

Joseph Smith Ministries

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“LAY DOWN THE FENCES AND FIND COMMON GROUND”



Joseph F. Smith

is the son of Arthur Smith, the grandson of Alexander Smith, and the great-grandson of Joseph Smith, Jr. He comes in Christ's name to invite all those who believe in the Book of Mormon and the restored gospel to prepare for Zion's redemption.



✠ The Willing & Obedient ✠

*“Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land”
(Isaiah 1:18-19)*

JOSEPH'S MAY MINISTRY

Joseph will come to your home and meet with you and your friends. Schedule an appointment with Joseph by writing info@jfsm.org. He is available on Friday and Saturday evenings beginning May 11.

Consider inviting friends to your home. You may request a home

visit or a class for you and friends. We can help you organize a home group that can serve as a prayer circle, Bible study, and/or otherwise help you prepare for Zion's redemption.

Joseph is also available on May 13 and June 10 for ministry in local Branches.



May Schedule

Joseph will be in the Independence area during May. If you would like a personal visit on a Friday or Saturday night, contact Joseph Smith Ministries.

Improving Our Website

One goal of Joseph Smith Ministries during May is to improve its website. We plan to add several interviews with Joseph about his commission and reasons for undertaking his ministry now. Another will review what he foresees regarding the time of tribulation and the redemption of Zion? These interviews will be posted on our site.



Utah Bridge Building Event

Joseph Smith will speak at a bridge building conference in St George, Utah. The conference is from June 14 to June 16. His topic will focus on the coming time of tribulation, which he earnestly believes is immediately before us, and the glory that will follow. Perhaps, that ministry was symbolically foretold to him in a dream that he received about 1984. (See Joseph's Vision in this issue.)

The conference will include Lynn Ridenhour, a charismatic Baptist minister who believes that the Book of Mormon is divine, Teré Foster, LDS member and past worship coordinator for a large California Evangel ministry, the LDS Stake President in St George and Bob Moore. The combination of participants will draw a wide range of attendees. We plan to personally contact some COC members living in the area. If any one has contacts there, please let us know. Our goal is to organize interested people into an independent study group that could potentially become a branch.

After our St George conference, Joseph will stop in Salt Lake City. He will hold two public meetings where he will share his message. We hope to meet with LDS leaders, as well as a few contacts we have there.

We appreciate the contributions that some of you have made. Our budget is \$2500 for Joseph's and Lynn's expenses. If you can help, please contribute. You may mail contributions to the Joseph Smith Support Fund, PO Box 774, Blue Springs, MO 64013.

Our next bridge building Conference will probably be in the Kansas City area. No details are available, yet. Future plans include Wisconsin and California. If you would like to see a bridge building conference in your area, please let us know.

Support Joseph

Joseph has a message and a plan. The time of tribulation is near and Zion's redemption is now. You, along with fellow believers, can begin preparing for it today.

Taking this message and promoting this plan takes money. We depend on your contributions. They will help send Joseph to Utah in June. All contributions are tax deductible. Please send your contributions to **The Joseph Smith Support Fund**, PO Box 774, Blue Springs, Mo 64013. Thank you for your support.

Follow Joseph on the Web

For those who use the Internet, you may find up-to-date information at our website. Either www.josephsmithministries.org or www.jfsm.org will take you to it. You may contact us through that site or write us at the address to the left.

Want Your own Newsletter?

If you are not receiving your own Newsletter, please request one by writing us or signing up at www.jfsm.org/newsletter.html.

Joseph's Vision

I was born on January 3, 1935 at Ava, Missouri to Arthur and Katherine Smith. I was the last of five children, one boy and four bossy girls. We lived on a dairy farm in the Ozark Mountains and milked 20-25 Jersey cows by hand twice each day. My father, the last of nine children, was born on February 8, 1880 to Alexander Hale and Elizabeth Smith. My grandfather, Alexander, was the third surviving son of Joseph and Emma Smith. I am the great-grandson of Joseph Smith, the Palmyra Seer and translator of the Book of Mormon.

I was raised in the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, being baptized by my father in 1953. My father and family had been members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They left that church and joined the Church of Christ after 1925 when the Reorganized Church adopted a policy called Supreme Directional Control.

Before 1925, membership in the Temple Lot Church had declined to about 200-300 members. This decline was due to opposition to the commandments and revelations given by Joseph Smith, Jr., that had grown in that church since the late 1880s and 1890s. This spirit brought doubt and confusion about the purpose and work of the Restoration into the Temple Lot Church.

By the early 1930s the exodus from the RLDS Church caused by Supreme Directional Control increased the Church of Christ membership to around 3000 members. I believe that the Lord drew sufficient priesthood and members out of the Reorganized Church to stabilize and maintain the Temple Lot Church's organization and allow them to protect the Temple Lot properties. Unfortunately, it did not eliminate the spirit of doubt and confusion. Since then, it has gained strength and influence in the church. Some younger members are ignoring the Inspired Version and Joseph's revelations.

A movement to cast aside the Doctrine and Covenants and Inspired Translation began in the 1970s. Some still use these books, but they are fading away. For instance, in the 1980s a resolution was proposed to accept only the 1611 version of the King James Bible. At the 1995 General Conference a resolution was proposed to place a disclaimer in the Book of Commandments stating, "These revelations and commandments are not binding upon the Church, but are of a historical value only."

I was aware of developments in the RLDS Church and knew about attempts there to put the Book of Mormon on the shelf. I considered this trend "their problem" and not mine. According to my training, their priesthood was not valid. I saw their troubles as the result. That was before I recognized that the spirit that troubled the RLDS Church was the same spirit causing doubt and confusion in the Church of Christ (TL). This realization plagued my mind at the 1995 conference. I began to consider and pray about the matter. That was all I knew to do.

Throughout the summer of 1996 I was working away from home and staying in a room during the week. One June night as I was sleeping, I was awakened with a dream. I remember that as I awoke I still had this picture in my vision. I was preaching to Restoration people. My message was crystal clear: "Lay your differences on a shelf. Come together and build up the Kingdom of God." I sat up in bed, very excited, and heard myself say, "That's it. That is the answer."

For several days afterwards the contents of that dream rested on my mind. I felt led to contact David Bowerman. As I thought about it, the leading became stronger. I believed that the Spirit had given me the answer to how those who had withdrawn from the RLDS Church could unite into one body. But, I did not know David Bowerman.

I knew Richard Price and I made up my mind to share my dream with him. Richard Price was out of town on the weekend that I was able to go to Independence. I decided to do what I had been led to do in the first place. I called David and went to his home. We talked about my experience.

Brother Bowerman felt that this message should be delivered to the saints. In my normal flippant and careless manner, I replied: "Get me a pulpit and I'll present it." Little did I know what was to transpire. In a few days Brother Bowerman called and said I was scheduled to speak at the Waldo Church on Sunday afternoon, August 25, 1996.

My wife and I arrived just a little after 2:00 PM, about a half hour before I was to speak. The parking lot was full, and so were the side streets. We finally found a place, parked, and entered the building. As I was brought through the side door of the auditorium, I looked out on a sea of faces—1100 people. I had never addressed that many people before and knew this Ozark hillbilly was in over his head. From that door to where they sat me down I sought the divine aid of my heavenly Father. As I rose behind the pulpit I had a little trouble with the first two words, but from then on I was in the hands of the Spirit of the Lord. Amen.

My wife and I returned home after the service in the Waldo auditorium. I was filled with joy and highly elated over what had transpired, not for what I had done, but rather that the Lord had used me. I did not feel I was worthy. Later that week I had a vision. That vision is best understood by knowing about an earlier event in my life.

I married a strict Southern Baptist lady from Tennessee in 1957, a really good woman. Her name is Mary Sue. We agreed that she would not interfere with my work and worship in my church. We had been married a little over a month when we attended the General Conference. Having decided to take a quick trip to her parent's home in Tennessee, we came down from the upper room of the church into the dining area and told my parents that we would be gone for a few days. As we left the dining room, one of our Apostles, Brother T. J. Jordon, stopped me in the entrance hall. He placed his right hand on my left shoulder and said, "Brother Joe, the day will come when you will be instrumental in bringing together God's people." I responded, "OK" and went on out. My wife was not familiar with the Restoration movement and its history. She turned and asked me what that exchange meant. I told her to forget it and that it was just an old man's pipe dream, adding that nothing would come of it. We both forgot it.

Now back to my vision. Following the Waldo service I went back to work at Joplin, Missouri. It happened on the afternoon of the following Thursday, August 29, 1996. As I was driving back to the room where I stayed, the vision opened. I saw before me in front of my windshield that old Apostle Jordon. I watched him place his hand on my shoulder and repeat the message he had given me many years before. My eyes filled with tears as it was brought back to my memory the events of that day in 1957, which I had so carelessly cast aside. The Spirit was so strong that I had to pull off the road and stop.

I began working with Restoration Branches that expressed a willingness to worship together. That effort became known as the Unity Movement. We held reunions, retreats and other common worship events. My new job as an apartment manager gave me time to travel throughout the country.

Things changed in 2005. New owners bought the apartments that I manage. They did not give me the freedom to travel. Several branches that participated in the Unity Movement joined in the formation of a joint conference of Restoration branches. I attended one JCRB conference, but felt some did not appreciate my presence. Although I withdrew, the gnawing feeling that I should be about my assignment continued to hound me. Time was growing short. I could only pray.

While living in Idaho about the year 1984, I had a dream that I did not fully understand then. We were living high in the foothills of Idaho's central mountains, about 40 miles north of Boise and about 3 miles up from the main highway. A river ran beside the main highway and our road crossed the bridge over that river. We could not see the bridge from our house, but we could look out over the range of mountains to our south from our living room window.

In my dream, I awoke to the sound of gunfire and cannon. I could hear fighting and the screams of wounded and dying people. After getting out of bed, I crossed the hall into the living room and looked out on the mountains. Explosions and gunfire flashed before my eyes. I left the house and went down the road but a short distance and came to a bridge. After crossing the bridge, I began encouraging people to cross over the bridge, for I assured them there was safety on the hill on my side of the river. Many began to cross, walk up the hill and sit down. Soon I became worried, afraid that too many were crossing and that some would not be able to find any space to rest on the small hill. Something moved my body away from the bridge. I looked back and saw that the hill was much larger than I thought. I also saw others encouraging people to cross the bridge.

A time of tribulation is near, very near. There is safety. It is at the appointed place. But sitting in my house in Springfield, MO, I wondered how I could warn the people.

After several years praying to the Lord and asking Him to open that way, two elders came to my home. They offered to provide me the means to travel among the saints—all the saints, regardless of their church affiliation—and bear my message. I accepted. With these testimonies before me I cannot question the work to which I am called.

Joseph F. Smith

MY CONFIRMING TESTIMONY

I was born and raised in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints, but have worshiped in an independent branch of that church since 1989. At a Wednesday night prayer service on August 7, 1996, I had an unusual experience.

The father of one family in our branch is a sixth generation descendant of Joseph Smith, the Seer. He rarely came, but his wife and young children attended regularly. Their marriage was difficult.

On this Wednesday night, I was particularly aware of the burden that she carried. I did not think at the time why I was so attuned to her burden. Then, specific words were given me to say to her. I knew that I could not say them in public. I told her afterwards in the presence of a priesthood witness. A portion of that message said, *“Soon I will call on the seed of Joseph [Smith]; and in that day the scales shall fall from the eyes of all the seed of Joseph [Smith] because of the covenant I made with Joseph; and the scales shall fall from the eyes of the seed of Jacob because of the covenant I made with Jacob in an earlier dispensation.”*

I have often wondered since then when those scales would start to fall off. I did not hear about Joseph's vision until August 2011, 15 years later. I had forgot the experience, but it flashed back into my memory the instant Joseph told the date of his vision. Since I had written down and dated the message on the night that it was given, I knew that I could see what it said and determine if there was any correlation between my experience and his.

There was! Joseph's vision happened on August 29, 1996, only 22 days after my experience, yet I did not know until 15 years later. Now, it provides a tremendous confirmation of Joseph's vision.

Bob Moore

Joseph Smith Ministries

PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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