

Make Your Plans Now for a Mission Trip to the Birthplace of Mormonism

Hill Cumorah Pageant July 11-19, 2008

The (Mormon) Hill Cumorah Pageant in Palmyra, NY is touted on their web site as "A beautiful story on an enormous 10 level stage, twelve-tower lighting, state-of-the-art sound system, Hollywood special effects, and a costumed cast of over 650 provide a truly spectacular show."

And spectacular it is, and very appealing to non-Mormons who will get the impression that the Mormon Church is a legitimate Christian denomination.

Without a Christian voice to warn them, many of the 100,000 plus pageant visitors will fill out a referral card and receive two LDS Missionaries at their doors when they get home to continue the charade, still not revealing what they really believe.

If you want to stand in the gap with us, sounding a warning to the unwary about this Mormon deception, [click here](#) to fill out an electronic registration form to help us fill up the missionary work schedule.



Non-Confrontational Volunteers Needed (no person-to-person witnessing)

Here's a list of volunteers needed for important behind the scenes support functions:

Host Coordinator — Filled

Hosts — to donate sleeping rooms for out of town Missionaries for 1 to 9 days during the Pageant outreach. Hosts who live closest to Palmyra, of course, will be selected first. But we will add to the list of hosts those who live as far from Palmyra as Macedon or Newark. We value these hosts and urge our missionaries to leave their rooms in better condition than they found them.

Meal Coordinator — This person will help recruit volunteer caterers and coordinate the dinners for all the front-line missionaries witnessing at Mormon venues each day of the Pageant. With the exception of the training workshop dinner on the Thursday preceding the Pageant, all dinners will be served at 5 PM

at First Baptist Church of Palmyra. There will be a total of 8 dinners.

8 Meal Caterers — to make meals for the frontline missionaries each evening of the Pageant outreach (Two or three chefs can combine efforts, if desirable, for each meal or one team of chefs could make a

mission trip of it and do all 8 meals).

Dinner Cleanup Crew — for after dinner cleanup at First Baptist Church of Palmyra. One or two persons each of 8 nights.

Picnic Coordinator — One or more persons to take care of the logistics for the volunteer appreciation picnic on the first Sunday of the Pageant. This would involve sending an invitation to all who have volunteered in any way to serve with us during the Pageant, reserving the pavilion at Aqueduct Park at the western edge of Palmyra, shopping for the watermelons (for the watermelon seed spitting contest), setups, entrees, etc., coordinating dishes-to-pass, and marking the Pavilion with a reserved sign the morning of the picnic. This person would also assign volunteers at the picnic to make sure the pavilion is cleaned up before we leave.

Host-Writer — We need one or more people to write or compile some friendly tips for missionaries to help them go above and beyond to be "A" guests while staying in Palmyra. Some time ago, there we lost some hosts due to sloppy missionaries. We cannot afford to be lax in this. (Maybe one "editor" could compile suggestions from all the prospective hosts and we could just put them on a simple flyer to give to the missionaries. That way, any pre-existing concerns will be covered without any one host having to confront their guest with a list of dos and don'ts.

Drivers — (1) to pick up out of town missionaries at Rochester Airport. There will be only one or two of these, typically. But sometimes

the pickups come at a time when we are involved in training, etc., and it's very difficult for us to do it ourselves. (2) to drive around the Village of Palmyra at various times of the day during the Pageant with a "pizza-style" magnetic "WhatMormonDontTell.com" sign on the roof of their cars. Our goal is to have ten of these.

Worship Leader(s) — A guitarist or pianist or other musician and singer(s) to lead a couple of worship songs at our training meeting and morning meetings each day of the Pageant.

Photographer — Need at least one person to record the outreach in digital photography and/or video for at least one day.

Launderer — to pick up the missionary T-shirts each day and wash and fold them for the next day. This might be done every other day (3 or 4 times, one of those being the last day when we will pack the shirts away until the next outreach).

Prayer Team Coordinator — to recruit and coordinate prayer support for the Pageant outreach.

Prayer Team — to pray during the Pageant. These volunteers will not be identified with us visually (no matching t-shirts). Let's try to get at least 6 prayer warriors but not set a limit. We want all the prayer support we can get. Some might prefer to form prayer teams at their respective churches during the Pageant.

Sign Sitters — We have signs mounted on easels next to Highway 21 near the Pageant grounds which need to be guarded by volunteers who can bring along comfy lawn chairs. Some of the folks in cars will make comments as they drive by but there is no real opportunity for discussion with the Pageant goers. We need 8 persons each night of the Pageant.

Highway Banner Crew — One or two volunteers to install two banners

at locations on Hwy 21 not far from Pageant grounds and check the banners each day to make sure they have not been vandalized (Sometimes we have to retie them).

Canopy Crew — Two people each day of the Pageant (seven days) to put up and take down an Easy-up Canopy (in the village park at noon and at the Pageant at 6:15 pm). Very minimal training necessary. It's a very quick and easy setup.

Blimp Guard Coordinator — to recruit and coordinate blimp guards.

Blimp Guards — to guard a tethered blimp against vandalism or weather damage during each night of the pageant. Need at least two per night for 9 nights.

Training Workshop for Frontline Missionaries (Public Witnessing)

The front line is where most people think the really difficult work is but, in some respects, it has become a lot easier at the Hill Cumorah Pageant. Read on to see where you might fit in without much concern about your experience level.

To make it convenient for local folks who will be working during the day, our training workshop will be on Thursday evening, July 10. So that you can come directly from work if necessary, we'll be serving pizza at 6 pm followed by the workshop at 7 pm.

The workshop will cover tactics in defending the faith when Mormons and others ask troubling questions. We will also discuss appropriate conduct and the law governing free speech rights.

Here's what you'll be doing if you sign up for the front line:

Each morning of the Pageant we'll meet to pray, make assignments for the day (teaming new people with experienced missionaries), share experiences from previous days and discuss witnessing strategies for subsequent days.

Then we'll go to lunch (on your own), after which we'll go to our assigned venues to handout literature and witness for Christ as divine appointments present themselves.

At 4:30 pm each day, we'll stop and go back to First Baptist Church of Palmyra for dinner (prepared by local Christian families). At 6 pm we'll head for "The Hill" to set up the canopy and literature tables and 6 "WhatMormonsDontTell.com" road signs until 9:15 when the Pageant begins. Usually, there is no person to person contact for those manning the signs, only positive and negative responses to the signs from people in moving cars.

You'll have an opportunity to go in

and watch the Pageant while those of us who are staying to work the signs when the Pageant lets out usually go to Mickey-Dee's for about an

hour's coffee break. At 10:20 we'll set up the signs again until about 11 pm when the traffic dies down.

Cost for this mission trip

Evening meals for each day of the Pageant and housing provided by local Christian families make this a really affordable mission trip. Your basic costs are your travel expense and breakfast and lunch daily.



Mormons Spin the Dead Sea Scrolls to Attract Bible Believers

CRC Volunteers Respond

By Bob Deemer

In the month of March the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) held a Symposium on the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) in Palmyra, NY. The event was held in conjunction with a traveling Dead

Sea Scrolls exhibit of replicas presented at the Hill Cumorah Visitors Center.

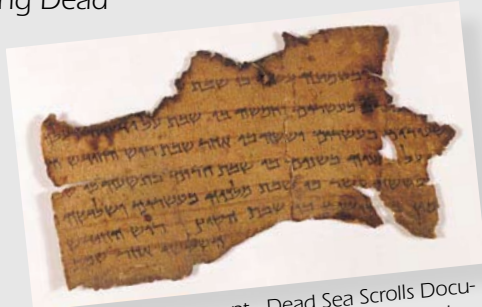
The Symposium concluded with weekend lectures

at the Palmyra Stake Center on

Temple Road in Palmyra. The speakers were Dr. Donald Parry, Professor of Hebrew Bible and Dead Sea Scrolls at Brigham Young University, and Dr. Lawrence Schiffman, chairman of New York University's Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies.

On Saturday evening Dr. Parry presented a lecture entitled The Dead Sea Scrolls: An LDS Perspective to a largely LDS crowd of about 500. The presentation followed their fireside meeting format, including LDS prayers and hymns. In his presentation Dr. Parry attempted to use the DSS discoveries at Qumran to give credibility to other scriptures not included in the Bible, and then extend that credibility to the Book of Mormon. On Sunday evening both Dr. Parry and Dr. Schiffman spoke to a mixed crowd of about 1,000 on two separate topics. It was noted by the presenters and LDS leadership present that the crowd contained people from a "diverse community

of faith." Conspicuously absent that evening were the Mormon prayers and hymns. Local radio talk show host Bob Lonsberry (LDS member) was the Master of Ceremonies for the event which also had two Jewish Rabbis present to give readings from the Isaiah scroll and a prayer in Hebrew. This evening was clearly an attempt to normalize the LDS in the larger community of faith.



Calendrical Document - Dead Sea Scrolls Document 4Q325 Courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority. Tsila Sagiv, photographer.

Present both evenings to listen to the presentations was Christian Research & Counsel (CRC) Board Member and Palmyra resident, Bob Deemer, and other members

of the local Christian community. On Sunday evening, the night with the largest attendance, another CRC Board Member, Brad White, and pageant outreach volunteer Vern Brown were there as the building emptied to quietly offer free Christian Literature to all those willing to accept it. Since the topic of discussion was the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Mormons were attempting to give credibility to the Book of Mormon by hosting the symposium we chose CRC's brochure "Which Scripture Has Been Tamed With?" and attached one of our bright yellow pens imprinted with our website address "WhatMormonsDontTell.com." Brad and Vern reported handing out these materials to just over 40 vehicles leaving the parking lot.

Please pray that even now these materials are bringing the truth of Gods word to those either trapped

in a false religion or being led into one.

Poll Examines What the Public Believes about Mormonism

According to a new poll conducted by the Pew Research Center and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, a slim majority of Americans (52%) believe Mormonism is a "Christian religion," although a slight majority (also 52%) of white evangelicals who attend church regularly think otherwise.

If you're like me, sometimes tempted to wonder if this ministry is really worth the time and effort we put into it, this poll should wake us up. Knowing that 52% of the public, and even 48% of white evangelicals, still think Mormonism is a Christian Religion demonstrates that we have a lot of unfinished work to do. We must continue to ring the alarm about Mormonism in order to point folks to the genuine Christ.

The entire Pew Research poll can be read at <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/648/romney-mormon>

It All Started With a Bumper Sticker...

By David Lovse

On our way home from a recent visit to Gainesville, FL we happened to see a car on I-75 with a WhatMormonsDontTell.com bumper sticker. As a disillusioned Mormon this caught my attention. I resolved to see what it was about.

A few days later, during some down time at work, I remem-

bered the web address and decided to check it out. Our web access is heavily filtered, but the site came

WhatMormonsDontTell.com

