



The LifeLine

Autumn 2023

“Contending for the faith”

lifeline2rlds.org

Carol's Corner...

Is Your Story Written?

The chorus in the contemporary Christian song “My Testimony” includes the phrase, “...grace rewrote my story.” If you’ve made the decision to turn away from Joseph Smith’s teachings and follow the Biblical Jesus; like the song says, your story has been changed by His grace.

But that brings up the question, have you ever taken the time to write down your spiritual story or testimony? I believe that doing so is important. Your testimony allows you to tell others where you’ve come from, where you are today, and where you’re headed tomorrow.

I’d like to suggest that you start out with some background. Personally, I like to know where someone is coming from, especially if they were a follower of Joseph Smith. If so, why was that the case? Were you a convert or did you grow up in a family that was already part of one of the churches that follow Joseph’s teachings?

Then you can go on to explain why and what caused you to leave the church. Often times people leave a church when things happen that disturb them. Or maybe a Christian friend’s lifestyle and gentle demeanor caused you to wonder why they were so different than the people you knew in the church. Or it could even have been the testimony of a previous follower of Joseph Smith that caused you to start to question Joseph’s scripture, doctrine and/or teachings.

You might want to include some scriptures that have special meaning to you. In my case I was encouraged by Acts 18:9-10 which reads, “One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: ‘Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.’” I was also helped to understand what problems

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A TESTIMONY AND A CHALLENGE

By Mike McGee

We get hit from every direction everyday while in the flesh on this earth. I am no exception being raised by an RLDS mother and a Catholic father. My siblings and I witnessed many arguments, discussions, disagreements and tears over doctrines, cults, and how their children would be raised.

What a confusing and devastating turn of events for young impressionable minds and lives.

We live in a world filled with darkness of all forms. On any given day we are inundated with temptation after temptation, lie after lie, darkness after darkness. But in the person of Jesus a powerful hope has entered the story of humanity. Matthew 4:16 says, “The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” You and I now have the choice to fill our lives with the light of God. We’re delivered from a life marked by darkness and set free to fill ourselves with the things of God.

The sobering truth of Scripture is that God already knows the secrets of our heart and will one day bring them out into the light whether we desire it or not. Hebrews 4:13 says, “And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give ac-

count. In Luke 8:17: “For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.” God knows the importance of everything being brought to the light. His chief desire is a full relationship with us, and he knows a full relationship only occurs without secrets. Ephesians 5:8 says, “For at one

In my adventures and search for truth I went overseas to foreign countries searching for answers to the truth and why people believed so many different solutions to a sin problem. I studied world religion, philosophy, and apologetics, finally going to Bible College I was able to discern the truth that Jesus brought to us from our Father in Heaven.



The McGee family. From left, Carol Hedaria, Patricia Toich, Daniel McGee, Mike McGee, and Wanda McGee.

time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” As “children of light” we must learn to walk in our new inheritance. We must learn what it is to be disciples marked by the characteristics of our Father’s kingdom. The powerful sacrifice of Jesus has afforded us an opportunity to no longer live as those of the world. We belong to a kingdom that stretches past the span of this life through the unending reach of eternity. God’s kingdom will have no end. His goodness and mercies will never cease. A relationship founded on the good, pleasing principles of his kingdom is eternal!

My parents never caved to their convictions that they were trained and indoctrinated with growing up. Their experience and teaching, influences, and peer pressure of big families and churches created beliefs (false truths) they would not give up on. Their fate is now in the hands and will of Our Lord Jesus the Christ to decide for eternity. Although I pled to them and God for their Salvation,

and probably burnt a few bridges, thank God for His mercy and understanding. We cannot give up on a world where we are called to love others as ourselves on behalf of His people and relay the will and heart of God back to them.

How many denominations, cults, misrepresentations, and half-truths of this world, are needed to lead the innocent and sinner to decline and fall into darkness? In a world that continually spins and spirals toward more darkness how can anyone not seek the light of truth in Jesus Christ, and fall for anything and everything at all?

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...“Challenge” from front

Moses serves as an important example for you and me. Moses was a man chosen to go before God on behalf of his people and relay the will and heart of God back to them. And by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are now chosen and transformed to live out the same calling. In 1 Peter 2:9 Peter declares that we are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that [we] may proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light.” We are to operate in the same capacity that Moses did. We are to be children of God that bear the image of our heavenly Father and declare his grace, love, power, and goodness to a world in desperate need of relationship with him. What happened to Moses in Exodus 34 holds true for you and me today: when we meet with God, we take on the image of His glory. The difference is that the glory of God now dwells internally rather than externally by the powerful sacrifice of Jesus. As Moses’ face shone with the glory of God, our new nature is now meant to shine, declaring the immeasurable grace and power of Jesus’ sacrifice.

Editor’s Note: Mike McGee, a graduate of Ozark Christian College and serves as a board member of LifeLine Ministries to RLDS.

...“Carol” from front

my decision to leave the church might create by Matthew 19:29, “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.” Other chapters of scripture that were important to me also included Isaiah 29 and Ezekial 37.

We humans are a curious bunch. We like to know about why people are the way they are and why they have made the choices that they’ve made. Your testimony may be instrumental in guiding another follower of Joseph Smith

to the Jesus of the Bible.

In my case I left because I started wanting to please and serve the Lord. Doing so became paramount. But I would like to share a warning with you. I barked too soon. I chose to share my testimony with people who were not ready to hear it.

Sharing your testimony is important, some people will even love hearing it. But doing so at the wrong time or place may cause problems that you don’t want. Your friends will question what you’re doing. Your family may even shun you. Pray that God will give you the wisdom to know when and to whom you should share your testimony.

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**We
Need
YOU!**

This newsletter is primarily directed to those who have chosen to leave the RLDS/Community of Christ church or one of its offshoots and pledge their allegiance to the Jesus of the Bible. It is intended to provide its readers with encouragement and tools to help them bring others out from under the teachings of Joseph Smith.

As of now the leadership of Life-Line Ministries to RLDS consists of a

group of three baby boomers and one person from the World War II generation. If you are a member of a younger generation and have a desire to share the Biblical Jesus with those in the Community of Christ, the Restoration Branch or the Remnant Branch, we would love to hear from you. The easiest way to contact us is via email at info@lifeline2rlds.org.

If you’re unsure whether or not you can help, we ask you to take a moment and think back on how you came to know the truth about God and His son Jesus. It’s likely that you did not change solely on your own, but instead someone you trusted reached out to you and shared the truth of the Bible with you. Maybe it’s now your turn. We look forward to hearing from you at info@lifeline2rlds.org.

LifeLine 



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED