

# Building Bridges

REACHING MORMONS. EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS.

FEBRUARY 2026

## You Can't Argue Someone Alive

William, the young man sitting across from me, was preparing for his Mormon mission. He was polite, confident, and ready to defend his faith. Over dinner, his questions came fast, and his arguments faster. He challenged the Trinity, the Bible's authority, and what he called "the missing pieces" of Christianity.

He explained *his need* to do temple work, *his need* to go on a mission, *his need* to keep the commandments, *his need* to keep covenants. William did mention Jesus, but he was gently pushing him aside, taking refuge not in Christ, but in *his own* hard work for eternal life.

I tried to listen, to answer carefully, but the longer we talked, the more I felt like I was speaking to an impenetrable wall... or maybe, a tomb. No matter what I said, he had a response ready. He didn't need more information. **He needed resurrection.**

I had no persuasive detail that could move him or change him. So, I stopped trying to argue and started proclaiming. I pulled up a picture of my favorite piece of gospel artwork

depicting Christ on the cross. Behind Jesus is a wall of fire, symbolizing God's wrath. In front of Jesus stands a man looking to him for refuge, completely hidden in his protection.

"William," I asked, "what would happen if that man stepped out from behind Jesus and faced that fire on his own?"

He paused; his confidence quieted. "He'd be destroyed," he whispered.

**"In Christ," I told him, "We are hidden. In Christ, we are safe. In Christ, we have everything."**

For the first time all evening, he stopped arguing. His eyes filled with tears. He didn't make a confession of faith, but he heard the gospel—really heard it. And in that moment, I remembered something that reshapes every conversation, every mission, every witness: ***Only the gospel has the power to raise the dead.***

*Artwork: Propitiation by Chris Powers*



Truth in Love  
MINISTRY

## The Real Problem

When it comes to witnessing, sometimes we forget what the real problem is. It isn't that unbelievers are lacking intelligence or facts. Most of the people we talk with are well-read, thoughtful, and even sincere.

### The problem isn't knowledge—it's life.

Without Christ, hearts aren't just uninformed. *They're unalive.*

That's why no amount of logic or persuasion can bring someone to faith. We can share evidence, quote Scripture, and explain doctrine, but unless God breathes life into that heart, our words fall on still air.

But here's the wonder: **God's Word doesn't just speak about life; it creates it.** When he speaks, things that were not suddenly are. The same voice that said, "*Let there be light,*" still shines into dark hearts. The same breath that filled Adam's lungs still fills the spiritually dead with faith and hope. As Isaiah wrote, "*My word... will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it*" (Isaiah 55:11).

Faith doesn't come from being convinced; it comes from being *created*.

That's what makes witnessing both humbling and freeing. We don't have to produce faith. We just have to speak God's living Word. He's the one who opens ears, softens hearts, and raises the dead.

Our job is proclamation. God's work is resurrection.



## The Real Solution: Just Share Jesus

Every time our teams go out to share the gospel, whether at a temple open house, in a park, or on a doorstep, they carry the same quiet fear. *What if I don't know enough?*

It's a fear rooted in one misunderstanding: that changing a heart depends on us. But again and again, our teams discover something freeing. Witnessing is not about mastering arguments. It is about trusting the message itself.

Many of the people we meet are kind, sincere, and deeply spiritual, yet unsure if they have ever done enough to be right with God.

So, we share the only message that brings peace: **You don't have to work your way into life with God. Jesus brings life to you.**

One teen missionary put it best:

*"I thought I needed to get them to disagree with me. But I learned that I can just share Jesus!"*

That realization changes everything. Suddenly, witnessing is not about winning an argument. It is about offering life.

Every conversation, whether it ends in debate, prayer, or quiet listening, is a chance for the Word to do what it has always done: **create life where there was none.**

We cannot argue anyone alive. But we can speak God's living Word and watch him do what only he can do.



Christian students witnessing to LDS missionaries during the recent Arizona mission trip.

## You Can't Raise the Dead. But You Can Equip Someone to Share the Gospel That Does.

My conversation with William reminded me of something essential about the work you help us do. Arguments cannot raise the dead. Only the gospel can.

Yet many Christians feel unprepared to share that gospel. They worry that they do not know enough. They fear they will say the wrong thing. They wonder if they can make any difference at all. That is why your support matters so much.

Your generosity helps Truth in Love Ministry continue to equip believers with training, resources, and encouragement to speak with confidence and love. You help Christians learn how to point a Mormon friend away from their own efforts and toward the finished work of Jesus. You help them understand that they do not need to win arguments. They simply need to share Christ and trust his Word to create life.

When you give, you prepare Christians for real conversations with people carrying heavy spiritual burdens. You help them step into those moments with clarity instead of fear and with the simple message that brings peace.

**Arguments can inform, but only the gospel transforms.** But together, we can equip believers to share the gospel that does. Will you support this work of training and equipping Christians this month?

Thank you for helping more Christians say, with confidence, *"I can just share Jesus."*

## Why Being Totally Dead is the Best News

It sounds strange, doesn't it? *Totally dead* doesn't seem like good news. But that's exactly what makes grace so amazing.

If we were only weak, Jesus would just need to coach us.

If we were only lost, he would just need to give us better directions.

But because we are dead—spiritually lifeless, helpless, hopeless—only a miracle can save us.

And that's what the gospel is: a miracle.

Not a plan, not a partnership, not a process. A resurrection!

Jesus didn't come to make bad people better.

He came to make dead people alive.

That's why understanding our condition isn't depressing; it's freeing. Because once you know you bring nothing, you can finally rest in the One who brings *everything*.

Every false hope falls away. Every "try harder" voice goes silent. And all that's left is Jesus, his finished work, his perfect righteousness, his grace that doesn't need your help to be complete.

You don't have to reach out for God; he has already reached out for you.

You don't have to revive yourself; he's already spoken the words, *"Come out."*

That's why being totally dead is the best news you'll ever hear.

Because it means the work is finished, and life is his to give.

Your support equips Christians to share Jesus with confidence.

Give today at [tilm.org/giving](https://tilm.org/giving) or scan the QR code to equip others to share the gospel with clarity, confidence, and love.



# God is Opening Doors: A Personal Update from Mark

This February brings a mixture of joy and emotion, and I want to share it with you personally.

First, we are grateful to welcome Pastor Wayne Uhlhorn to our ministry team as our new Executive Director. From our first conversation, it was clear he shares the heartbeat of this ministry: loving people, loving the gospel, and caring deeply for the lost. With more than three decades of pastoral and mission experience, Wayne has encouraged church planters, guided young congregations, and supported mission boards across the country. We thank God for bringing him to Truth in Love.

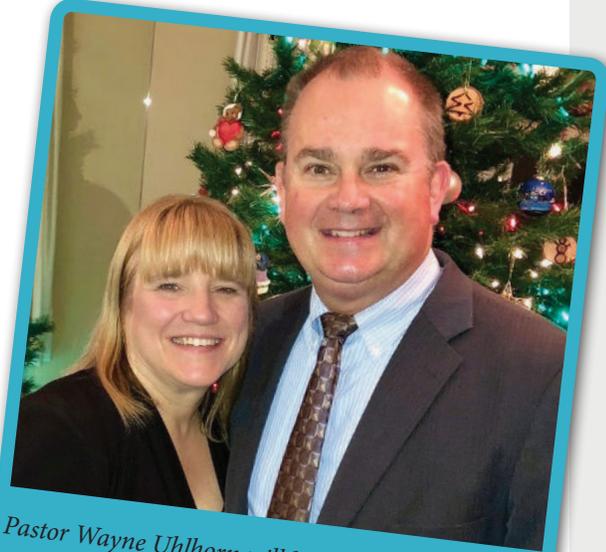
I also want to share what is happening with my family. This June, we will be moving to New Ulm, Minnesota, where I will begin serving as a professor of Literature and Communications at Martin Luther College. This was not something I expected, but it is where God is leading us. While it is bittersweet to step away from my role at Truth in Love, I am grateful for the opportunity to help form future pastors and teachers with a heart for the lost and a deep understanding of the gospel. But the Parsons family will still be connected to Truth in Love. Molly plans to continue her work coordinating content and helping shape the voice and resources you read and share. Through all of this, Truth in Love has changed both of us in ways we will carry for a lifetime.

I have loved serving alongside you and pointing struggling and searching LDS friends to Jesus. That love is not going anywhere. I will miss being part of the daily team, but I am not stepping away from the mission, only stepping into a new way of multiplying it. And with Pastor Uhlhorn guiding the ministry, I am confident about Truth in Love's future.

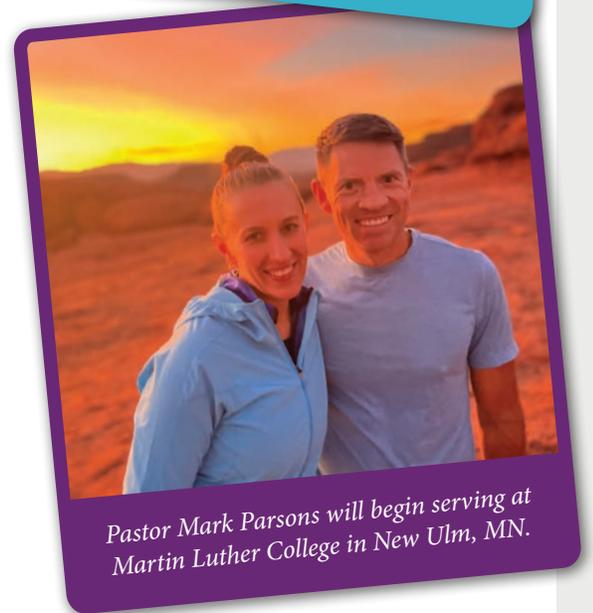
Thank you for caring about this mission and for letting me be part of this chapter. Jesus is enough.

Yours in Christ,

- MISSIONARY MARK PARSONS



*Pastor Wayne Uhlhorn will be joining Truth in Love Ministry as Executive Director.*



*Pastor Mark Parsons will begin serving at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN.*



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1002 W. Sanetta Street • Nampa, ID 83651  
855.770.3700 • [info@tilm.org](mailto:info@tilm.org)

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