

## Church Leader Column

Stake Presidents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints praise the efforts of Lehi City officials, the Lehi Community Council, local churches, civic organizations, and citizens for their efforts to step forward and provide quality programs to help strengthen the families who live in the Lehi area.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has long emphasized that the family unit is the core of our society. In September of 1995, the First Presidency of the Church made a proclamation to the world on the family, clearly stating its position that the family unit is ordained of God. In this proclamation they state, "We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society."

Lehi Family Week, now in its second year, is a fine example of "responsible citizens and officers of government" coming together to strengthen families. Lehi area Stake and Ward leaders recognize and appreciate the efforts of those involved in sponsoring these activities. These leaders encourage the support of opportunities for families to learn from quality workshops and services that are designed to develop and improve skills. Church members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in quality family activities, spending time together to strengthen their individual families.

Strong families are developed when parents and children spend quality time together. When communication exists among family members, and when strong values are taught by the example of caring parents, strong homes result. Homes with these attributes help children and youth avoid the negative influences in society.

This year the Lehi Community Council asked the Lehi area stakes to host and event on Tuesday night, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Accordingly, the Lehi area Stakes will provide an opportunity for parents of any faith to come together to learn more about parenting and how to support and strengthen children and youth. Dr. A. Lynn Scoresby, a professor at Brigham Young University and a recognized international speaker on the topics of family and children, will speak at this event. Dr. Scoresby believes, "there is no justification for denying any child a legitimate hope for the future and a reasonable expectation of a successful entrance into adulthood." We believe parents can benefit from coming to hear Dr. Scoresby on November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Lehi Junior High School auditorium, 700 East Cedar Hollow Road.

The Lehi area Stakes of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints fully support the efforts of our city officials, the community, and its citizens in coming together to celebrate the family unit. May this become a time-honored tradition for our community and may we lead out in demonstrating the effect for good that can be achieved as we unite for the benefit of our families.

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\*This article was written by Pres. Douglas Muir and other Lehi area State Presidencies and approved by the area presidency. This article appeared in the Lehi Free Press edition of New Utah on Thursday, November 21, 2002.