



Standing Together

STANDING TOGETHER

PO Box 685
Lehi, UT 84043-0685

Phone: (801) 474-1363

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From One Pastor's Perspective



I think Utah is one the best kept secrets of ministry in America. We moved to Utah in May of 1999. We knew little about Mormonism and had serious concerns about how we might be influenced by this culture. My wife and I were concerned about our young boys. Would they be ostracized? Would they be compelled to or be drawn to the Mormon religion? The church we planted seven years ago has really grown and I would estimate that over 30% of the 700 or so people who now attend our church come from a LDS background. God is doing AMAZING things among the LDS people of Utah. Many Christian pastors are now working and praying together to build – not just their church – but also the Kingdom of God. I am united in spirit and purpose with many other godly, gospel preaching churches in the valley. Some of my closest friends are pastors who I have been accountable to and have been praying with for years. It says in Psalm 133 that God's blessing is with brothers who choose to "dwell" together in unity. I think God is blessing Utah because so many are united for the right purpose.

-Pastor Bill Young, *The Rock Church*, www.saltcityrock.org

Well, it's February already, the month for valentines and romance. Our kids had a grand time yesterday, giving out and receiving cards and candy. As we think about the relationships we treasure and love, Jill and I are inclined to remember our small but growing staff team. Erik McHenry, our Ministry Associate, Mayra Wilson, our Office Administrator, and Kim Farenkrog, our Administrative Assistant have become such an important part of our daily lives. Publicly, I wanted to take this opportunity to say that Standing Together could not do what it is doing to advance biblical unity and spiritual transformation in Utah without them. I am amazed that God has seen fit to bless us all with these three wonderful team members. So when you pray for ST, remember to pray for all of us, for our team!

Standing Together and Biola University Students Join Together in January



Once again, Standing Together was honored to join with the students of Biola University here in Utah during their recent Inter-term winter mission trip. Erik McHenry, our Director of Collegiate Outreach, was able to facilitate four very important ministry exchanges for the Biola students while they were in Utah last month. The Biola students engaged LDS students and faculty theologically during an all day meeting at Brigham Young University. As well, the Biola students were able to join with a local Christian college ministry from the Ogden area to interact with LDS students and faculty at the Institute of Religion at Weber State University. Erik was also able to arrange an all day meeting at Temple Square which included a lunch program where the students met with an LDS representative. Finally, an amazing outreach occurred when BYU and Biola students gathered at the home of one BYU professor who has been so touched by past exchanges that he wanted to become more personally involved. During the evening two Mormon students and two evangelical students shared their personal faith testimonies. Under Erik's leadership, our collegiate ministry has become a phenomenal model of incarnational, missional outreach. In the context of loving, trusting relationships we have seen more theological interaction with Mormon students than we could have ever seen by debating or engaging more confrontationally. Erik has been impressed by the caliber of students involved in these dialogues and the maturity they have exhibited as they have reasoned together.