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DAILY HERALD SPECIAL SECTION
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**YOUR GUIDE TO
SPRING CONFERENCE,
STRENGTHENING
FAMILY, AND LIVING**

LDS WEEK

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The knowledge and power of LDS Church Web sites are expanding

Cody Clark | DAILY HERALD

There hasn't always been very much to see or do at LDS.org, the official Web site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In the beginning, said Larry Richman, director of the faith's Internet coordination group, LDS.org was "pretty simple — just four or five static pages."

Not any more. The amount of church content available online has exploded since 2000, the first year that LDS.org was given a major overhaul. That's why, on Jan. 30, the church rolled out an entirely new home page, the first step in a far-reaching redesign of all church sites that is expected to continue for the rest of 2007 and into 2008.

The old home page design, with site navigation links listed down the left sidebar, couldn't keep up with the rapid proliferation of content categories. "The old site had about 25 different choices in the left nav bar," Richman said. "That was growing at a rate of about two or three a month."

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Leather Binding Not Available

You can't get your Bible stamped in gold foil on the Internet edition of the Book of Mormon — but probably only because David Rosenwall hasn't figured out how to make that happen yet. Rosenwall, 40, is a father of four (two sets of twins) and chief technology officer of an e-commerce software company. He was born in California and raised in Canada, but currently resides in Pleasant Grove.

"It actually started right after I got home from my mission," Rosenwall said. "My father and I just started playing around with hypertext."

"It" is a project that's ongoing for the Rosenwalls — the creation and refinement of a searchable Internet edition of the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price.

They started their work in the church in the 1990s and have continued to revise and expand the official Internet edition of the scriptures (scriptures.lds.org) ever since.

Rosenwall wants the Internet edition to have all the functionality that users expect from the old-fashioned, ink-and-paper scriptures. That's why you can do things like mark the text (in red) of the online edition. Your computer generates the verses you've marked, and will even cross-reference them for you.

Both the cross-referencing and search functionality of the Internet scriptures have been "handcrafted," as Rosenwall put it. That is to say, it's not just a script searching for certain words — it's been coached and fine-tuned by the Rosenwalls and others.

For example, if you search for the word "testimony," and then view your results as a "topic search," the third reference listed is Job 22:25-26. That reference doesn't designate or define "testimony," and doesn't include the word "testimony," but it is one of the most cited examples of testimony in LDS teachings.

"There is not another search in the world that will come up with that result when you search on the word 'testimony,'" Rosenwall said.

— Cody Clark

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NEWS

Church Mass Media Timeline

March 26, 1830
Joseph Smith publishes the Book of Mormon. E.B. Grandin prints the first 5,000 volumes in Palmyra, N.Y., at a cost of \$3,000.

November 1839
The periodical Times and Seasons commences publication in Haverhill, Commerce is identified

as the place of publication on the masthead of the first few issues, a note that continues until 1846. A variety of important LDS documents, including the material now printed in the Pearl of Great Price as "Joseph Smith History" and "The Book of Abraham," were first printed serially in the Times and Seasons.

June 18, 1880
The first edition of the church-owned Deseret News is published and circulated in Salt Lake City.

May 1981
The Book of Mormon is printed in Danish in Copenhagen, Denmark, marking the first foreign language edition. The

Doctrine and Covenants is printed in Welsh the same year.

Nov. 8, 1912
The First Presidency creates the Commission on the direction of David O. McKay to prevent unnecessary duplication of church programs. The

(continued)

What can LDS.org do for you?

You could spend hours poking around in all of the helpful nooks and crannies of LDS.org and not uncover all of its secrets. There are many different resources to help church members accomplish a variety of tasks. Here's a sampling, a mere five ways that the site can make your life a little easier.

- 1) "Honey, where's our Ensign?"**
Need to find the magazine so that you can do your home or visit teaching? Maybe it's under the couch, or on top of the vanity in the bathroom. You'll always find it in the same place, however, if you look online at LDS.org.
- 2) "Oh no, I didn't get the lesson manual from (fill in the blank)."**
Relax. Whether you're an everyweek instructor or last-minute filer, LDS.org has all of your church-lesson-preparation materials. You can even save time at the ward library on Sunday by looking up visual aids in the Gospel Art Picture Kit.
- 3) "I'm supposed to figure out how to do this settlement."**
Ever get a calling a month after the last person to do it moved out of the ward? At LDS.org, you can follow online training courses to figure out all the things about your calling that you don't find out from someone else.
- 4) "I hope they call me on a mission."**
Hey moms and dads, now that the kids have all moved out, find out what mission service opportunities are available. Young men and women in the U.S. and Canada preparing to serve missions will also need to look online — it's the only way for them to submit their mission papers.
- 5) "I don't know anything about food storage."**
If putting together a one-year supply of grains, legumes, oils, flour and other essentials is baffling to you, you can jump from LDS.org to the church's ProvidentLiving Web site, which has a wealth of information to assist food storage newbies.

Web

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It hasn't always been that way. The first version of LDS.org, Richman's "four or five static pages," went up in 1994, when the World Wide Web was only just beginning to seep into the public consciousness. The site was largely unchanged until 1996, when a number of small, mostly cosmetic tweaks were applied. The look began to improve when church members had the option of listening to general conference online via streaming audio for the first time. The version of LDS.org familiar (until recently) to most church members and other visitors appeared the following year.

The LDS Web presence, of course, isn't limited to just LDS.org, which is primarily intended as a resource for church members. Mormon.org provides information to people interested in learning more about the church and its doctrines. Other favorite sites are ProvidentLiving.org, created to help church members (and others) improve their approach to food storage and emergency preparedness, and FamilySearch.org, the online genealogical and family history outreach.

And growth is happening everywhere you turn. FamilySearch.org passed a major milestone earlier this month with the creation of its 100 millionth Personal Resource File. Unlike the site's other searchable databases, the PRF database is entirely driven by user interaction — volunteers build it a profile at a time by submitting the results of their own research.

The data itself has value, said church publicist Paul Nauta, but searching PRF has the secondary benefit of bringing together people. "You may find a living relative somewhere in the world who's actively working on your family tree," Nauta said.

Seek and ye shall find

The biggest benefit to users of overhauling LDS.org may not be the first thing that visitors notice, but Richman hopes they'll figure it out quickly. The church's Web developers have made a major effort to beef up the site's search engine.

"The search is much more advanced," Richman said. "It's got a lot of power behind it."

The previous search function only covered materials in the church's Gospel Library — primarily magazine articles, lesson manuals and general conference addresses (a separate search took in the LDS "standard works": the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price).

The new search finds content on every church site, and presents results with a list of filtering options to instantly narrow down your choices. (For example, if you type Zarahemla, a Book of Mormon place name, into the search, then you get 269 results. If you click the filter options "Scripture" and "Book of Mormon," however, the list of results is instantly slank to 123.)

The site navigation has also been revamped, moved up to the center of the screen and revised to group links into six overall categories: About the Church, Gospel Library, Family History and Temples, Home

Find out how online sites are helping family members stay connected. SEE PAGE 5

And Family, Serving in the Church, and News and Events. Mousing over a category heading reveals a "flyout" or "tree" box, that breaks down each category into subcategories. "With one click, you get right to 54 different places," Richman said.

There's even a third option of quickly getting to wherever you want to go. The new site design includes an A-Z index option at the top of every page that lets you search a lengthy alphabetized list of topics from "Atonic Priesthood" and "Abortion" to "Zion."

Make it better

During the first quarter of 2006, there were more than 15 million page views on the scriptures and Anderson expects the number to rise as new translations are added. (The hope, Richman said, is to eventually increase the number of languages at the rate of about one per month.)

Expansion is also afoot at FamilySearch.org, where Nauta said that church genealogists have plans to digitize their vast collection of microfilm genealogical documents — approximately 2.5 million rolls of microfilm representing research done in 110 countries.

And there's no worry of running out of things to do anytime soon. "Less than one percent of the world's vital records are available online," Nauta said. (Vital records are documents — marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, court records — that match up names to dates, places and events.)

One thing that's not

After initially creating the project as a labor of love and experimentation, Rosewall said, he showed it to a friend who worked as director of an LDS Institute of Religion. "He showed it to somebody, who showed it to somebody," Rosewall said, with the end result being a meeting with the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

And though visitors won't know it, the new site was made using updated content management software that, Richman said, will enable faster and simpler site maintenance, as well as simplifying the church's ambitious goal of translating content in an ever-increasing variety of languages.

One area of the site where that's especially critical is the Internet edition of the scriptures: the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

The content supervisor for the scriptures, Kai Anderson, said that the Internet edition is now available in four languages besides English: Spanish, German, French and Italian.

The Internet scriptures have an interesting connection to Utah Valley: Pleasant Grove resident David Rosewall, along with his father, developed the Internet edition and donated it to the church.

See WEB, Page 3

A Journey of Faith

leads to a Labor of Inspiration · Summum Bonum

It's not often that you encounter the "Wow" factor when you walk into a bookstore or an art gallery, but that's the word that people have used to describe Summum Bonum, the newest art gallery/bookstore in Provo. Webster's Dictionary defines "Summum Bonum" as "the supreme good from which all others derive," "the highest good." In this case, Summum Bonum is a unique store front that combines the best of two worlds: the astonishing paintings and artistic works of Joseph Brickley and the riveting works of many of the top LDS scholars in the field.

David Lisonbee and Peter Johnson have teamed up to bring about the realization of this new kind of store. "We wanted to create a store that would be conducive to spiritual reflection and intellectual thought," Peter says. It is a place where you can relax by a fire in the Neal A. Maxwell Institute reading room and dive into the meanings of your favorite LDS scholars.

Journey of Faith

The driving force and motivation behind this new concept began with an epic struggle to create the film Journey of Faith. Interrupted by 9/11 and its aftermath, director and producer, Peter Johnson, spent more than six years working on this documentary that focuses on the journey of Lehi to the New World. Insights, a publication of FARMS, had this to say about the film (volume 25, number 3, 2005):

Based on the most recent research, the 90-minute DVD documentary features Latter-day Saint scholars commenting

on proposed sites for the party's first base camp near the Red Sea. Nabulon, where Ishmael was buried; and Bountiful, the fertile coastal locale where Nephi directed the building of his ship.

The documentary also features the latest findings on Lehi's ocean voyage, the last great leap of faith that takes them to their Promised land.

Johnson describes how the idea took life. "I approached my friend and Executive Producer, Dr. S. Kent Brown, about producing the documentary and he immediately caught the vision, so we launched into our own epic journey of faith to make the film."

Johnson brings up the fact of how this journey has changed the way he reads and reflects on the journey of Lehi and his family. "Now I read Nephi's narrative with new eyes and am confident that others will too after seeing this film," he said. "As we researched and filmed the land crossed by Lehi and his family, we researched, observed, and absorbed each new location with eager desire to convey to the film's viewers the same overwhelming awe we felt for this epic journey." Johnson, who recently returned from the jungles of Guatemala where he filmed the documentary's sequel, comments that this next film will provide even more breathtaking insights into the ancient record.

Joseph Brickley

Peter Johnson commissioned Joseph Brickley, fast becoming one of the finest artists in the LDS church, to create fine drawings for the documentary and the book version of Journey of Faith.

Joseph said about his work, "My art is not just for my fellow art community. My art is for my fellow man. It is for all lovers of truth and beauty,

for discerning minds and hearts, to master their artistic background or education. They may be from families anywhere in this wide world, living in wealth or in extreme poverty. They may know nothing of my artistic process, and be totally unaware of artistic issues and formal elements of art. But they love art. They love it for the most important reasons. They love it for the same reasons I love it: for its power to touch the deepest part of the being; for its power to inspire, to uplift, to instill awe for the beauties of the earth and engender love for the glories of Heaven."

Summum Bonum

There are few places that can generate enough inspiration that you feel as if you've had an intellectual, spontaneous combustion of knowledge... this is one of those places. Summum Bonum is located at 3330 North University Ave. Suite C, near Magley's Fresh and next to the Brownstone Gallery. If you have a thirst for knowledge and/or a love of divinely inspired art, then go to this new store to have a "Summum Bonum" experience!

The Neal A. Maxwell Institute reading room.

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