



STANDING TOGETHER

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13TH SCHOLARLY DIALOGUE

Right before Thanksgiving, our evangelical/Mormon scholarly dialogue group held its 13th official gathering during the AAR annual meetings in Washington DC. During our luncheon, hosted by Dr. Richard Mouw of Fuller Seminary, we discussed an evangelical perspective on Joseph Smith. Following up on our May meeting in Nauvoo, IL, where we gleaned an LDS perspective on Smith, Dr. Mouw presented a paper underscoring the deficiencies evangelicals see in the prophetic claims of Mormonism's founder. It was simply brilliant to see the maturity represented in each side of the dialogue. As evangelicals seek to better understand Mormonism, our Mormon friends must be able to understand and react to our theological concerns and convictions. These dialogue sessions are showing that such an exchange is truly possible.

EXCITEMENT GROWS FOR TRUTH PROJECT & NSDC

This year Standing Together is truly thrilled to be able to host two important ministry events. First, on June 8-9, our network of churches will host and sponsor Focus on the Family's *Truth Project Conference* which will be led by Dr. Del Tackett. We anticipate 1000 individuals who will come and be trained at this unique conference which focuses on the importance of knowing and having a biblical world view. Each participant will receive a 12 pack DVD set to facilitate their own small group after the conference is over. Please check out their website, thetruthproject.org for more information and to register. Later in the year, in October, we will be hosting a *National Student Dialogue Conference* where we will have five plenary sessions where an evangelical and a Mormon will lecture on the same topic. The conference is designed for college age and graduate level students from LDS and evangelical schools and will be highly interactive. Our hope is to have 500+ students gather together for one BIG dialogue!

On a Personal Note...

Well, the new year is here and for the Johnson family that has meant we're one woman down. Jill had ankle surgery on December 28th and has to be off her foot for at least six weeks. We thank the Lord for the support and help of Jill's parents, who have been with us since right before Christmas. They will be leaving this Wednesday, and I guess that's when real life begins for me and the kids! But to be honest, we already have a number of friends lined up who will be helping us out with meals and care for the next couple weeks, so we're definitely not complaining. In the family of God, there are times when we really do need each other, and it sure is great that when our burden is heavy others can come alongside and make it lighter. Just another wonderful example of the blessings of biblical unity!

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE; GREAT SUCCESS!

At the end of Standing Together's fiscal year for 2006, we are thrilled to share that during the inaugural year of our *President's Circle* campaign, we were blessed to have a total of 15 members join the Circle. Last year, we introduced an idea to strengthen our financial stand as a growing ministry, and we called it the *President's Circle*. A *President Circle* member is a person or organization that contributes \$2,500 or more annually to the ministry of Standing Together. We cannot express our gratitude enough for every gift given to this ministry, large or small. We praise God not only for the gift but for the giver too!