

Eugene's Testimony (Taken from journal entries throughout life)

- My testimony begins at a very young age. My parents were living examples of faith, and hope and charity. My great grandparents, Moses and Naomi Alexander Tracy, were neighbors of Joseph Smith. They were pioneers on the long journey to Utah. I knew that the church was true very early in my life, having been taught "at my mother's knee." Members of the church were called Mormons. Some of my young friends asked me if I was a "Mormon" and my answer was yes. When I was about 16 years old the Ward Boys Chorus was formed. David O McKay, who was an uncle of Ena Barnes, came to our ward and a boy's quartet sang. After the meeting Elder McKay told Ena there were many boys who should be singing. A beautiful girl named Joyce Hansen and her friend Enid Malan came to hear us sing. Joyce pointed me out and told Enid, "I'm going to marry that one."
- I love to study the scriptures. The Old Testament, New Testament, and Book of Mormon are ancient scriptures with messages for our day. I believe in the two great commandments: To love the Lord with all our heart, might, mind and strength and to love our brothers, being kind to others.
- The Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior and he took upon himself our sins so we wouldn't have to suffer if we repented. Heavenly Father is the creator of the Heavens and the earth. When we say Heavens there are planets up there we don't even know much about. He loves all his children so he has prepared a place they will be most comfortable all their lives. You wouldn't be comfortable with people who are smarter than you are and vice versa. There are 3 glories: The Glory of the sun, the moon, and the stars.
- I truly believe that Joseph Smith stands next to the Savior in the salvation of the human race. I recall reading, possibly in Church History, that he remarked, "if I told who I really was, there are those who would take my life" (loosely quoted). I think he stood next to the Savior in the spirit world. "That is very possible. He was such a wonderful man. "
- I wanted to go to the temple at least once a month. Did the work for Robert Seare, b. 2 jan 1947. I want very much to do the will of the Father. Hope I have met a measure of His approval this past week.
- Since Most of our lives are spent in daily work, I hope to make it as pleasant as possible to all concerned. To bless the lives of others is one of my great concerns or ambitions. I hope to do better as life progresses. "Since we have to work we might as well have fun, is what I used to say."

Eugene was to receive an award from Medicine Shoppe, his employer, because his high monthly sales. But, Eugene declined to attend the awards ceremony because it was held on Sunday. Below are his own words.

- I felt that I would be deserting my post as a Sunday School teacher to accept the honors of men. The conventions are invariably on Sunday. Actually the award is for attaining monthly sales of \$20,000 or more, and places me in the "President's Club." I hope that the Lord trusts me with money. Certainly I know that it is given to do good. I pray that I will not disappoint him . . . I cannot break the Sabbath to receive the honors of men.
- Tim Bayer, a district manager for region 5 from Medicine Shoppe visited the store this afternoon. He has about 26 stores to supervise, and said ours is the best he has seen. Gave us a very high rating. He brought me the statuette, two letters of commendation, and a framed certificate for being in the "President's Club." Before he left I presented him a Book of Mormon, told him a little about it, and wrote a signed testimony inside the cover. He seems to be a fine young man. I hope he will be favorably influenced. Joe Wright of the Ward Seventies gave me the book. It has a striking gold cover with Book of Mormon characters (reformed Egyptian) in black.
- "Swamped" at the store. Luckily Nathan came to help with the filing. No summer slumps so far. Did 193 RXs one day. Average for 4 days over 150. The Lord is blessing us with the good things of the world. How we need to strive more for the things of the Spirit. "Jeanne Hall even came to help at the store. We got to the point where we were ordering directly from the manufacturer which saved us money."
- I appreciate more David O McKay's expression about communion with the infinite. Beautiful meetings today. I felt the spirit urge me to bear testimony in Fast meeting and did so. It is indeed Christ's church and I love and worship him as my Savior.

- This is the first time in my life that I recall my following the Savior's counsel to go to the one that offended me, and not to wait for him. It worked even on a person that I considered to be somewhat irrational. More evidence of the greatness of the Christ.
- I love the Lord and the Savior, and have no doubts about the truthfulness of the Gospel.
- As Latter-Day-Saints we need to prepare ourselves for this great event (the Second Coming). The earth allotted time is nearing the end as a telestial sphere. "We don't know what generation that will be, but we need to prepare."
- Although we are closed on holidays, December was the best month in 11 ½ years of business and 1979 likely the best year. Taxes and inflation certainly take a big bite, but we have truly been blessed. It is my object to conduct a business as Father would have me do.

Donald's Testimony

Before I ever knew what a testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ was and why we are here on earth and what life was all about that testimony was growing within me. Growing because from my earliest years I was loved by my parents and older brothers whose words and deeds guided me in ways that helped me feel the whisperings of the spirit that told me of wonderful things of which I did not yet understand--only that life was good and beautiful.

Then as the more adult years came with their many challenges I was strengthened and uplifted by that Spirit that is promised to be a guide to us as we keep the commandments of God. I could count my many blessings "naming them one by one," while seeing what the Lord has done for me as I have strived to do His will and keep His commandments.

I have been a great beneficiary of that dictum, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) I always go back to those growing up years and that loving home environment that sent me on my way to whatever successes I have had in life while striving to have the Spirit of God with me to guide and watch over me as I endeavor to do his will—a circumstance that will bring great blessings to those around me while passing on to them the gospel light that has guided me during my time on earth.

The church environment with its high minded people and common goals of sustaining each other in word and deed and song helps strengthen my testimony along with that heartfelt exclamation, "Then sings my soul my Savior God to thee - How great thou art! How great thou art!" as I realize the extent of the great plan for our salvation and eternal happiness with its promised blessings of family friends and loved ones being together forever in the Kingdom of our God!

I hope that I will endure to the end to be worthy of the triumphal greeting, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:23.)

Donald R. Hall, April 1, 2009.
Son of Howard and Florence Tracy Hall
Born August 21, 1924

Delbert's Testimony

Delbert's Testimony:
Delbert, about Dad:

I have three mementos of Dad that my brothers probably don't have. They are contained in the same section of a book, now being printed, that tells the history of the Delbert Hall family. It will be delivered to Delbert Hall family members and others who ask for it in July 2009. Dad visited my family and me in April 1972, six months before his death. I took photos of him with us at a Richmond, Virginia, museum. One of the pictures and the two other mementos, i.e., Dad's ticket to the Provo Temple dedication and a post card to High Priests announcing his talk are reproduced below.

Post Card Contents: Our September attendance at Quorum Meeting showed improvement over previous months but was still only 62.3%. With increased effort this month we can obtain 70 per cent* and enjoy the remarks of a fellow member, Howard Hall, when he speaks to us on “The Priesthood and the Governments of man and the Government of God.” Our meeting will be held at the Stake House, 23rd and Jackson at 8:00 a.m. Sunday October 21. Let’s keep our spirits active by doing our duty. Next temple missions October 20 and November 4.

*Dad was a one-hundred-percenter. While in Virginia, when my family and I were otherwise occupied, dad visited all our neighbors, inviting them to hear about the Gospel of Christ. He particularly liked to visit the fire station within a block of our house. He went there again and again; the firemen enjoyed his company and his testimony. He had a fervent testimony and enjoyed sharing it with everyone.

Now, this is my personal testimony, given to me by my Dad and by God. It is also in the July 2009 book.

“Joseph, son of Jacob or Israel, had dreams that came true. Famine and starvation are earthly things and in his dreams he saw earthly things to portray them. He said “—we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.” He also saw his brothers and his parents bow down to him. His brothers hated him and his dreams and sold him into Egypt. Joseph’s first dream came true during the seven years of famine. His brothers came to Egypt for food and bowed down before Joseph; he was the only one who could give them food. During the seven years of plenty, he had prepared for famine by taxing the Egyptians and requiring them to pay with grain. He stored up grain for seven years.”

* * * “In his second dream, Joseph saw the sun, moon, and eleven stars all bow down to him. Spiritual things were portrayed in this dream by heavenly objects. My complete interpretation of Joseph’s first and second dreams is that he will not only save the house of Israel from physical famine, starvation, and death (already done); but, he also will save the house of Israel from spiritual famine, starvation, and death (in progress). “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”-John 6:35. Here, Jesus used physical objects to represent spiritual matters.”* * * Jesus Christ is that bread of life; and soon, when He comes to rule as King of Kings among men, He will dispense that spiritual bread of life from His own mouth.

“This, I know for sure. If any of us remains alive at the time The King of King reigns, we had better be able to live together in love and peace, without envy, without greed, without any degree of ill will toward others, and be willing to share everything we have. Since no man knows when it will happen—no, “not even the angels of heaven”—we need to prepare NOW by receiving the preparations of Joseph of old for us. We need to study, daily, his preparation inscribed on the Gold Plates and published to the world as “The Book of Mormon”. Pray that we may not enter into temptation. Be honest with God and with men in all of our dealings. Do all things according to the words of The Books containing the Bread of Life given by Jesus Christ through his Holy Prophets. “It is my constant daily prayer that you and I—to our latest generations—will seek for and receive the gifts that only God can give. If we sincerely ask in faith for God’s gifts, doubting nothing, He will give them to us. Faith is God’s gift freely given to us before we were born. We are here, now, because we exercised our faith and chose to follow Jesus Christ at that time. We need to ask Him to increase our faith until it is as great as the faith of the Brother of Jared. Asking is more than just praying. We must also doubt nothing, meaning that we must show through the way we live that we are entitled to answers. Doubting nothing also means that we will wait patiently for the answer, because God answers in His own time and in His own way. The brother of Jared knew that the Lord would answer his prayers because he obeyed the Lord’s commands. We, too, must live in obedience to the commandments of the Lord insofar as we know them at any given time of our lives. In addition to increased faith, we should ask for hope, charity, repentance and forgiveness, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and many others gifts. He commands us to seek for the best gifts. To insure we receive these gifts, we need to do the following: Give hope to others. Provide for the needs of others. Lovingly encourage the repentance of wrongs done to us by others. Charitably forgive others of the wrongs they have done to us. Teach others the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Ghost within us. By giving, we receive. By giving more abundantly, we receive more abundantly. We should all do like my wife, your sister, your aunt, your mother or

grandmother by being abundantly gracious, loving, kind, giving, and forgiving. We should each light up a room when we enter; we should each shine with the light of Christ in our countenances, just as our dearly beloved Lois Carlyn Henshaw Hall did-and still does.”—and, at this time, I joyfully add: and just as my dearly beloved father, Howard Hall, did and still does! In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.(2 pages, 9 paragraphs, 83 lines, and 1105 words)

Wendell (Not being put in Book)

A so-called "testimony" is most fully expressed not in our words but in our lives. How have we lived them? With acute awareness of others, their needs, their hopes and goals and a willingness to help them achieve these, thereby gaining the experience, skills and knowledge with which to serve ever greater success?

Our words, nonetheless, are a key element of our lives. Have we spoken them in anger, annoyance, disgust, frustration, or with kindness, helpfulness, sincerity, humility? To whom and in what circumstances? Have we reduced them to writing?

Writing helps formulate thoughts with greater clarity, enhancing their value. Of the many things I have written in my life, including several books (a novel, an autobiographical report of experiences in World War II, first readers for English and Spanish and other literacy materials) plus poetry and lyrics not only to compositions of my own but to music in the public domain lacking them, but very special to me are the letters written home from distant Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Spain, Italy, etc. Many passages in them reflect my faith and trust in God and my desire to do His will, as also my love of fellow human beings—in a special way those whose languages I have learned in a desire to know them better.

Though they haven't been preserved, my letters from Oklahoma, Texas, France, Germany and Austria, in training and in combat in World War II, would testify to my fervent faith in God the Father, Yeshua the Messiah, our Savior, Redeemer and Lord, the Holy Spirit, and in the Holy Scriptures, the great legacy of the Jews to the world which, like Brigham Young, I believe contain the words of God, the words of men and the words of a dumb ass (Balaam's donkey).

An epic experience in my life was participation in the liberation of concentration camp victims at Landsberg and Dachau. These horrible examples of the evil in the world left me with a all-out determination to fight it wherever found by whatever means available to me, particularly through letters to editors and essays. Whereas some might despair and lose their faith in God and humanity over such instances of depravity, this only strengthened mine. I have written this up and uploaded it to my website as a personal testimony of faith and endurance. Feedback from visitors to the site provide evidence that it has had a positive effect.

My beloved father, Howard, commonly peppered his speech with the word "Absolutely!" No half-measures in his attitudes, behavior or positions for my Dad and this applied particularly to politics and religion. For someone who, typically in the days of his youth, completed his formal education at the 8th grade, Dad read widely, not only the Scriptures but many worth-while books. In bearing his testimony on fast days, his custom of relating his beliefs in unique ways to current events and commonplace opinions always struck others as discerning and original.

In the course of my academic career, I have proof-read thousands of documents and for a time was employed by the University of Michigan Press as a type setter with the responsibility of carefully examining and editing every text presented for publication. Since then I automatically scrutinize every sentence I read and discrepancies, contradictions, anachronisms, solecisms and errata of any description do

not escape my notice.

What some may consider nit-picking is an arduously gained, hard-earned virtue practiced in accord with the admonition of Saint Paul: "Examine all things; hold fast that which is good." Failure to adequately examine "things" precludes any pretension to knowledge. Those who glibly and virtuously state "I know" with regard to matters of faith need to examine the extent and intensity of their study and research as well as "all things."

A "burning in one's bosom" won't unfreeze cold facts. With good reason, the term "dispassionate" is employed to describe effective analyses.

I have dispassionately analyzed The Book of Mormon and discovered numerous discordances, listed in a write-up at <http://nuspel.org/mormons.html>. It was far from any intent that I became aware of them. They just, figuratively, jumped off the pages and hit me in the face.

I reiterate a firm, unshakeable belief in God, the Eternal Father, Yeshua the Messiah, his Son, and the Holy Spirit and reassert deep desire and commitment to live in line with the teachings of our Savior and Redeemer.