

CRC NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 No. 2

A helping hand to those affected by counterfeit religion

3rd Quarter, 2006

Hill Cumorah Pageant Was Full of Surprises

By Tom Jones

This year's Pageant outreach was the most interesting and exciting I've seen in many years. It was full of challenges, opportunities, solutions and fruit.

Mormons Reroute Crowd to Avoid Literature Handouts

Long before the Pageant, several Christian friends in Palmyra helped to bring my attention to what looked like a new parking lot being prepared adjacent the Pageant Amphitheater on the same side of the highway. The implication of this was very clear: we would not be able to hand out literature to Pageant attendees as they cross the highway

to print it out for themselves.

Following MRM's example, I reserved several domain names (.com's). We were going to have to rely on signs with web address messages to compel non-Mormons and Mormons alike to go to the CRC web site to get the brochures we would have handed them. The beauty of this solution is that those who want the information can get it in private without their LDS friends and loved ones being upset at the first sign of their interest in "anti" material. This gives them time to digest and research the topic, too, without feeling pressured to defend their beliefs

out the related brochure. The fourth takes him to Living Hope Ministries' web site where Latter-day-Saints can order a free DVD or video on *The Lost Book of Abraham, DNA vs the Book of Mormon* or *The Book of Mormon vs the Bible*.

We were very pleased with the results which were easy to measure as the two web pages have separate counters. In



Dan Cuevas holding sign in spite of bum knee as cars are about to come along the other side of the fence.

Chart 1, below, you'll notice that "WhatMormonsDontTell.com" consistently received more hits than the other two pages combined with the exception of three days early on.

Local Newspaper Inadvertently Helps CRC Outreach

On Sunday, July 17, a local newspaper ran a short article lumping CRC missionaries together with a group of street preachers who were yelling offensive remarks at Latter-day Saints, referring to all as simply "protestors" who were unhappy about Mormon beliefs. Along with the tiny article, though, was a big photo of CRC volunteer Vern Brown of Calvary Chapel, Macedon, NY who was holding one of the "WhatMormonsDontTell.com" signs. That photo, on a day when we had no outreach activities, drew more visitors to the web site than any one day's outreach effort by many

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and public right-of-way from the old parking lot as in years past. Between the new parking facility and the Pageant, there would be no public property from which to minister to the unwary visitors.

New Tactics Called For

Mormonism Research Ministry (Bill McKeever) had recently handled a similar situation at the Newport, CA, Mormon Temple opening by holding up signs displaying a web address with a message (SacredOrSecret.com). Lot's of folks who couldn't get to the literature went to the web site

in public, unprepared.

We produced light-weight signs and T-shirts each with one of the following four messages:

- WhatMormonsDontTell.com
- WhichFirstVision.com
- WeUseToAgree.com
- DNAAvsTheBookOfMormon.com

The first three ".com's" take the reader to one of two pages on our web site where he can read and/or print

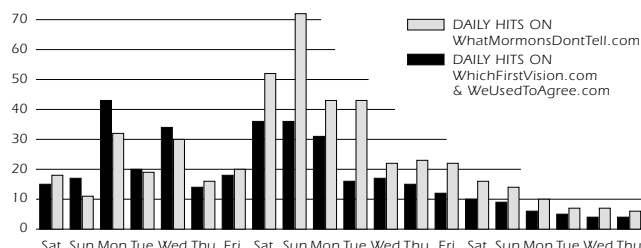


Chart 1 - Daily hits on the web addresses from pageant outreach signs and t-shirts

Note: some of the names in the following notes may have been changed for privacy's sake. Many of the letters we receive cannot be shared at all due to their sensitive nature.

We've had a couple of Mormon Missionaries come by the house last week - we visited for about an hour and a half, then they came back for dinner this week and are coming back next week!

It's so fun just to be their friends and be able to witness to them out of love! Thank you very much for helping me just to view them as friends. Who knew I'd be an evangelist??

God bless! — Bethany Peters

Thanks for the CRC newsletter! I feel it is a very useful tool in witnessing. Please continue to include me in your e-mails. Blessings, — Myrtle

Thanks for the newsletter. I appreciated ... particularly hearing

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volunteers (See the second Sunday in Chart 1). Chart 2, page 3) shows the cumulative total hits. By the end of the 3rd week we had roughly 900 pageant related hits, after which there were a handful of hits each day which have continued. As of this newsletter, the total number of hits is 1,170.

I e-mailed a response to the editor of the Finger Lakes Times before I left Palmyra and, to my surprise, they published it on July 27th.

Palmyra Mayor and Police Attempt to Limit CRC's Freedom of Speech

Apparently concerned for the Village's relationship with the LDS Church, the Mayor of Palmyra personally approached two of our missionaries on the public sidewalk in front of the Book of Mormon Print shop and informed them that they could not hand out literature on the street because our permit to

about others' ministry experiences. I thought the article about writing letters [1st Quarter Newsletter] was good too. I know that for me, it helped to have your e-mails in that I could go back and re-read them.

You can't absorb everything at once. — Jessica Paull



Your article about writing a letter to your non-believing friend really hit home with me. About two weeks

ago I finally witnessed to my sister who is in the midst of a marital crisis, in the form of a letter...for most of the reasons you mentioned. Every day I eagerly check my in box but have gotten absolutely no response from her. I admit I was disappointed and wondered if my words were futile, but your article reminded me that I absolutely did the right thing and the burden was lifted the moment I hit send!

Thank you for your work and God Bless you! — Liz St. Pierre

set up a booth in the village park required us to restrict our outreach to that space.

Earlier that same day, citing the same argument about the park permit, a police officer informed us that we could not keep our literature table in front of Dave & Linda Mead's T-shirt Shop (Logofactory). We had to keep it all at the park.

In no time, I was on the phone with Attorney Barbara Weller of Christian Law Association and, in a letter that evening, she reiterated our specific rights to handout free literature on the public sidewalks without a permit imposed by the village. The next day, we met with the Mayor and, before we had a chance to present her the CLA letter, she explained that she had spoken with the village attorney and was prepared to grant our rights, after which she accepted our letter for the record.

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We deeply appreciate your letters offering encouragement or requesting information or counsel concerning false religions. They both, sustain us, and call us to action.

The ministry of Christian Research & Counsel is fourfold:



Educational material and counsel given freely to families affected by false religions.*



Educating the church about false religions and equipping them to defend their faith.



Intervention between proselytizing false religions and their prospective converts, exposing and comparing the (usually hidden) beliefs of the false religion to the Bible, enabling the investigator to make an informed decision.



Educating members of false religions about the errors which prevent them from realizing their rightful relationship to God through Jesus Christ.

*Main focus, Mormonism (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) and Jehovah's Witnesses (The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society).

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Three Inches of Rain Hampered New LDS Parking Changes

The day before the Pageant started, it rained 3" and the newly graded grassy parking lot was too spongy to drive on so they switched back to the old parking lot and it was business-as-usual for a while. During those first few days we were both handing out literature and displaying the .com signs. Late in the first week, the switch to the new parking lot was made and we were glad to be way ahead of the game.



Ross Amico and Brad White (right) witness to Pageant visitors from the protection of the Easy-Up canopy.

We Explored New Territory

We took a gamble and set up the Easy-Up Canopy (donated by Palmyra supporter Bob Deemer) adjacent the Pageant boundary barriers on public property. As we had hoped, people who wanted to ask questions came over to the canopy to get answers, free DVD's, Videos,

and literature. And it was nice to have a shelter over our heads when it rained.

Testimonies from "the Hill"

 "I really thank [CRC] for the opportunity that you gave me to help hand out literature at the Hill Cumorah Pageant this

summer. It really helped me to go beyond my comfort zone and I learned so much about the LDS church than I ever knew before. It was really cool because it gave me a heart for the people so involved in this church that does not lead to eternal life. I had some really memorable conversations with a couple of kids who were part of a Mormon faction. The conversation really lead to a lot of insight into what they believed and I was even able to plant a few seeds of truth which was very exciting. I know that I experienced spiritual warfare during the pageant as Satan waged war against our group

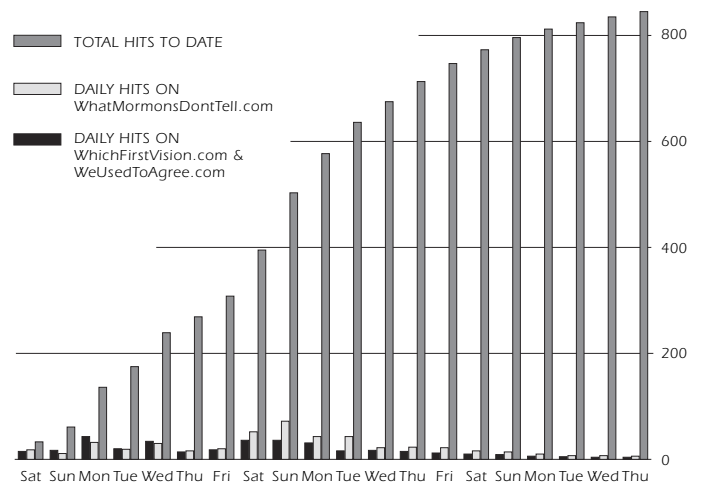


Chart 2 - Total hits to date on CRC web pages from pageant outreach signs and t-shirts — compared to number of daily hits.

for sharing 'the true life that gives light to every man' (John 1:4), but the power of prayer is one of the ways we really learned to fight back.

The ministry opportunity that you provided has helped my wife and me be able to reach out as a team to our Mormon friends. It has truly influenced the way that we view people who believe other religions as our 'friends' and not



Alan & Marjorie from Calvary Chapel Macedon blessed us by leading worship music during our morning meetings. Alan is also our sign maker.

as someone to be scared of or to shy away from. Not only has this helped in LDS specific situations, but it has also helped me to be more aware of my daily witness

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Please pray for...

J.U. - KENTUCKY - Ex-wife taking daughter to LDS Church against his wishes.

N.C. - TEXAS - Son planning to marry ex-Jehovah's Witness who still holds to some Watchtower doctrines.

Becky Hamm - FLORIDA - Leader of outreach to female teenage offenders, running into conflicts with Jehovah's Witness teachers who are confusing the girls concept of orthodoxy. Pray the JW's will be

confounded by the truth.

Randy Steele, former LDS, a good friend who, with his wife Pam, has participated in Mormon Pageant Outreaches in the past, is apparently out of medical options. His doctor has taken him off chemotherapy and he has begun homeopathic remedies to attempt to slow the disease. (Sorry, can't explain the disease)

CRC has, at long last, an opportunity to enlist a volunteer secretary. Please pray that someone will donate a good used computer and large monitor to facilitate her tasks.

Thanks!

Thanks to the Lord for all of you who have supported CRC prayerfully and financially. May He bless you!


Please pray for additional pledges of financial support from those who can offer a gift of \$5 to \$100 or more, monthly, to help with printing, operations, counseling, missions, etc. If you feel compelled to help, please fill out the form on the Equipping List and send it with your gift.

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and embolden me to shine with the light of Christ.

Hope to be able to serve with you again next summer!" — Damon Peters

 "My experience [at Hill Cumorah] was truly a blessing. As usual the Lord allowed me to get in over my head or control, but showed me as I let go that He ultimately knows what is best and that

He is in control. Although the rain came down and the parking lots were moved from day to day, the Lord did not skip a beat. He was faithful to get the Truth to the lost and saved alike. I was amazed at how God honored the faith in Him shown through the obedience of His Saints to the calling of ministering at the Hill Cumorah Pageant. As always, when called to a ministry, the trials and storms will come and they did, but because we kept our eyes fixed upon the Lord and endured through the hardships, we are gifted with the victory.

I was able to personally witness to several people all while performing the simple duty of holding signs and handing out literature. I received persecution and encouragement alike from the recipients. The most exciting thing that happened to me was realizing God's great love for all mankind no matter where they are in life. His over abundance of mercy, grace and love will never cease to amaze me. I am confident that all who came seeking to meet the Lord were not let down. What can be more exciting than to be used by God for His glory by simply shining His light in the dark places of this world?


Christians, "Pharisees" and the falsely led were all touched by the simple movement of this ministry. I for one am grateful and thankful for the opportunity to serve along side my Brothers and Sisters for the glory of God. Thank you for the time, energy and prayer of the leadership.

Clearly their preparation and flexibility to the movement of the Holy Spirit ensured the promised victory



Clear rain ponchos allowed our shirts to speak while we were handing out tracts

of the Lord Jesus. I look forward to serving with all next year should the Lord not return for us before then." — Gary Wiest

 "God was faithful in providing our team of three from WV, housing, delicious food, and being able to reach some souls for Christ. I really like the booklet, *A Struggle to Peace*, by Richard and Cindy Benson. This was given to me by one of the young Christian boys who probably was helping the 'Street Preachers'. I know that their style of witnessing is not ours, but this booklet surely touches the hearts of LDS in a moving way. Thanks for all that you did, Tom, and for the new tracts. I know that these new tracts are also written to the hearts of LDS." — Joyce Wickland

 "One doesn't have to know everything about Mormonism to witness to Mormons! I was blessed by the zeal and eagerness of the Christian collaborators who came for just a day or two to stand for Truth--their first time in face-to-face cult ministry. Plus, [CRC] provided daily training [Greg Koukle's *Tactics in Defending the Faith*] that we could immediately put into practice. For example, rather than arguing with an LDS man and trying to prove the trinity to him, I used the 'Columbo tactic' of witnessing to him

by asking questions to clarify his point and to also reveal to him that his understanding of Almighty God was too short-sighted.

As he walked away from me, he recognized that he needed to rethink his understanding of who God is. I'm so grateful that God found me worthy to represent the cause of Christ at the Hill Cumorah this year. Serving on the mission field and telling others about our Wonderful Savior is a tremendous honor!" — Marsha Norton

Warn your neighborhood about Mormonism

— without lifting a finger

You can help continue the success we had at the Hill Cumorah Pageant by exposing "What Mormons Don't Tell" in your own neighborhood. A handful of volunteers with signs got 900 responses to the CRC web site. Imagine how many we could rescue if thousands of Christians all over the country were carrying a little sign.

Just order the *What Mormons Don't Tell* bumper sticker and put it on the rear bumper or window of your car and — every time you drive — you'll be warning someone.

The bumper sticker is free for the asking. See the *Equipping List* with this newsletter to order or just phone in or e-mail your request (727-214-0586, tjrcrc@ij.net). While you're at it, if you can afford it, drop a small donation in the mail to help support this on-going effort to educate the public about the dangers of this counterfeit of Christianity.

What Mormons Don't Tell.com

Bumper sticker colors are black on yellow-gold