

## Major Announcement

### New Palmyra Christian Visitor Center for 2010

CRC is stepping forward in faith for 2010 and seeking God's blessing to establish a summer long Missionary presence and Christian Visitors Center in Palmyra, New York. Resulting from productive conversations with several churches in and around Palmyra we have access to physical office space, room and accommodations to host a Christian Visitors Center!

#### Palmyra Christian Visitors Center would provide:

- An orientation to Mormon tours and comparison to Christian beliefs
- Guided and Self-guided tours of Mormon sites from the Christian, biblical and archeological perspective
- Education and resources on a wide variety of false religions
- Counsel and personalized attention with qualified Missionaries
- Resources for continued study and scholarly presentations
- Internship and educational opportunities and Academic Credit or Certificate programs
- Coordination of mission trips and ministry/outreaches in Palmyra



▪ Intense witnessing and outreach during the Hill Cumorah Pageant (July 9 - 17, 2010)

#### The Need:

▪ Development of Christian Visitors Center resources and Missionary staffing :: \$18,000

▪ Sponsorships of Academic presentations and debates :: \$1,000 - \$2,500

▪ Sponsorships of Pavilion Musical Concerts and other evangelistic venues :: \$750 - \$1,900

▪ Sponsorships of the SignTruck: Palmyra Pageant :: \$300  
Nauvoo Pageant :: \$500

#### For more information...

please contact Tom Jones at 727-667-4112. To make a donation through our web site [click here](#) or mail checks to Christian Research & Counsel, P. O. Box 270, Palmyra, NY 14522.

## Dual Outreach at Hill Cumorah Pageant This Summer

### What Mormons Don't Tell Outreach

In July, we repeated our usual educational outreach during the Pageant, featuring the "WhatMormonsDontTell.com" Sign-

Truck and EZ-Up Canopy. The truck and the canopy were both fully loaded with all the materials we needed to inform the public about the hidden teachings of The Church



Pam Steele handing "What Mormons Don't Tell" tract to Pageant visitors

of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Often, even Mormons discover something that they did not know about their church and, as a result, are able to come another step forward toward meeting the genuine Christ.

### Results are clear and abundant!

Inoculation of non-Mormons, though, is the main thrust of this outreach. Here is Sue Grape's account of an example which is typical of what happens throughout the week and a half of Pageant:

"One night after dinner at the church, we were getting ready to drive to "the hill," and a man saw our sign truck. He approached us, and asked what that message was all about. Chuck, Susanna, and Melissa (all former Mormons) were in the group. They explained some of the differences between Christianity and Mormonism. He then

told us that he had talked to some Mormons, and they immediately sent out two elders to his home. He had no idea what they really believed. He told us that “This was perfect timing. I am only here because of some work I have to do. When I saw your truck, I knew I was in this spot for a reason. Thank you for sharing. I will not be continuing my meetings with the Mormons.”

## New help from Palmyra Area

This year we had some new help from the Palmyra area. We can't list everyone here but let me mention just a few examples which blessed our socks off.

- Our new Dinner Coordinator, Pat Carpenter, is from Calvary Chapel, Macedon. Pat did a great job, in spite of an operation to her wrist on the first night.

- “We were extremely blessed with another “go to” guy this year. Thank you John Jones for picking up people from the airport, and ordering and preparing lunches at the park where we all ate together.

- Pastor Tony Goddard from Christian Community Church in East Williamson, heard about our outreach at the men's breakfast in Palmyra and came to work with us during the Pageant. His support has continued throughout the year in very exciting ways.

- A new group from Sovereign Grace helped with witnessing, meals, photography, the prayer team, and driving the sign truck.

- Several young men from Evangelical Church of Fairport and First Bible Baptist of Greece NY handed out literature at the hill.

## New help from afar

- Adam's Road, a Christian band of ex-Mormon musicians, came all the way from Florida to witness to Mormons and non-Mormons alike

during the Pageant. They played in the village park where we had our canopy, gave away CDs of their music, and shared their testimonies.



Adam's Road joined us this year, from Winter Garden, Florida

- Roy Koser came for the first time with our growing California contingent, Dan Cuevas, Rosa Cermak, Jerry Ellison, and Melissa Field.



John and Ann Jones with Sue Grape setting up Biblical Faith Canopy

## Biblical Faith & Testimony Outreach

This year, in addition to warning the public about Mormonism, we added another dimension to our outreach — an EZ-up canopy devoted to evangelism to Mormons and non-Mormons alike without reference to Mormonism per se. The materials we handed out at this canopy were new prototypes intended to help dispel some of the misconceptions that Mormons and others have about Christianity.

Sue Grape created the following brochures for the new outreach:

- Christian Unity Beyond Denominational Walls
- Chronology of Biblical History and Belief
- The Christian Priesthood
- Testimonies of Bible-Based Christians

These brochures are preliminary and are still in the process of being refined before printing. But you'll find them helpful in your talks with Mormon and Jehovah's Witness friends. If you'd like to read them and

add them to your apologetics notes, contact Sue Grape at shushanbrad@yahoo.com. Sue will e-mail the latest text updates to you.

It's early to try to evaluate the effectiveness of this new outreach tool as the attendance during the Pageant this year was very low due, we assume, to the economic slump we are going through.

## Evidence of the Fruit of Our Labor!

### At least two men came to Christ

One item on our prayer list each outreach is for the Lord to show us at least enough evidence of the

fruit of our efforts to keep us energized for the battle. And, despite the very low attendance, and the two rainy days that prevented or limited our outreach, two souls were saved!. Here's an account of those two:

## A man from New York City

by Sue Grape

A man from New York City received salvation at the new canopy at “the hill.” He was visiting the Palmyra area, saw the advertisement for the

pageant and came with a friend. He saw our canopy with the banner saying, "Biblical Faith and Testimony," so he came to chat. He told Roy Koser, from California, that he was shopping at Walmart, and was strongly compelled to purchase a Bible. When he saw our canopy, he had to talk to us about the Bible. Through a beautiful conversation with Roy and another missionary, he repented of his sins and received Christ. Roy kept in contact with him through e-mail. When he arrived back home, he attended church.

## Herbie's Conversion

*by Sarah Chan, who has been our gifted and enthusiastic worship leader and front line missionary for the past two years.*

During the final day of ministering in Palmyra (July 18, 2009), I was handing out tracts in front of the Mormon Harvest Bookstore and Grandin Building. It was nearing 5:00 p.m. and Dan indicated that it was time to head out to the park for dinner; I decided, however, to stay on a few extra minutes, seeing as the hour had not exactly hit. It was this decision that made all the difference in one soul's life: within the next minute, an old man named Herbie approached me. Herbie told me that he had lived in Palmyra all of his life and that he did not believe in "any of this Mormon stuff," furthermore describing himself as a Vietnam vet who had become mentally ill due to the war.

I discussed life with him, additionally asking what he believed and whether he had a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. He replied that he believed in Jesus. I pondered whether he had ever taken the step to repent and confess Christ and to receive salvation through an act of faith by prayer. He said he thought he had a relationship with God, but doubted whether he'd "be good enough."

It was at this point that I sensed his uncertainty, and so I delivered the

Gospel. I explained that no one is "good enough," but that Christ, who was God's Son, came and walked a perfect, sinless life in order to qualify as someone who could take our place of eternal punishment. If one would believe on Christ's atonement for one's total forgiveness and redemption, one would receive forgiveness of all sin, eternal life in heaven, and a relationship with God. I asked Herbie if he wanted this, and if he wanted to "nail it for sure today"; he said "yes". I asked him if he believed he was a sinner, to which he emphatically answered "yes." I asked him whether he believed Jesus Christ died for his sins completely two thousand years ago, and that through Christ, he could inherit eternal life; he said he believed this. I then invited him to pray to God to receive forgiveness and salvation through Christ. Leading him through a prayer before the Lord, Herbie held my hand and bowed his head, following my words out loud. There on Main Street, right in front of tourists visiting the Mormon bookstore, and not-so-friendly LDS salesmen facing us under their store umbrellas, Herbie received Christ into his heart.

The victory was the Lord's and spiritual light shone through darkness that day! Herbie's sense of the total forgiveness of God was remarkable, for right after the prayer, he said, "I feel good," with tears following from a new spiritual understanding that God had forgiven EVERYTHING. He told me that I was "doing the will of the Lord," and I told him that the Lord was accomplishing a washing in him by the Holy Spirit. I told him now of the importance of talking to God and reading the Bible daily, along with going to a good Bible-believing, Holy Spirit-led church.

I led him to the park, where I connected him with Pastor Cartie Carpenter for immediate follow-up

and for information about his church, which was within the neighborhood. In the meanwhile, I collected an ensemble of a Bible, a testimonies booklet, and an Eternal Life tract (which I placed at the beginning of the Gospel of John in the Bible) in order to prepare Herbie along his way. We asked Herbie if he would like to join us for dinner, but he decided to go home; I smiled, for I knew that he simply wanted to sit under the presence of all that the Lord had done for him that day.

I rejoice that God has been so good to us this year: in all the labor and perseverance, it has not only been wonderful to serve together with CRC, but also to be blessed by God with the opportunity to see Him so faithfully show us one man's conversion. All my praises go to God for His work in Herbie's heart, a work which He chose to openly display during the final minutes of our ministry this year. This one soul had been waiting to come to the Lord, and, in God's delightful timing and indescribable faithfulness, spiritual redemption occurred right in the heart of downtown Palmyra, New York, where it was least expected.

## Remembering Phyllis Farkas

"I met Phyllis I believe at the Assembly of God Church in Webster from doing a seminar or something along those lines...it was in the early 80's so my memory may be off somewhat. In any case, I do remember Phyllis' deep concern for her husband John who, at that time, was a Mormon and how they came to different conclusions after studying Mormonism. John had become a Mormon and Phyllis a born again Christian.

"If my memory serves me right they both had expressed an interest in food storage and Phyllis called the LDS missionaries in and they both made their own decisions. After a period of time Phyllis realized that

John had made a serious mistake by believing that the LDS Church was in fact Christian and we made contact with each other.

“My first impressions of Phyllis were that of a very thorough researcher and loving wife who agonized over her husband's decision to become a Mormon. We soon became friends and I had many conversations with Phyllis about John and we prayed for him often. Phyllis believed in the power of prayer!

“I met John at the Hill Cumorah Pageant and over time established a friendship with him as well. After a period of time John became a Christian and we worked together in ministry. When we needed some research done or had a question Phyllis was always there with an answer. Phyllis was a God-send in so many ways. I spent many hours with Phyllis at Pageant and experienced her love for both John and our savior and the ministry that John eventually took over.

“If I can put into words what I think of when I think of Phyllis it would be this....She was a good and faithful servant, a woman of the Lord who loved her savior, her husband and her family, a woman who had a soft touch for animals. We are all better people because of her.... her passing is our loss and Heaven's gain. Thank you Phyllis.... for showing us Jesus through your eyes, through your mind and through your hands. We look forward to a joyous reunion in heaven!

With love and deep respect....”

— Ross Amico

“In the early 80's, a friend and I went to the Hill Cumorah Pageant and this lady handed me a newsletter. When we took our seats, I read it, and realized that Christians were witnessing to Mormons, so I had to go back to encourage her. It was Phyllis Farkas. I was so excited about this mission work (Berean Christian Ministries), that I eventually began working with Phyllis and BCM.



Phyllis & John Farkas

“Yesterday, I heard the bittersweet news that this dear sister in Christ went home to be with the Lord. It has been a great privilege to have known Phyllis. Much of Berean Christian Ministries publications were based on her vast knowledge of Mormonism and history.

“Phyllis began studying Mormonism because her husband became a Latter-day Saint around the time she became a Christian. She had every Christian she knew praying for John, and one day the Lord touched his heart, and he became

a redeemed child of God. Both of them were so passionate about the souls of the Mormon people that they actually centered their vacation time around LDS pageants and temple openings to tell the Good News of the Real Gospel, and the True Christ to anyone who would listen.

“Phyllis not only loved people, she loved animals, and many small critters were rescued and loved because of this amazing woman.

“A few years ago, Phyllis suffered a stroke, and even though she could no longer speak, that did not stop her from attending meetings and training classes that BCM and Christian Research & Counsel held.

“All of us at Christian Research & Counsel will miss Phyllis, and we will continue to use many of the pamphlets that were based on her work.

— Sue Grape

“Phyllis came into my life when, as a young mother, I started to question the doctrines of the Mormon Church. When I was confused and hurting she would spend hours encouraging me and taking me to the Master through God's word and through prayer. Over the months she patiently and lovingly guided this lost child to the Lord and I will eternally be grateful. Many times I would call at odd hours working around the fear of my ex-husband's threats and she would quiet my fears and hand me to the Savior who walked me lovingly to the cross.

"I remember her love and her great thirst for knowledge. John was in the forefront of the ministry but Phyllis (sorry John) was the backbone. Every time I would talk with her she would go into detailed research. John's materials were published but many of Phyllis' left incomplete. John, pick them up and complete them, for she had wonderful ideas. I will always treasure Phyllis' zeal for the Lord and the hurt for the lost. I look forward to one day meeting her in Heaven and saying 'Thank you for giving to the Lord. I was a life that was changed.'

"I remember a time after I married Randy that we ended up stranded as we returned my children to New York after a visitation to our home in Ohio. Late at night Randy put a phone call into Phyllis and John. They opened their home and we camped out upon the floor. I remember Phyllis' love for animals as well as her love for nature especially from this trip. They had a live tortoise not sure the size but big enough to look like a garden decoration that they let roam the house. I remember Randy or I almost stepping upon it as it lifted its head and relocated. The twinkle in Phyllis' eyes is what I will treasure, that mischievous gleam.

"I did not get to see Phyllis much after the stroke. She was still there but a shadow of the woman I had fallen in love with. She was still loving, kind, feisty, and crafty (able to get her way) but her passion of words had been taken. I was thankful for John's loving example of marital commitment as he ministered to his sweet wife. Where many grumble and complain, their love for each other radiated as they dealt head on with this season of their lives. I thank them both for that example for I contemplated it often.

"John, the Steele family are thankful for your and Phyllis' gifts to

the Lord, your life and example changed me and encouraged me. I will always hold you both dearly in my heart."

Love and prayers,

— Pamela Steele

"Phyllis, John and I have enjoyed a long friendship — about 25 years. When my wife, who had been raised LDS, went back to Mormonism and I learned what it was about, John & Phyllis were recommended to me by Sandra Tanner as the closest and best source of training on Mormonism as well as able to understand my situation — being unequally yoked.

"Phyllis insisted that I should come to Palmyra, NY to participate in Berean Christian Ministries' outreach at the Hill Cumorah Pageant in order to learn about living with and witnessing to Mormons. I went and she was right. I learned and grew so much that I've made the Pageant my priority mission every year since, with one exception, when I was stranded and could not get there.

"Phyllis was a solid example of the patience, perseverance, and character that results from leaning on the Lord in tough circumstances over the long haul. In the first decade of our friendship, when I was discouraged, she would give me hope, reminding me that, after all, even after 9 years, her situation changed for the better. Then, after 10 years had come and gone, we joked about my passing her up. In the second decade, though, she was all the more supportive, lending the kind of understanding that few others could.

"John says Phyllis taught him to love and that was no overstatement. It was evident in him over the years.

"I will continue to miss her and her memory will continue to encourage me."

— Tom Jones

"I was sorry to hear about the loss of Phyllis. I always loved to engage her in conversation in Nauvoo and I learned quite a lot from her over the years. She will be missed. "Phyllis was always engaging and had a passion with purpose that was inspiring for me. I was always comfortable to ask her any question knowing she would take time to answer. Her quest in researching early LDS history was valuable in reaping fruit and exposing ever-lengthening shadows of Mormon deceptions. We need more like her who had strength of conviction. Her courage and fortitude for the truth was instrumental and a lasting testimonial legacy. — Kent Larson

### **Please pray for . . .**

CRC short term missionary, Pam Steele, who is dealing with possible skin cancer.

John Farkas who is mourning the loss of his wife of 54 years and long time ministry partner, Phyllis who went home to be with the Lord on November 13th. (See Memorial to Phyllis Farkas in this issue of the newsletter)

The upcoming CRC fund raising campaign to establish a year round mission in Palmyra, NY.

Christian unity in the Palmyra, NY region and cooperation amongst the churches to stand in defense of the genuine Christian faith against the Mormon and other attacks.

More hosts for the "WhatMormons-DontTell.com" SignTruck. We only have one host at the present time and need to spread the news by way of this billboard at many locations in the Fingerlakes Region on a rotating basis. 