

## CONFERENCE REPORTS – Latter Day Saints’ Beacon

REPORT: Latter Day Saints’ Beacon

FROM: Gary

DATE: April 2016-March 2017

To the General Conference:

*The Latter Day Saints Beacon* is in its ninth year of production. It is the official print instrument of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches. The current staff of the Beacon consists of the Editorial Board and our proofreaders. These individuals are:

### EDITORIAL BOARD:

Gary R. Whiting

Hugh Caldwell

Barbra Jordison

Joy Muir

Chad Nestman

Alan Smith

### GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Tara Broadway

### PROOFREADERS:

Wendy Weiss

Genie Simmons

Sandy Crandall

Sandy Whiting

During the past year we have been able to improve our workflow, allowing us to stick with our six issues a year schedule. The quality of the magazine has been maintained by the hard work of the editorial staff and proofreaders. We are especially grateful to those who have contributed testimonies and have written articles for the magazine.

The *Beacon* has also benefitted from the change in our production process. In 2015 we discontinued producing the magazine in the Conference office and contracted with aPrintis Press. This move reduced the per issue expense and has allowed us more flexibility in the design process. The quality of the paper and covers created a more professional appearing magazine. The use of color throughout has made the magazine more attractive and more readable.

The most recent issue published at the writing of this report was the January 2017 issue. We had 1,550 copies printed. Copies of the magazine are also posted on the JCRB website in PDF format.

Several of the Seventy carry copies of the *Beacon* with them on their missionary journeys. By this means, copies are in the hands of people in multiple countries.

Throughout the past year, various readers have stopped one or more of the magazine staff to

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express their appreciation for the magazine and the articles. We have received a few written notes from some subscribers. I want to share an e-mail I sent to the magazine staff in January 2017. It recounts a testimony of how the *Beacon* is contributing to the missionary work.

Dear Friends,

Sometimes we are not sure what kind of impact we are making in the lives of the people who receive the Beacon. I want to share a short story with you about that topic. On Sunday, February 12, Seventy Dan Norman and his family visited our branch. He shared pictures and testimonies about the recent labors in Tahiti. The Lord is doing a marvelous work there and reviving the Restoration gospel among the people on the islands.

The Saints in Tahiti were first exposed to the Restoration gospel in 1844, when Seventies Noah Rogers, Benjamin Goruard and Addison Pratt arrived in the islands. The gospel was very well received there and was a stronghold of faith for many years. When the RLDS church became the Community of Christ (CoC) and the doctrine changed, many of the Saints stopped going to church because of their disgust with the new teaching, etc.

There remained many believers in the original and pure doctrines of the Restoration in the islands and they are called Sanitos. This name is reserved for those who believe what the first missionaries taught. The people who have adopted the new CoC doctrines are referred to as the Community of Christ (but in French). The Sanitos had no news of the Restoration branches and believed that all of the rest of the former RLDS church had become Community of Christ. They actually thought there were no Sanitos anywhere else in the world.

When Dan Norman and Chuck Sperry visited there, the Sanitos were skeptical at first, but soon recognized that they did teach and believe as Sanitos. Brother Norman described many of the signs and blessings of the Lord that were manifest among the people to show God approved of the teaching of these men. One of the significant signs was the *Beacon* magazine.

Most of the people there do not speak or read English. Nevertheless, when they saw and held a magazine with pictures from around the world of Saints who believed and taught as the Tahitian Sanitos, they were overjoyed. They could not read the words, but the existence of the magazine was an evidence to them that the Restored gospel was living and active in many other places in the world.

Our work is sometimes lonely and tedious, but it is of great worth in the sight of the Lord and for Saints in many places. A few issues have been translated into Spanish and distributed in Chile. Copies have been distributed in various countries in Africa and elsewhere. The work you all are doing with the Beacon is very important and faith building in ways that we cannot imagine. Your hands, through your faithful labors and prayers, have extended the witness of Jesus

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Christ and the Restored gospel to people we will never meet and across language and cultural borders we may not otherwise be able to cross. You are building faith and encouraging the Saints.

You ought to know these things. You are making a faithful impact for the gospel with your pens, keyboards and labor. It may seem small and insignificant to you, but it is huge in the sight of God. Please be encouraged to continue your efforts- they are not in vain. I appreciate you all and thank God for each one of you.

“the weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh, but that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world; that faith also might increase in the earth; that mine everlasting covenant might be established; that the fullness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple, unto the ends of the world, and before kings and rulers” (D&C 1:4c-e).

It has been our honor and great pleasure to serve the Lord Jesus and you through the pages of *The Latter Day Saints’ Beacon*. We appreciate the support of the Saints. We will continue to work diligently to make the *Beacon* an instrument of faith and encouragement in the work of the gospel.

In Gospel Bonds,

Gary Whiting, Editor in Chief, *The Latter Day Saint Beacon*

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