

LAB·A·RUM PRONUNCIATION KEY (Lab'er-em)

N. PL. LAB·A·RA (-eR-e)

- 1. An ecclesiastical banner, especially one carried in processions.
- The banner adopted by Constantine after his conversion to Christianity.

A note from the Mormon in charge:

I created this zine for a variety of reasons. My insane need for creativity is one. The fact that I have always yearned to be a print editor/writer but was too afraid is another. The most important reason of all—to dispel a stereotype.

I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Politically, I am mostly left-leaning, but I choose not to restrict nusself to the restricting belief set of any one political party. I have often been endearingly (?) referred to as a "free spirit"... "our little liberal"... Just in case you have been living under the proverbial rock—Mormons, as a whole, are not considered a liberal sect. (Hint: I am being facetious here.)

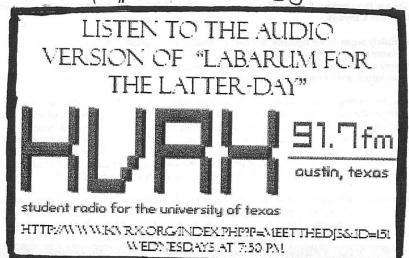
So.

You may think of Mormons as white-collar wearing, scripture—thumping, bike-riding, scarily happy, goody-two-shoes, über-Republican whites. Well, I am none of those things. Well, except for the goody-two-shoes white part.

We have some liberals. We have some punk kids. We have Black/Mexicans/Indians/Whateverians. We have parents that are sad for screwed up kids; we have kids that are sad for screwed up parents. There are so many views across the Church, so many life stories, so many backgrounds. Our only common belief - 10070 carbon-copied, is our belief 4 faith in the Church. The belief that Jesus Christ is our Savior. the belief that we can be better and happier. LDS folks like me sometimes get the bad rep of being less of a believer - accused of being more lement in their dedication to doing the world some good 4 choosing the right. I assure you, with me, this could not be farther from the truth.

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."

Colleen Kelly - colleenita@gmail.com



Traditionalism as a Virtue: A Sandy Foundation

By: David Q. Kelly

And the Lord called his people ZION, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them.

Moses 7:18

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4

Brigham Young University is a Mecca for young, single Saints. During my missionary service in South America, I sent an application for admission to BYU with the endorsement of my mission president. I received the acceptance letter a few months before returning home. I pretty much knew what I had gotten myself into, and I was thrilled about it. I was headed to the Lord's university!

After completing my mission, I returned to my home in Texas. My father and stepmother greeted me when I deplaned, and over the next few months, before it was time for me to head to Provo, they helped me acclimate back to my American lifestyle. They had moved to a new ward* at church, and I got to know some of the members there.

A pair of sister missionaries was serving in that ward. My father and stepmother had a habit of inviting the missionaries into their home, and on a particular evening, while I was home, the sisters came over for a dinner appointment. During dinner, one of the sisters struck up a casual conversation with me. She was from rural Utah, had straight, red hair, a bubble haircut, pale skin, a freckled face, and a highly traditional manner. She asked me what my plans were now that I had returned home from my mission. I noted that I would soon be heading to Provo, having been accepted to BYU. Her eyes lit up, and she proclaimed that she, too, would be attending BYU after finishing her mission. As it turned out, her mission was ending before I was programmed to leave Texas to head to Utah. "I guess we'll see each other up there!" she said gleefully.

A few days later, my father approached me in the presence of my stepmother and hinted that perhaps I might consider pursuing this young woman. After all, she was a righteous servant of the Lord, and had done everything right on her mission. It was just a casual suggestion, not an injunction, but I did feel kind of squirmy about it. But I knew that I needed to hurry up and find my mate before I became a "menace to society" for being a dangerously single returned missionary. "Maybe my dad is onto something here," I thought.

On her last day of the mission, I cornered her in the hallway at church. I requested one of her "business cards" that she was distributing to the members of the ward. It had her home address in Utah printed on it. When she gave one to me, she tried to be discreet, but I could tell that she was thrilled. I wrote her a letter after she returned home, and soon we were communicating through e-mail. When I drove up to Provo, she was there waiting for me with a picnic basket. This gesture seemed eerily maternal, but I just went along with it anyway.

We immediately began dating regularly, and the relationship moved quickly. It was a surreal experience for me, because I wasn't really attracted to her. I felt like I was doing what I was supposed to do, though, as if this were a continuation of my mission in South America. We spent inordinate amounts of time together, we kissed, and I even got to know her friendly (but highly dysfunctional) family.

One day we were sitting in her apartment having a conversation about life. She started talking about all the great people she had met on her mission to Texas, and imbedded in her words she said something that raised my eyebrows. "You know, David," she whispered affectionately, "I wouldn't mind living in Texas for the rest of my life." Normally this wouldn't have caused alarm, except for the fact that I had already mentioned my desire to live in Texas after completing my education. "Is this a not-so-subtle marriage proposal?" I wondered. A few days later, I was innocently admiring a ring that she had on her finger. "Yeah, I like this ring, too," she said. "By the way, I'm a size 8 on my ring finger."

Now that was too much. Here I was, dating a girl I didn't really feel too excited about, and only doing it because she was a righteous girl that had served a mission in Texas. Fortunately, I had the infinite wisdom to escape the situation. She communicated with me several times after we broke up, but I was eventually able to move on. Her friends tried to make me feel guilty about it, but I wouldn't budge.

What's so significant about this story? This is a sad, but all-too-common example of what happens to LDS people who don't follow their hearts, and allow traditionalism to become a virtue of its own. What would have happened if I had caved in to the pressure that I was feeling to "do my duty" and just married her? I would probably be making babies with a woman that I had nothing in common with. What on earth was I thinking?

I guess some Mormons mistake traditionalism for righteousness. Apparently, I had fallen victim to this mentality. It's very easy to do given the important role that obedience to God and church leaders plays in the lives of rank and file members of the church. "Obedience is the first law of heaven" is a maxim that has often been repeated by the General Authorities of the church. An unfortunate byproduct of this zeal for traditionalism is that people who do not conform often get judged as somehow lacking in their spirituality. When conformity becomes a virtue, pharisaism* rears its ugly head.

We would certainly expect to see extreme traditionalism in a niche population such as BYU, but we also see the same culture in the broader LDS community. If one strays too far outside the norm, she is likely to reap the suspicion of her fellow Saints and her church leaders. In many cases, this leads to ostracism. In a few cases, it leads to excommunication. The challenge that faces the free-spirited Latter-day Saint is how to maintain one's identity and still remain faithful in a religious climate that values traditionalism above all else.

In an article for the Salt Lake Tribune, Paul James Toscano, a Salt Lake attorney and intellectual who was excommunicated from the Church in 1993 as part of the infamous "September Six," gave a scathing criticism of the culture of conformity in the church. He dismissed the Mormons in the following manner:

"[The LDS Church] is an archconservative culture built on the sand of family and tribal values with respectability as its chief cornerstone. Its adherents are less like living stones in the mystical temple of God, and more like living stiffs in a morgue of quiet conformity."

Salt Lake Tribune, 16 August 2003

While I am willing to admit that his harsh words were influenced by a certain degree of resentment, I regrettably find this characterization to be true in many cases. By sacrificing our individual gifts and talents upon the altar of convention and embracing conformity as a virtue, we are building upon a sandy foundation indeed.

Professor Hugh Nibley was one of the most outspoken social critics of the church in the latter half of the twentieth century. At the beginning of this essay, I quoted the definition of Zion as given in the Mormon canon. The people of Zion are to have "one heart and one mind," but does this mean they must all act the same? Professor Nibley provides some insight:

"What makes Zion? God has given us the perfect definition: Zion is the pure in heart—the pure in heart, not merely the pure in appearance. It is not a society or religion of forms and observances, of pious gestures and precious mannerisms. It is strictly a condition of the heart."

Approaching Zion, pp. 26-27

Most of us have too much pride to admit that we are silently puttering along in a state of blind traditionalism. In many cases, like my own close call with a potentially disastrous marriage, we follow our own sense of propriety without considering the feelings of the heart. We need to remember that conformity is not a virtue. With that understanding, we will find that diversity isn't really a virtue, either. As Christians, we need to foster an environment that allows God's children to express their individual gifts. Diversity is the result of that effort, and in a true Zion she feels at home.

Over the past semester, I have had to pick over many LDS artists. There are all the typical categories; country, rap, dance, punk rock, and pop. Then, our world also throws in some Especially for Youth soundtracks (LDS camp sort of thing for kids 12-18 years old). But, I have found some really great and talented musicians in the melting pot of all genres.

The two that I am choosing to review are the ones that moved me enough to buy their CD, not just burn it. "The Arrogants" from California and "Low" from Minnesota are worth are your time, so listen up and go check them out!

LOW de Minnesota

If Tim Burton had a band, it would sound like The Great Destroyer LP! I heard their first single, "Monkey," and was absolutely awestruck and sold to the end. The driving melody and raw talent of his voice is just mesmerizing. As the CD goes on, they sing about real life hardships like having to sell the farm, going deaf, and choosing to pursue music instead of college. I am glad that Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker decided to take the chance and pursue music. They were married in college and a few years later met up with Zak Sally and formed Low. Putting these three rhythmists together creates pure musical genius.

NE PLAY ALL LOS MUSICIANS.

THE ARROGANIS

7:30 CST; WED.

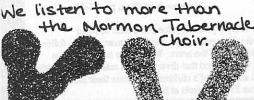
LISTEN...

D-HOST ON KURX



91.7 FM -> LABARUM RADIO

THE ARROGANTS de California You know that classic cliché "we just do it because we love music"? Well, this band actually means it! The Arrogants are anything but sell-outs; you can download almost all their music for free at their website. As for the music, it can often be quite romantic, considering two-thirds of the band is married... but, it's not sappy. Many of the songs are composed of relaxing and cheerful beats that cause thumb-taps and head-bobs. The very subtle and soft voice of Jana Heller is perfection mixed with the strong lyrics of guitarist Jayd McFerson. Other McFerson boys, Jeffrey and Jon, along with Billy Pena round out the group. Together they can satisfy the Indie in all of us!







By: DONAVON LUCAS



DONAVON DJ'S

THE CHURCH DANCES

Z

CAUFORNIA

"O be wise; what can I say more", Jacob 6:12*. I read this at some point on my mission and these small and simple words I think have become the motto of my life and have brought great things to past.

So who am I and why was I asked to write this little article? Well to be brief my name is Donavon. I live in Southern California. I am 27, a returned missionary (Colombia Bogot South Mission), and I am a peculiar individual. Not perfect, but peculiar. I work at Universal Records in the A&R* department, do a Google search on it if you want to know what that is. I also have a little Profile on MySpace called LDS* Around The World which is probably the largest LDS site on MySpace. That may be a good or bad thing. So due to the fact I have that little space, I was asked to do this article and briefly speak on living in the world but not being of the world.

Working in the entertainment industry may seem a bit risky to most LDS members but I have found it overall to be a very enjoyable workplace. I have DJ'ed for LI years now and have managed or worked for a few bands. Music has always been my life next to the gospel. When I got the opportunity to work in the industry I love, I couldn't say no. I also knew one thing; the Media is the most powerful tool to influence not only the youth but the citizens of this world. If all the good people just step aside and think ignoring it is going to change things then they are wrong. The media only exist to give people what they perceive they want. So that is why I choose to take a shot at joining its ranks and maybe make a difference or change!

Everyday, the Adversary* tries to find new ways to make it tougher on us to be in this world, but everyday the Lord works on the anti-virus. I know if we look at our lives daily we will find that He holds true to the words of his servant Alma in Alma 36:3* "...I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day". The past week I have been contemplating why I am in this business...I have not yet made my mark and who knows if I will. When I read this scripture it lifted my spirits, I am here for a reason and these trials are part of strengthening my Spirit so when the task comes to stand in front of the world I will not disappoint Him!

I am finding that the easiest way to deal with the daily moral choices I have to make, aside from the Primary* answers of daily prayer and scripture study, is just to always let people know what I believe. Everyone for the most part knows I am LDS and most know where I stand when it comes to the supposed industry standard of Sex, Drugs, Alcohol and Rock 'n Roll. "Just say no"; and guess what? Most people listen. Those that don't, you just don't associate with anymore. That is how I get it done and I find that there are many people like me, too.

When choosing what I associate myself with, as far as bands or projects, I just try my best to following the I3th Article of Faith* and find all that is "lovely, praiseworthy or of good report" and I also try to find those traits in the people I work with. People appreciate it when you focus on their good traits and not the bad. It can be tough at times but when I think of all who Christ associated with, I think that is how he gained their trust and love. He found what was good in them.

Elder* Robert D. Hales said in the Nov. 2000 issue of the Ensign*, "By choosing to be in His kingdom, we separate, not isolate, ourselves from the world." Get to know others outside of church! How else can we help spread His gospe! I find that the strongest way the gospel is shown in our lives is through our example. Words only mean so much, but people really take notice of how we act. My actions at work, especially the not drinking part, have opened up countless conversations with people you would never think have any interest in the gospel. Let your light shine!

It's ok to be LDS and participate in the Entertainment Industry. How else is there going to be any good in the most powerful medium to shape the youth of today for tomorrow? Just remember you have to be careful when you step into the "DEYIL'S PLAYGROUND". Associate yourself with good people, LDS or not. Even if this is not the route you may go in life, the same difficulties can be found anywhere. Just stand tall and let your light shine. Heavenly Father will bless you. Well, I wish I could say more but I must end for now. Have fun!

Donavon Lucas www.apeculiarlife.com www.myspace.com/novalucas novadj@gmail.com



A PECULIAR LIFE FEATURES PORTIONS OF LABARUM RADIO



Hi Colleen,

I would be glad to help. I have been a member of the church 7 years now. I am a recently endowed* member. I love my calling as YW 1st Counselor*. I joined the church while a student in college. Overall I feel that I have always had a positive experience with the church and its members. I just recently returned from Utah and was really happy with the experience I had there. I am a single mom and I find that the support I get from the church is great. I get more comments from blacks who aren't members of the church. They always comment," there are black mormons?". And of course there is always the question of polygamy.

The only problem I foresee in the future is marriage. I would like to marry a returned missionary in the temple. Race is no problem. When I date non-members they have a hard time grasping the fact that I will not have sex before marriage. I don't know if that is a race thing or not.

I am also a career woman, which is not the norm. I am a forester working for the USDA-Forest Service. My job requires me to travel quite often. Some of the other moms look at me strange because of that and the fact that I work in a male dominated field. I have enjoyed researching my family history. I am the only member of my family that is a member of the church. I have had no objection from my family members. Hopefully, by being a positive example that other members of my family will someday join.

I hope this helps and I hope that I didn't ramble on to much. If you need more info just let me know.

Tonee

like it would be hard be black in the Church — constantle Con! that's a retworking site ?! Y gain perspective.

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the see their times Com Latte Come

I gress I was shocked to See that it didn't bother them to be in such a minority. Call it white

Diversit

Should not think hims one above another.

2 Nephi 29:7 -Gospel is for ALL NATIONS Hey!!

no problemo ... don't mind doing it @ allits actually not random bcuz some 1 once asked the same question

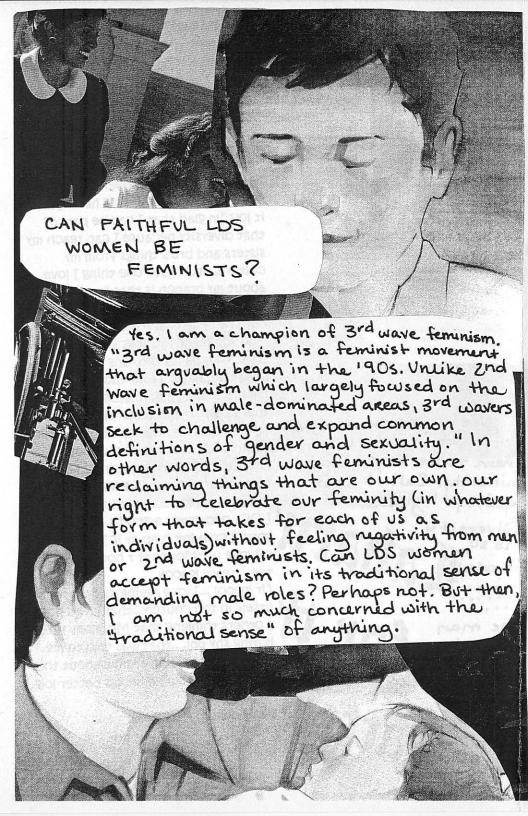
already! hehe Being black In the church is awesome! My branch* is really diverse ...we have every race u can think of here .. I mean it lolz.Im glad that I can be part of that diversity because I can teach my sisters and bro's things from my Culture, and that's one thing I love about my branch is that ur always learning something new....from ppls culture, foods, dressing....and home land songs etc ...things like that .But Its still kinda hard to ans ur question because I never really thought "Ooo I'm black and LDS" maybe bcuz there's also other black ppl that go's 2 my branch so its not something I think aboutIf u wanna know about being a LDS teen and going 2 HS now that's story I can talk 4ever about...or being the only person in ur fam that's LDS .. ooo that's a good 1.

sorry I couldn't help or if I did great! o I love ur "Mormons r hot" tee....really kwool!

Ur kwool ... I love seeing kwool ppl like urself in the church .. that give's hope 2 others thinking that Mormons r just boring shy ppl....that was told to me by some 1 that didn't know about the church, but now he knows better lolz.

Hey how did find me?

uNiQue



LDS Moms By: Julia Kelly

What is the image that comes to your mind when you hear "Mormon stay-at-home mom?" Do thoughts of a submissive, blonde, jello-making mother of ten, seamstress of all of the clothes the family wears, at-the-beckand-call-of-her-husband woman enter your mind? This is a very popular misconception. A myth, really. Has anyone truly ever met someone like this? I never have. Why is this message perpetuated in so many places? About 5 months after I got married, some missionaries of a different faith knocked on my door. When they found out I was Mormon, they immediately began to mention how women are so poorly treated in the LDS faith, and they asked if I was really upset that I was forced to stay at home. I told them that I have never felt like a second class citizen being a woman in my church. I had recently graduated with my degree in teaching and was looking for full-time employment for the upcoming year. This despite the fact that I had just found out that I was pregnant.

I have been in some congregations where 50% of the moms work and other congregations where 90% of the moms work. Not everyone wants to work, but they do so for various reasons. In "The Family: A Proclamation to the World"* distributed by the LDS church, it says, "Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual

adaptation."

I have lived the working mom and the stay-at-home mom roles. My first son was born in the middle of the school year, so I finished out the year and left my son in the care of others. I was exhausted, pumping my breasts during my 20-minute lunch breaks. The commute was long, and all my son did was sleep when I was around him. I felt like I was missing out on afternoon cuddles and kisses. I also loved my job, but it wasn't a hard decision to say that I wanted to be home the next year. Many people were shocked, including extended LDS family members, mostly because my husband had recently begun work on his master's degree.

I really never expected to go back to work, but I did two years later because my son was delayed developmentally, and everyone told me that if he just went to day care then he would be better. He has been diagnosed now as speech impaired, but he is always making progress, even if it is slow for his parents sometimes. Currently I see my son about 1 ½ hours a day. That is just unacceptable to me. And during that short amount of time I am physically and mentally exhausted from my job. I ask myself why I put in so much time helping others' children instead of my own. The school year ends in about one month, and I am totally counting down the days.

The stay at home moms that I know love and teach their children. They have friends and hobbies. They have dreams and goals and they aren't too exhausted to accomplish them. No one fits into one mold. You can't say one is better than the other. Working and being a mom just doesn't work for

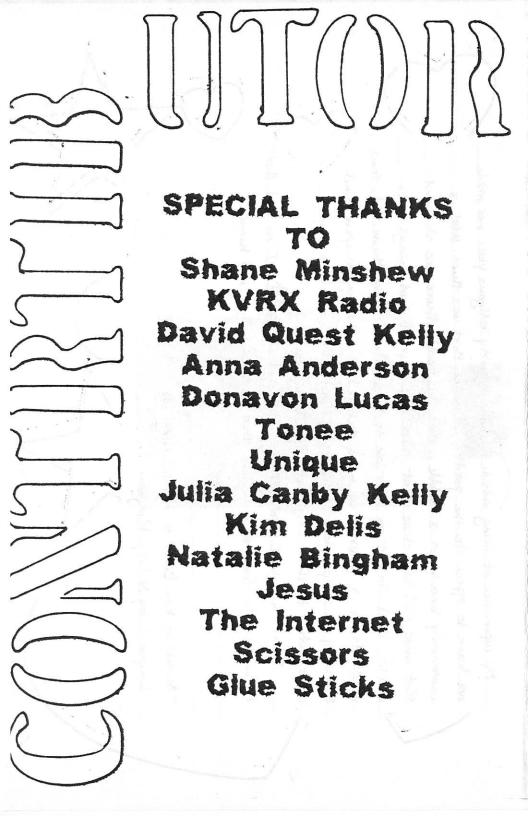
OT AT LIFE THROWGH THE EYES OF A MORMON PUNK

Type I is the kind that are judged by their outward appearance There are two types of punk-forms findic kids in Wash

inactive and become exactly what everyone thought they were in the so much, that they become bitter against the church itself, go by other members of the church. Induced and treated differently

any bester and these bitter per Type 1 punks begin judging Wah, thy they don't let it get to them. Type 2 worries about their relationship The trick is not to get bitter about it. A lot of people make the mistake of judging Utah as a place, not knowing that it's not a matter of the religious influence there but a metter of people just not knowing with God and what he thinks. Not about what others do-think. Type Z is the kind that she judged just as much as Type 1, but busine wantly like the people they're bittle against

world, that it's not so horrible to be sheltered from them. Yet, there Even though I don't think I'll end up in Utal, I'm glad that it's where I'm from and I love that I some call it my home. My experience of living outside a pedominantly redigous place has made weeds to be a balance of teing shuttered and having an open mind. commonly known as a bubble, that the people there are sheltered But most fail to realize that there are so many bad things in the I mu haven to appreciate the positive influence that was thuce. Idah is Especially toward people's appearances. If not, that could be a book contribution to the exection of Type 1 punks. - As told by Kim Delis to Natalic Bingham Composed by Natalie Bingham



* If you didn't understand it, * chances are -It's here ...

A&R In the record industry, it's the department that signs new acts. They organize the practical side of things, the recording, production and selection - not a Mo word. Just a new term.

Alma 36:3 From the Book of Mormon, "And now, O my son Helaman, behold, thou art in thy youth, and therefore, I beseech of thee that thou wilt hear my words and learn of me; for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God shall be supported in their trials and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day."

Articles of Faith Thirteen statements describing the fundamental beliefs of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; originally written by Joseph Smith (first President and Prophet of the Church) in response to a question: "What do Mormons believe in?" Man, I bet that guy got more

than he bargained for.

Asterisk The symbol that tells you to come to this page. - See A+R Branch (from LDS glossary; lds.about.com) Name of a geographic area whose inhabitants are assigned to attend a specific building at a specific time. The attendance is too small to be a ward. Several wards and branches make up a stake. A president is put in charge of the branch.

Elder (from LDS glossary; lds.about.com) The proper title given to holders of the Melchizedek Priesthood. The title is used for members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the First Quorum of the Seventy and for full time missionaries.

Endowed In the plainest terms, after an individual goes through an LDS Temple ceremony (a sacred ceremony outlining hallowed blessings), they are considered "endowed." If you want to know more on that, feel free to convert.

Ensign The official LDS publication, published monthly (all articles are accessible @ lds.org)

Jacob 6:12 From the Book of Mormon, "O be wise, what can I say more?" LDS Acronym for Latter-Day Saints, or Mormons, shortened from the full name of the Church: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Pharisaism Hypocritical observance of the letter of religious or moral law without regard for the spirit; sanctimoniousness - see Asterisk Primary The class for the little munchkins. Our church service is 3 hours longdepending on age you go to specific classes after the entire congregation meets- the meeting for toddlers to 12 year olds is called Primary.

The adversary Satan, evil, the dark side, call it what you will.

The Family: A Proclamation to the World

http://www.lds.org/library/display/0,4945,161-1-11-1,00.html Ward (LDS glossary; lds.about.com) Name of a geographic area whose inhabitants are assigned to attend a specific building at a specific time. A very small ward is called a branch. Several wards and branches make up a stake. A bishop is put in charge of a ward.

YW 1st Counselor YW stands for Young Women, which (like Primary) is a class; The Young Women program is designed for girls ages 12 to 18; the

leadership of the program consists of a President & 2 counselors

put asterisks by Mo-speak. (Mo. noun. short for Mormon.)

LDS/Mormon Blogs
http://www.mormon-blogs.com/

Confessions of a Mormon Liberal http://j.wingets.net/blog.html

Colleen (the editor)'s Blog http://www.theinfamousdance.com/

Official information about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)
http://www.mormon.org/

LDS Frequently Asked Questions http://ldsfaq.byu.edu/

LDS Linkup (The Mormon Myspace)
http://www.ldslinkup.com/

for the

Austin LDS Institute
http://www.lds.org/institutes/home/0,8473,768-1-36-60505,00.html

Religious Tolerance.org: Who is a Mormon? Are they Christian? http://www.religioustolerance.org/ldswho.htm

Free Book of Mormon on MP3 http://www.ldsaudio.com/free-book-of-mormon/

Defense of LDS Faith: Does Mormon doctrine contradict the Bible? http://mormon.7p.com/contradict.html

One-Minute Answers
http://www.lightplanet.com/response/answers/contents.htm