

Subj: Joseph Smith Documentary/World Conference on Families
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 1999 4:37:11 PM
From: dsb@burgoyne.com
bcc: IRHall

Halls, Bartholomews, Friends--My sister Nancy Mecham sent this along: We saw the documentary and thought it was very worthwhile--something we would be pleased to have all the world see. By the way, I am right now hearing on KSL radio an interview with Richard Wilkins, BYU prof., who is organizing, promoting, anticipating a widely represented, ecumenical World Conf. on Families, to be held in Geneva next week (Sharon Hintze, what do you hear about this?) Though this Conf. is not sponsored by the Church, it does have its support in that our RS general president and two general authorities will participate on the program. This is another opportunity to build bridges among 85% of the world's people who, based on a scientific sampling and a survey created by experts at some of our most respected institutions (Harvard & etc.), report that they (this world's people) still respect, honor, and seek to foster the traditional, natural family (mother, father, children-for-the-long-term) as the most important foundation for maintenance of a stable society and for positively influencing the next generation. It sounds simple and obvious, but as Prof. Wilkins points out, a small, vocal minority have made great inroads, perpetuating the idea that the nuclear family is NOT a societal staple. As Wilkins points out, the object of the Conference is not to deny homosexual and other types of unions

anything, or
to disclaim important efforts by people in less-desirable family
circumstance, but
rather to educate leaders of nations and the peoples of the world to the
importance of
the natural family as essential to the stability of any society and also to
the fact that
85% of the world's populace honors the traditional family--that therefore

government
and other leaders have a mandate to strengthen this basic societal unit. I
felt myself pulling
for our former bishop and feeling grateful that he is speaking up. Daniel
has dated Wilkins'
daughter a few times since he got back from Israel (they are just friends),
but one thing
she told him is that her parents are selling their new home on the hill and
looking to move
back into a more middle-class neighborhood because he has gone all out to
promote the
family, to the detriment of other money-making opportunities. Knowing
this,
I was even
more impressed with the conviction and wisdom with which he answered
questions during
this radio interview. I feel the same way about the live interview I heard
before that, today,
with Senator Orrin Hatch. I felt he was absolutely sincere when he said
he
is running for
president not for the personal attention, but because he feels he can make
a difference for
the good of the nation (and especially if he can influence appointments to
the Supreme
Court in ways that will strengthen the nation). Thanks be for good people
who care enough
to put their lives on the line for what they believe--and who believe in
right things! shb

> Subject: Joseph Smith

>>> Date: Friday, November 05, 1999 8:12 AM

>>> Dave Stump writes:

>>>

>>> WASHINGTON - It was a sight and honor that Joseph Smith -the often
>>> persecuted, often jailed and eventually murdered Mormon prophet -
>>> likely never imagined..

>>>

>>> But a crowd of Washington's elite - including diplomats from 20
>>> countries, senators, House members and top business leaders -
gathered

>>> Wednesday to preview a new PBS documentary about him..

>>>

>>> And another Mormon prophet - current LDS Church President Gordon
>>> B. Hinckley - thanked God that he lived long enough to see such
>>> interest in Joseph Smith and a balanced national show about him,
which

>>> is narrated by famed actor Gregory Peck..

>>>

>>> "I'm an old man now. I feel like the last leaf on the tree with the
>>> wind blowing. I am just grateful to have lived to see this day,"
>>> 89-year-old President Hinckley told the crowd..

>>>

>>> "American Prophet - The Story of Joseph Smith" is scheduled to air
>>> nationally on PBS on Nov. 26. But the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott
>>> Foundation, which funded it, held a reception and preview for it
>>> Wednesday at Washington's J.W. Marriott Hotel.

>>>

>>> The International Affairs Office of The Church of Jesus Christ of
>>> Latter-day Saints invited ambassadors who were hosted by LDS
members

>>> of Congress; apostles Dallin H. Oaks and M. Russell Ballard; and
>>> well-known LDS members such as Brent Scowcroft (national security
>>> adviser for Presidents Ford and Bush)..

>>>

>>> While President Hinckley noted that Smith suffered much persecution,
>>> he said, "I'm just delighted that those times of great stress and
>>> misunderstanding and persecution . . . have passed, that we live in a
>>> new age and in a new time when there is . . . respect and there's a

>>> measure of civility and there's an eagerness to understand the great
>>> characters of the past, including this young man (Smith)."

>>>

>>> "He represents to me a magnificent man who did a magnificent
>>> work. Joseph Smith's lengthened shadow extends through all the
history

>>> of this church now and all across the world," President Hinckley
>>> added.

>>>

>>> He noted that the church Joseph Smith started now has almost 11
>>> million members. "I think by Dec. 31 of this year, we'll pass the 11
>>> million mark. Maybe not quite, maybe. But if we don't make it this
>>> year, we'll make it next year."

>>>

>>> He said it also has the largest missionary corps and building program
>>> of any church. "I know of no other organization so vital, so alive, so
>>> forward-moving as this church, which came of the genius of
inspiration

>>> of the Prophet Joseph Smith."

>>>

>>> Dan Harvey with Vermont Public Television - sponsor of the program,
>>> from the state where Joseph Smith was born - said the program about
>>> Smith fascinates him, even though he is an Irish Catholic..

>>>

>>> "This was a man who was in equal parts celebrated and reviled, loved
>>> and hated, welcomed and banished. I suppose you could say it is
>>> symbolic of what is both good and bad about religious tolerance in
>>> America," Harvey said..

>>>

>>> Lee Groberg, producer of the show, said the two-year project sought
>>> balance and includes views from LDS and non-LDS scholars about
Smith's

>>> life..

>>>

>>> Groberg, who is LDS, said he found it a "moving opportunity" to learn
>>> more about Smith and "to understand that a small, humble plowboy
from

>>> Palmyra, N.Y., claimed to have seen God and his son Jesus Christ. I
>>> don't think he set out to do anything that would bring glory to him

>>> but rather felt compelled to share what he learned."

>>>

>>> President Hinckley said Smith "is a great character of the history of
>>> this nation and in this land. This church has become the largest, the
>>> most vital, the most viable, the strongest religious organization to
>>> ever come forward on American soil. To me that is a very remarkable
>>> and interesting thing."

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