-Way (what a blast), a week in Sheridan, WY visiting my dad's home town, and a week in CA to celebrate our Associate, Erik McHenry's wedding to Deborah, to visit my mom, and attend Greg's 20 year HS reunion. We had a great summer that's for sure! Jill is now in the home stretch of her pregnancy (the baby is due Sept. 30th), the Indiana and Reagan start school Sept. 15 at a new charter school opening up in our area. Cali, who turned 3 in late July, no longer where's diapers, oh what a joy! In the balance of ministry and life, the summer of '05 reminded Jill and I that God is first, family is second, and ministry is third. We sure made some fantastic family memories this summer! Hope you did too!