



Standing Together

STANDING TOGETHER

“Advancing Biblical Unity and Spiritual Transformation in Utah”

Summer 2006, Vol. 1

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two Dialogues with Dr. Millet in Boise in February. “The First Vision and Apostasy?” @ an LDS Ward and “Who is Jesus?,” @ Eagle Christian Church.
- 2nd historic meeting takes place at Denver Seminary March 3rd with national evangelical leaders and Mormon General Authority. Denver also host Dialogue event drawing over 400.
- 3rd historic meeting takes place in downtown SLC with 4 Mormon General Authorities and 23 local evangelical pastors.
- 3rd annual Standing Firm One Day Ministry Conference held at The Fellowship, close to 50 pastors attend this year.
- Additional dialogues held in St. Louis, Utah State, Westminster College, Pepperdine College in Malibu, Hartford, CT, and Mt. Olympus Presbyterian.
- 12th academic LDS/evangelical conversation takes place in Nauvoo, IL.
- 4th annual Pastor’s Prayer Summit held.

Conversation Expands Between Mormons & evangelicals

Since our historic meeting at Biola University last October with a Mormon Apostle and national evangelical leaders, conversations between evangelicals and Mormons have clearly gone to the next level. We at Standing Together believe the Lord is moving transformationally among the leaders of Mormonism, both in the academy and among key church leaders, and a clear four-fold strategy has emerged before us. First, Dr. Robert Millet and I have now presented our Dialogue event 42 times since 2001 in 11 different states and 2 foreign countries. This Dialogue is a model of *Convicted Civility* that encourages Mormons and evangelicals to open up and honestly talk through our theological differences. Second, under the leadership of Erik McHenry, we once again hosted evangelical students groups this Spring at BYU and in SLC. Working now with 5 different schools we are seeing phenomenal bridge building taking place between LDS and evangelical students and among Mormon leaders. Third, our Academic Conversation continues with impressive results. Last month 10 evangelical scholars and 8 Mormon professors gathered in Nauvoo, IL to discuss the legacy of Mormon founder, Joseph Smith. This being our 12th meeting in 6 years, it was amazing to see the candor and honesty exchanged between representatives of both groups. Fourth and finally, we have now hosted three separate meetings between LDS General Authorities and local and national evangelical leaders. Each of these meetings has had Mormon Prophet Gordon Hinckley’s direct support and would not have happened otherwise.

Ok, let’s ask the “so what?” question. Since the beginning of our ministry in 2001, we have believed that the Truth of Jesus Christ would prevail in Utah if Christians embraced biblical unity and expressed the radical love of Jesus to people outside of Christ. I am confident that the opportunities and strategy shared above are doors that the Lord alone has opened. God’s influence is being felt, relationships are being formed, and Mission work is advancing in Utah, to God be the glory!!!

Transformation Events Advance Biblical Unity

Since February we have hosted four important Transformation events which have advanced the work of Christian unity in Utah. In March, close to 50 gathered at the Fellowship in Sandy for our third annual *Standing Firm One Day Ministry Conference*, where six Utah leaders spoke about story (church planting), theology (grace), issue (Pornography), opportunity (Christian Solidarity Plan), sermon (The Resurrection), and spiritual delight (the ministry of prayer). In April, we joined with Wasatch Hills SDA, other churches, and Campus Crusade to sponsor *A Night with the NFL*, at the U of U. Over 800 gathered to hear testimony from Tony Dungy of the Colts, Jeff Hartings from the Steelers, and Luther Ellis, formerly of the Lions. April also brought us Easter and our 8th annual Utah County Good Friday Service. But the real highlight of unity came in late May when 13 pastors participated in our first ever overnight Pastor’s Prayer Summit. Lead by local pastor Jeff Nellermeoe, we experienced a special bond of love complete with a foot washing that brought tears to us all. Unity is in the heart of Jesus, and He is blessing us in our pursuit of it! (Ps. 133)

Huntsman Attends NDP

Six different National Day of Prayer events were held in Utah in association with the National Day of Prayer task force. Standing Together serves as the State coordinator for this important expression of prayer and unity. Marking a first ever, Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. actually attended and spoke at our clergy breakfast on May 4th. Another prayer breakfast took place in Park City, and other events took place in St. George, Ogden, and Salt Lake. As we gather in prayer for our leaders and nation, we believe God listens and will hear our land!