

Christ Conference - Final Program



SATURDAY 29 DECEMBER 2012

Salt Lake City Main Library
210 East 400 South
4th floor meeting room

Presented by Sunstone Education Foundation

9:00—9:30 AM

Doors open for onsite registration 30 minutes before sessions begin.

9:15—9:30 AM

Musical performance by ANDY FERNUIK

A native of Pampa, Texas, ANDY FERNUIK graduated summa cum laude from the University of Utah. Andy has served as an educator and curriculum developer in public and private schools from Salt Lake City to Catalonia, Spain. He has traveled overseas as translator, cultural attaché, ski instructor, and full-time volunteer missionary.

9:30—10:15 AM

Welcome from Sunstone Board Member ADAM FORD.

1. "YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A BABY JESUS—AND A SANTA CLAUS, TOO"

Sunstone Institute instructor MICHAEL VINSON opens our conference with a hopeful look at the intersection of Mormon religious belief and fairy tales during the holiday season.

MICHAEL VINSON has a Master's degree from the University of Cambridge Divinity School and is the author of SUNSTONE'S Scripture Notes column.

CHAIR MARY ELLEN ROBERTSON

10:30—12:00 PM

2. PANEL: THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST, THE FIRST CHRISTIAN

This panel will discuss Christ's messages to his historic and contemporary followers and explore the impact of Christ's teachings on the individual, the family, the tribe, and the human power structures in which we all operate.

JACOB BAKER is a doctoral student in Philosophy of Religion and Theology at Claremont Graduate University and an instructor in philosophy at Brigham Young University. His article, "Theologizing in the Presence of Burning Children: From Theodicy to Lament," was published in the September 2012 issue of SUNSTONE magazine.

JANICE ALLRED writes about theological topics, including *God the Mother and Other Theological Essays*, and is president of the Mormon Women's Forum.

MARK THOMAS is a longtime student of the historical Jesus and the Greek New Testament texts and has been a participant in the Jesus Seminar. As scriptural studies editor of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, he attracted some of the world's best-known New Testament scholars to publish in that venue, including John Dominic Crossan, Bruce Chilton, and John Meir. His own extensive research on the Book of Mormon was inspired by the methodologies of his mentor, the great British New Testament scholar, Norman Perrin, of the University of Chicago.

MICHAEL J. STEVENS is a professor of Management and Business Administration and Department Chair at Weber State University. He has conducted award-winning research in global leadership, self-managing work teams, and interpersonal competencies. He serves as co-chair of the SUNSTONE Board of Trustees.

MODERATOR PAUL TOSCANO

12:00—1:30 PM Lunch Break

Try the Hemmingway Café or the Salt Lake Roasting Company downstairs at the Library or lunch at one of the many restaurants near Library Square.

Christ Conference - Final Program

1:30—1:45 PM

Musical performance by PETER & MARY DANZIG

In 2009, Peter and Mary Danzig decided it was time to make music. Rehearsing nightly after the kids went to bed, they soon made their first demo CD and formed the band, Otter Creek. They built a repertoire of American roots music and original songs with a special emphasis on the history of the Intermountain West. Their first album, *Hunters Moon*, has received international airplay and was #27 on the Folk Music Charts (February 2012).

1:45—2:45 PM

3. Keynote Address: THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

FIONA GIVENS was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and educated in British convent schools. She converted to the LDS Church in Frankfurt, Germany. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Richmond with degrees in French and German, then received an MA in European history while co-raising the last of her six children. She recently retired from directing the French Language program at Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Virginia. Givens has worked in education, translation services, as a lobbyist, and as communications director of a non-profit. A longtime collaborator in Terryl Givens' previous books, *The God Who Weeps* is her first co-authorship.

CHAIR MICHAEL J. STEVENS

3:00—3:30 PM

4. "THIS IS MY BODY: THINKING ABOUT THE SACRAMENT"

MATT BOWMAN teaches history of American religion at Hampden Sydney College. He has a PhD in American history from Georgetown University, and wrote a dissertation on American evangelicalism. He is associate editor of *Dialogue: a Journal of Mormon Thought*.

CHAIR MARY ELLEN ROBERTSON

3:45—5:00 PM

5. PANEL: FOLLOWING CHRIST IN A WORLD OF ANXIETY

This panel will examine the ways we apply Christ's message in our lives and implement his teachings in a

modern, anxiety-riddled world. While following the example of Jesus is comforting, we also recognize that the path to discipleship is not easy and demands a deep commitment from each of us.

MICHAEL VINSON has served on the National Board of Governors of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America and is a member of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers. In 2010, he earned a master's degree from the University of Cambridge Divinity School in England.

ELIZABETH PINBOROUGH earned a master's degree in religion and literature from Yale Divinity School and is a freelance writer.

JOHN KESLER was a founding teacher in the Integral Spiritual Center, a group of senior members of various Eastern and Western spiritual traditions who emphasize meditative approaches in their own traditions. John has served as a bishop and in several bishoprics and high councils. John is a practicing attorney and social activist.

DAN MCDONALD is currently a principal at the law firm of McDonald Fielding and is a former partner at Kirton McConkie, the law firm principally engaged by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to assist with its legal needs. For many years Dan represented Gordon B. Hinckley, Thomas S. Monson, and James E. Faust in a variety of legal matters. Dan just released his first book, *Gethsemannesia: Forgotten Lessons From Gethsemane, Golgotha and Beyond*.

MODERATOR ADAM FORD

5:00—5:15 PM

Musical performance by the ONE VOICE CHOIR directed by BRYAN HORN and closing remarks by ADAM FORD.

DINNER GROUP

Interested in continuing Symposium conversations a bit longer? A group will be meeting at Gourmandise after the last session/cleanup—about 5:45 pm. Gourmandise serves soup, sandwiches, salads, and baked goods and is located at 250 South 300 East. 801-328-3330.

Sunstone thanks CHELSEA FIFE, ADAM FORD, ESTELA BELLOWS, HEIDI STEED, DESERET BOOK, and STEVE MAYFIELD for their welcome assistance with the 2012 Christ Conference.

Christ Conference sessions will be recorded and posted on SUNSTONE.ORG in January 2013.