



Standing Together

STANDING TOGETHER

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MARINERS CHURCH & 4TH ANNUAL BOISE DIALOGUES

During the month of May, Greg participated in three public dialogues with BYU Professor Robert Millet. As of May 20th, Bob and Greg have now offered their, "A Mormon and an Evangelical in Conversation," presentation 50 times since 2001. We are receiving great feedback from evangelicals who are sharing with us that these public dialogues are opening up doors of opportunity for them to share the Good News of God's grace with their LDS friends. While in Boise, Idaho for the fourth year in a row, working with Jon Strain of Search Ministries, dialogues were held at Albertson's College and Cathedral of the Rockies, a large Methodist Church. On May 20th a dialogue was held at Mariners Church in Newport Beach, CA with about 1,600 people in attendance, many of whom were Mormon. Mariners is reporting that many LDS people have been visiting their Weekend church services and that dozens of Mormon children signed up for their annual VBS. The Mariners dialogue was recorded on DVD and is available through Mariners Church or through our offices. As well, we still offer the Boise State Dialogue on DVD which was done back in 2004.

14TH SCHOLARLY DIALOGUE HELD & STUDENT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

Once again, for the 14th time over a seven year period, ST President Greg Johnson participated in a semi-annual meeting of evangelical and Mormon scholars at Fuller Seminary. This time the scholars in attendance discussed the topic of *Theosis*, or the theological idea of how humans become like God. This is an important theological difference between Mormonism and Biblical Christianity. **Mormonism classically teaches that human beings are like God in being and can actually become a God ontologically, whereas biblical Christians affirm that humans are simply to become like God in character and can never become a God.** In our continued effort to promote theological conversation between Mormons and evangelicals we are thrilled to be sponsoring with Salt Lake Theological Seminary a *National Student Dialogue Conference* this coming October 19-20th for college and seminary students. For more information about our NSDC and speakers, please visit standingtogether.org.

On a Personal Note...

On July 1st, I observed my 15th anniversary in full-time ministry here in Utah. I celebrated the occasion by taking a two week study sabbatical to Regent College in Vancouver BC where I studied Puritan Theology with Dr. James I. Packer and the Spirituality of the Early Church Fathers. I return to Utah refreshed and revived for the work ahead, reminded that Jesus Christ loves the people of Utah and wants His Church to be One in Him! Followers of God, from the early church period, through the time of the Reformers, in Puritan times, and to this present day testify to God's sovereignty in history. Indeed history is His story, and it's so exciting for our team to be a small part of what He's doing in Utah to bring glory to His name. We obviously, wish to thank all of you for making this possible with your prayers and financial support of Standing Together. To God be the glory!

A RESPONSE TO THE FRANK PASTORE PROGRAM

We were a bit surprised to hear from a few of our Southern CA supporters that Christian Radio personality Frank Pastore used his KKLA radio program to feature a critique of our ministry and the Mariners dialogue event. Unfortunately, Pastore never took the time before or after his program to contact ST or Mainers to understand the ministry philosophy behind our dialogue presentations. Further, after several attempts to engage Frank directly, through KKLA and personal e-mails (which were responded to positively by Frank's wife) we have yet to engage Frank directly about the content of his program. Biblically speaking, this has disappointed us. The Bible offers us a better way to deal with conflict between believers in Mt. 18 by telling us to start first with the person. Sadly, this instruction was not followed and remains unheeded. Our appeal to Frank is still, *Frank, let's talk brother, maybe we can reason together!*