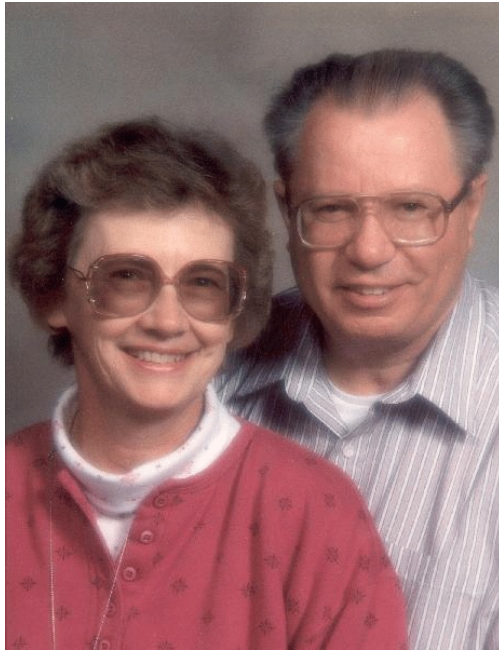


Preface

It is apparent that by comparing the number of people that have lived on this earth with a single person, that individual is generally not very significant. When Moses made this discovery,¹ he said, "Now, for this cause I know that man is nothing, which thing I never had supposed."²



Judy and Ken Hales

However, each of us hope that we make a contribution to humanity. It is certain that some of our posterity will provide great service and some will simply muddle through life. And enough People working in harmony with each other can make a difference. Our challenge is to tip the balance in a positive direction. Our hope is that our posterity achieves their potential and does it in a constructive direction.

This addition to my first book, *Windows, a Mormon Family*, is intended to illustrate what I have learned during my sojourn here on earth. I do not know why I have been given the great

blessings I have received: being born in this day and age; being born of the pioneer heritage that I have, in this great land of freedom and liberty; that I can have joy in my posterity; that I have been given an occupation that amply provided for my family; and having my life extended so that I can refine my behavior. As I continue to age and mature certain philosophies become more apparent as my awareness increases – in both negative and positive directions. I hope that with this awareness that I can make wise decisions. It is my hope that whatever wisdom I have gleaned can be passed on to my family. It is also hoped that the additional stories and information collected are of worth in some small way.

As there were “fiery serpents”³ in Moses day that caused many to perish, there are also “fiery serpents” in our day. These serpents poison us. They poison our minds with thoughts and images that addict us with carnal and sensual desires. They poison our bodies with substances that addict us with habitual dependencies. It is important that we recognize how these Biblical stories apply to our day. It is important that we look to the Savior and modify our behavior to take advantage of the atonement He provided for us. We need to realize that those that did not look to the savior did not survive. Those that did look to the savior proved worthy. Do you put your trust in the savior and make yourselves worthy of the blessings?

The first book was provided as a gift to all of my aunts and uncles, my fifty-two first cousins, my brother and sisters, my nieces and nephews, and

several other close relatives. I also provided complimentary copies to selected church leaders and close friends. A family tradition was established as each grandchild received a copy when they were baptized. Twice a book-finder came to my home and purchased copies for clients. The Family History Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints received a copy; the Library of Congress received two copies; and copies can be found in other reference libraries.

It has been gratifying to see the impact of my first book. Many have written or called on the telephone to thank me for providing a history of their progenitors. Some cousins have purchased copies, which I provided at cost, for each of their children. Soon my reserve copies of this book will disappear – but I'm grateful that those that are distributed still have meaning for their owners.

As I observe my children and their families, and compare them with other families, it is apparent that those that stay close to the church are more functional than those that do not. The values taught by Jesus Christ when he was here are priceless. I believe it is very important to keep close to His teachings and provide the proper example. My testimony of this has not changed since I wrote the preface to my first book.

We are intelligent, reasoning people. We have the ability to make choices and to follow the dictates of our own conscience. Some of these choices are wise and some are not. As we gain experience in making choices we train ourselves in the way we should go. We associate ourselves

with those that make similar choices. The adage, “Birds of a feather flock together,” teaches us that we are influenced by those around us. It is important that we choose our friends wisely. As in the preface to my first book, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

The celestial path has been defined by the Savior. It is a path of service, helping others, and love. Those that walk it have lost themselves in the gospel of Jesus Christ. They have found their lives as a co-heir of the kingdom by losing theirs. There is no better way. There is no other way.

Those that choose the other path, that of “what’s in it for me,” the path that is like a dead sea with everything flowing inwards and nothing flowing out, are judging themselves to be of a lower kingdom. A kingdom that did not learn wisdom by the decisions they made.

For me, I have decided that I want the higher pathway. I would like the decisions I make to result in happier and enduring relationships. I would like my posterity to choose this same pathway. That is my reason for writing this book: to tell them what I have learned.

1. *Moses, The Pearl of Great Price* 1:8.
2. *Moses, The Pearl of Great Price* 1:10.
3. *Numbers*, 21:6