

The way that God leads us doesn't necessarily look like success, as Pastor Randy Roberts (of the Loma Linda University church) pointed out in our video sermon on Sabbath. Was it worth it for Moses to refuse to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter? Rewind to Hebrews 11:24-28 to read a magnificent summary of Moses' choices. God's decree that Moses should die and his death are recorded in Deuteronomy 32:48-52 and all of chapter 34. His appearance with Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration to comfort Jesus is recorded in Matthew 17:1-13 (as well as Mark 9:2-13 and Luke 9:28-36). The whole chapter on "The Death of Moses" in *Patriarchs and Prophets* is worth reading because it gives such a glorious picture of how Moses' sacrifice was rewarded.

- How about us? Do we trust that the way God is leading us will bring ultimate success no matter what it looks like right now? Is it really worth it? If it is, what difference should that make in the choices we make today?
- This morning Stephanie Drechsel forwarded to me an email from one of our VBS crew leaders. If you ever wonder if the stress and work and exhaustion of doing VBS are worth the results, I believe this email will settle that question for you:

I am a very active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Three years ago Bobi Tucker (who knows I am an active LDS) invited me and my children to attend her church's VBS. I accepted and brought my three children. I first came as an observer just to see what was really going on. Within a couple days I invited three more LDS children to come because I thought it was such a great program. I thought the whole neighborhood should go. I was touched by the spirit when we prayed over the blankets that the children had tied and prepared to send to South America. I saw what a marvelous teaching experience it was for all involved—adults and children. My children and the friends I brought LOVED it and couldn't wait till next year.

The following year I asked Bobi if I could be a crew leader even though I was not SDA. She inquired and said it was OK. I was impressed that I was accepted even though I was an outsider. Year two was a blast. Again I was touched by the spirit and the truths that were taught. Year three I was determined to have my mother come and experience what I have seen and felt among you. It was quite an experience for someone who was raised and practices very traditional Mormon faith. Grandma was impressed.

Moral of the story: Bobi Tucker took a chance to reach out to someone she knows and do the Christian thing and invite someone different to her church. Any of you who have done that know that it can be scary because no one wants to be rejected, especially by someone you know. Everyone that I came in contact with was very kind and welcoming.

You have shown me that teaching your children correct principles really matter to you and they are a priority. Your congregation reached out to the community and made a difference. The six children that I brought had the opportunity to learn a little about another church and weren't treated bad because they were not members. Your group has been great examples of what you believe. You are a great group of people and I have enjoyed my interactions with all of you. You are lucky to have a leader like Pastor Randy he is a gifted teacher and leader. Watching and listening to him teach touched me to the core every time. I am thankful for the experience.

Bottom line: I will gladly participate every year that I am able. I will sacrifice my sleep and stock up on Ibuprofen, and support the program.—Melissa Cleary

Aileen Andres Sox