

New Beginnings
February 12, 2008

Presiding: Bishop T.
Conducting: Laurel Class President (Becky J.)
Welcome: Sis. Jennifer F.
Opening Hymn: I Know My Father Lives page 302
Chorister: Renee C.
Pianist: Selina P.
Opening Prayer: Kristyna K..

Court Script for New Beginnings

Court Reporter: (Jennifer O.) Welcome to our courtroom this evening. We have heard rumors that the young women of the Rock Ward are “standing steadfast and immoveable” as witnesses of Christ. We are here tonight to see if there is enough evidence to convict them.

We would like to ask that you in the audience act as the jury. All in favor say “Aye”. Please stand to be sworn in by repeating the Young Women theme.....

Repeat Young Women Theme

I am Sister O. and I will be your court reporter with Sister K. as Bailiff. Sister A. and Sister G. will be our Prosecutor and defense attorney. Has anyone seen Sister G.? (Defense attorney)

Would those in the courtroom please rise? Hear ye, Hear ye, the honorable Judge David F. will preside over these proceedings.

Bailiff: Melissa K.

(Bailiff makes a big show of getting the judge comfortable with pillow to sit on, drink of water, wipe off gavel, beef jerky, and chocolates, etc.)

Judge: (Bro. David F.) (Rap table with gavel) You may all be seated and this court will come to order. The prosecution and defense will now present their evidence to the jury in an attempt to prove that those in question do “Stand steadfast and immovable as Witnesses of Christ”.

Defense Attorney: (Emily G.)(comes in late.....looking as mess) (Make funny character....suitcase filled with food, magazines, nail file etc. to use throughout....unable to plead a case! Ham up however you would like)

Judge: (Shaking head) Not her again! (Pops a giant Tylenol or chocolate)

Court Reporter: First witness!!!

Prosecutor: (Karen A.) I would like to call to the stand the Beehive, Mia Maid and Laurel Class Presidencies of our Ward. Then I would like the Court Reporter to call to order their fellow accused class members.

Defense Attorney: Objection! My clients had no idea they would be called to stand tonight. I have not yet had their sanity evaluated.....(to the side) I've seen them at girls camp and slumber parties....they'll never pass the test.

Judge: Overruled!!!

Prosecutor: Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, I introduce to you the Class Presidencies of our Ward.

President: Becky J.

1st Kylie S.

2nd Ashley S.

Sec: Ashley M.

Mia Maid Presidency

President: Jennifer G.

1st: Skyler S. (Moved here last summer)

2nd: Cherie W.

Sec. Ashley O.

Beehives Presidency

Pres. Selena P. (1 full yr with us, b-day today)

1st Cristina G. (joined us May last year)

2nd Alyssa W. (moved here last summer)

Sec. Heather J. (joined us May last year)

Prosecutor: These young women are guilty of standing steadfast and immovable as witnesses of Christ. They care for each young woman in their class. They help her feel needed and loved. They pray for her, spend time with her, and become genuine friends. They also help class members establish close relationships with each other, learn leadership skills, and live the gospel. They conduct class presidency meetings and plan mutual activities. They are without a doubt standing steadfast and immovable as witnesses of Christ. There is no doubt in my mind that they will be found guilty.

Defense Attorney: Your Honor, I object!! I was busy watching Americas Next Top Model and didn't get around to prepping all the accused. It's just not fair!!!

Judge: (Rolling his eyes) That's a problem for another time. Continue reading in the names of the remaining accused. Ladies you may be seated.

Court Reporter: We want to put a face to the names of the remaining accused, so I would like them stand as their names are called. After everyone from your class has had

their name read, you may be seated. You've already meet the class presidencies, so we'll begin with the Laurels.....then Mia Maids.....them Beehives.
(Reads in the Laurels and Mia Maids, but is interrupted before the Beehives can be read).

Defense Attorney: I object your honor....the Beehives are too young to be subjected to this kind of treatment. They should not be singled out in this way, Why it could.....
.hummm....why it could "hurt their self-esteem".

Judge: (looking surprised) Hummm.....you might actually have a point there.

Prosecutor: Your honor. I assure you that while these young women may seem young at the ages of 12 & 13, they are mature enough young ladies to stand before you tonight. They may be young, but they are already standing steadfast and immovable as witnesses of Christ.

Judge: Very well. Sis. O., continue with the reading of the accused.

Court Reporter: Ladies.... (Reads in Beehives)

Court Reporter: There you have it Your Honor, all of the accused. May the prosecution continue?

Judge: Yes, she may. Oh, and Bailiff, would you mind taking care of the evidence table? We want to have everything displayed prominently for the jury to see.

Bailiff: Yes Your Honor, as you wish.

Prosecutor: Thank you. My next piece of evidence is the Young Women Logo and Motto.

Defense Attorney: (Tries to object, but she has a ding dong stuffed in her mouth)

Prosecutor: May I submit item #1 to the court. **(the Bailiff will hold the motto poster and then place it on the "evidence table")** The torch represents the light of Christ, inviting all to "come unto Christ". It invites all young women to keep the light of Christ with them by keeping his commandments. It is surrounded by the Young Women's motto which is "Stand for Truth and Righteousness".

Court Reporter: Next Witnesses

Prosecutor: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has a three fold mission; Proclaim the gospel, perfect the Saints, and redeem the dead. Even during their teenage years these Young Women are reminded of this mission each time they recite the theme. I would like to call thee young women to the stand to testify how this affects their lives.

Defense Attorney: Objection!!! That is an outrageous request!! Why...some of these girls might not know who they are!! I have a hard time picking what's for breakfast and you're expecting them to testify about some...three fold mission?! That's too much PRESSURE for one person!!

Prosecutor: Judge, I assure you (under breath: that unlike others I know) these young women know EXACTLY who they are! (Still frustrated) Aren't we all on this earth to continue to learn and grow? These young women have been given so many tools by which to learn, what a gift.

Judge: Overruled! You may call your next witnesses.

Prosecution hands the Bailiff the theme to place on the "evidence table".

Prosecutor: This will be item #2. If you remember it begins: We are daughters of our Heavenly Father, Who loves us and we love him. Now I would like to call Miss Jennifer G., Miss Kelly S., and Miss Ashley S. to the stand to complete the theme.

(Jennifer G.)

Proclaim the gospel

We will "stand as witnesses of God in all times and in all things, and in all places..."

(Kelly S.)

Perfect the Saints

...as we strive to live the Young Women Values which are: Faith, Divine Nature, Individual Worth, Knowledge, Choice and Accountability, Good works and Integrity.

(Ashley S.)

Redeem the Dead

We believe as we come to accept and act Upon these values, we will be prepared to Strengthen home and family, make and keep sacred covenants, Receive the ordinances of the temple, and Enjoy the blessings of exaltation.

Prosecutor: Can't you see that these young women are standing steadfast and immovable as witnesses of Christ each and every day. As you heard in the theme there are 7 values mentioned. These are values that they stand for and make a part of their lives. My next witnesses will present the 7 value definitions with their corresponding value scriptures.

Judge: (Looks to the Deference to object, but she has fallen asleep....snoring)
You may proceed.

**7 Young Women present value definition and corresponding value scripture,
Hand the value block to the Bailiff for items #3 thru 9:**

(Alyssa W.)

Faith: I am a daughter of Heavenly Father, who loves me, and I will have faith in His eternal plan, which centers in Jesus Christ, my Savior.
Doctrine & Covenants 14:7

(Madison C.)

Divine Nature: I have inherited divine qualities which I will strive to develop
2 Peter 1:4-7

(Hanna S.)

Individual Worth: I am of infinite worth with my own divine qualities, which I will strive to fulfill.
Doctrine & Covenants 18:10

(Heather J.)

Knowledge: I will continually seek opportunities for learning and growth.
Doctrine & Covenants 88:118

(Challis L.)

Choice & Accountability: I will remain free by choosing good over evil and will accept responsibility for my choices.
Joshua 24:15

(Cristina G.)

Good Works: I will nurture others and build the kingdom through righteous service.
3 Nephi 12:16

(Stephanie W.)

Integrity: I will have the moral courage to make my actions consistent with my knowledge of right and wrong.
Job 27:5

Prosecutor: Do I need to present any more evidence? As these young women live these values, they are standing steadfast and immovable as witnesses of Christ.

Court Reporter: Next Witnesses

Prosecutor: I would like to present some personal examples of the young women in this ward standing steadfast and immovable as witnesses of Christ. I would like to present the Personal Progress Book as item #. On page five it says.....

“There is a great need for every young woman in the Lord’s work, and the Lord is counting on you to do your part. Be prepared to defend values that will help protect, enrich, and guard the home. This is the time to prepare to take your place and stand as a light and guide for members of your family, your friends, your community, and the people of your nation. It will require you to make conscious, deliberate choices.”

We have in our midst a young woman who has done just this while getting ready for her first homecoming dance. Miss Cheri W. is standing steadfast and immovable as a witness of Christ by dressing modestly. When she didn’t have any luck finding a modest

dress she and her mother made one. Her dress was both beautiful and modest. This has not gone unnoticed.

Defense Attorney: OBJECTION! I was not there when Miss W. bought the materials to make her dress, you see my little girl was sick with the flu. I think she caught the bug when.....

Judge: Overruled! Miss W., we would like to hear your testimony on this subject. I have a daughter about your age and we've run into the same problem.

Defense Attorney: OBJECTION!!! This is sounding like favoritism! You're getting way to personal.

Judge: (with a sigh) Definitely overruled!

Have Cheri talk about her experience with her homecoming dress.

Prosecutor: Thank you. Miss W. is not the only young women to put forth such an effort to wear appropriate gowns and dresses to dances and formal affairs....other young women in our area are doing just the same thing. These young women are guilty of being standing steadfast and immovable as witnesses of Christ at all times, and in all places and in all prom and homecoming dresses.....

Judge: I see that we have other witnesses. You may have them approach the bench...

Prosecutor: These girls have truly experienced standing steadfast and immovable as witnesses of Christ in all kinds of situations. I call to the stand Miss Ashley M. & Miss Amanda D. who have been wonderful examples to their classmates at school.

Defense Attorney: Objection! I've been around these girls late at night and they can really get the giggles. I don't think we should chance it.

Judge: Overruled! (looking very annoyed)

Ashley M. & Amanda D. @ school experience

Prosecutor: (Comments on experience) I now call Miss Becky J. who works hard at her job and her standards have had an affect on her co-workers. She is also the third generation to work at the same place. She and her family must be doing something right.

(Judge turns to defense attorney, but she is reading a magazine)

Becky J. @ work experience

Judge: Wow, it's sounding like these Young Women get noticed just about everywhere they go.

Defense Attorney: Objection!!! I don't want to accuse Your Honor of any impropriety, but it's beginning to sound like you're siding with the prosecution. That's totally unfair: I may have to ask Your Honor to recues himself..... (thinking about what she just said). Never mind....I forgot to TiVo my shows tonight and I don't want to miss them.

Judge: (with a sigh) Good to know what's important to you. For the future I suggest you never bring that up again?

Defense Attorney: (Feeling properly scolded) Yes...Your Honor.

Prosecutor: For my next witnesses I would like to call Miss Ashley O. and Miss Alyssa B. both have stood steadfast and immovable as witnesses of Christ while giving service.

Ashley O. & Alyssa B. service experience

Judge: Next witness please.

Prosecutor: I would like to call Miss Briana P. to the stand. She is one of those truly committed youth that sacrifices many hours of sleep to attend early morning seminary.

Defense Attorney: (Looking at the prosecution stunned) Early morning seminary!!!! Now I know you're making things up, or at least living in a dream world. Who in their right mind would be crazy enough to do that? If I don't get my 12 hours each night I'm no good for anyone.

Prosecutor: (under her breath) From the looks of things she didn't get her 12 last night. I assure you Your Honor; I'm not pulling your leg. Just wait until you hear what she has to say.

Judge: Very well, call her to the stand. But I'm warning you, I'll hold you in contempt if I find out you're making this up.

Defense Attorney: (sticks her tongue out at the prosecutor)

Briana P. on Seminary

Prosecutor: See Your Honor, how can you argue with a testimony like that? Miss P. has been blessed by the Seminary program. My next witness has also been blessed by this program as well as countless others. She is preparing herself for her freshmen year at BYU Provo. She is looking forward to experiencing new things and to her continuing growth in the gospel. I would like to call Miss Tayler C. to the stand.

Tayler C. on how she's prepared for her future

Prosecutor: Thank you Miss C., you may be seated. Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury... now I would like to call two more Young Women to the stand. Each of them has been touched by her fellow Young Women through their friendship and examples. Miss. Skyler S. moved into the area last summer and has been welcomed with open arms by her peers. Miss Jennifer Rouse was so touched by the spirit that she was baptized this past December and is doing her best to learn and grow in the gospel.

Defense Attorney: Starts to object, shrugs her shoulders (realizing it's a worthless attempt and then stuffs a candy bar in her mouth).

Skyler S., and Jennifer Rouse

Judge: Does the prosecution have any more witnesses?

Prosecution: Yes your honor. The Young Women in our Ward are participating in the Personal Progress Program with gusto. **(Hold up a Personal Progress Book and give it to the Bailiff for the evidence table.)** They are joining with thousands of other young women who are increasing their powerful influence for good. They are learning to make the Young Women Values part of their lives. They are a guide that helps them to “come unto Christ” and helps them stand steadfast and immovable as witnesses for Christ “at all times and in all things, and in all places.” The personal progress program is a vital instrument in helping the young women to stand as a witness of Christ. In our Ward we have a few young women who are coming close to receiving their Young Women Medallions. One such Young Woman is Miss Catie S.. May I present her to the court to tell about one of her projects and how she thinks working towards her Medallion has helped her “Stand Steadfast and Immovable as a Witness of Christ”.

Catie S. on personal progress

Prosecution: Thank you Miss S.. Your Honor, ladies and gentlemen of the Jury, you've just heard about the Personal Progress Program, but there is another “book” out there that helps strengthen these Young Women. **(Hold up Strength of Youth and give to Bailiff)** Each of them has been given the pamphlet “For the Strength of Youth” and well as abridged copy to carry with them. I would like to call Miss Erica K. to the stand to testify on how this book has affected her. Miss K.....

Erica K. on For Strength of Youth

Sis. F., Sis. S. and Sis. O.: (Rush in as girls are finishing looking tousled and out of breath) Excuse me, excuse me...may we interrupt?

Judge: (pounding gavel) Order in the court! Order in the court!

Leaders: Oh excuse us. Why hello your honor.....it's..well...and “honor” to meet you your honor. (Trying to get things straightened up and shakes the judge's hand) You see your honor we have the privilege of working with these lovely young women and they

really keep us on our toes. We've been observing the proceedings and have come to the conclusion that they will be found guilty. We have something for them to help them survive their time. May we pass them out?

Judge: Please allow the bailiff to inspect everything and if he's satisfied that it's appropriate you may proceed.

Allow the bailiff to inspect them pass out "jail bags"

Prosecution: Your honor, the prosecution rests.

Judge: Is the defense ready to plead their case? (Defense Attorney is asleep again....slap gavel and in a loud voice) HUMMMMMMM.....I SAID IS THE DEFENSE READY TO PLEAD THEIR CASE????

(Defense attorney jumps to attention)

Defense attorney: The defense pleads... (looking beaten) "no contest".

Judge: After examining all the evidence before me, I conclude that these individuals do most assuredly "Stand Steadfast and Immovable as Witnesses of Christ". This court finds them guilty as charged. All in agreement say "I". We will now turn the time over to Bishop T. for sentencing then to Sis. F. to give you the information on the when and where and what will be expected of you during this year of sentencing.

Bishop T.: Ask him to sentence them to continue living as righteous Young Women. Sentence them and their parents to a year of continuing personal progress, either personally working on it, or in assisting other Young Women.

Sis. F.: Overview of 2008 schedule.

Judge: You've heard your sentencing and we would like to start it right away. Parents your young women should have brought their personal progress books with them to court tonight. Take the time to go over them with your daughters, ask them questions about it, and by all means if you have any questions please see someone in the Young Women organization. Also, after completing your year, you will be put on life time probation. Remember we'll be watching you, as will others around you.

Court Reporter: Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your participation and patience. Because you all have been convicted as "standing steadfast and immovable as a witness for Christ", the only thing you'll receive for refreshments tonight is bread and water. The closing song will be "As Zion's Youth in Latter-Days" page 256 and a benediction by Renee C.. Court will adjourn following the song and prayer.