

Introduction to "Press Forward: A Book of Mormon Family Musical" v. 5 (March 5, 2015)

Welcome to the script for our new Stake Musical! For those of you who have read v. 4 of the script, the changes are very minimal - a word adjusted here or there to make the lyrics flow more smoothly with the music. All the songs, scenes, sequence, and characters are the same.

For those who haven't read the script before, *enjoy!* **This script was developed over more than a year's time, under Dave Green's supervision as our Stake Cultural Arts Chairman (thanks Dave!)** and with input from many wise and thoughtful people in our stake and beyond. Hopefully the show will bring these beloved characters to life in some powerful new ways, as we prepare to study the Book of Mormon next year. *Even more importantly, it is hoped that the show will continue to "Invite All to Come Unto Christ," the central and guiding purpose of the Book of Mormon.*

The script follows the life of Nephi and his family, from Nephi's teens to his senior years. We see Nephi's character develop over the decades of his life, in the midst of his many challenges, and alongside the very different character development track of his brothers. **We see loving parents who teach their children well, but who experience heartbreak in the choices of some of them.** It is hoped that the examples of Nephi and his family can be strength and inspiration to those of our stake and beyond, in moving successfully through the challenges that confront us and our families.

The script is built on 3 core messages:

- 1) **"Not a Perfect Family"**: None of us - not even prophets - live perfect lives, or exist in perfect families. We are all human, with both strengths and weaknesses.
- 2) **"Never Stop Loving Them"**: Whether family members make positive choices or negative ones, we must, like our Father above, continue to love and value them.
- 3) **"Press Forward, Steadfast in Christ"**: No matter what we go through in this world, we can turn to our loving Savior, and He will see us through.

The show is to be performed by a large diverse cast, from children to senior adults, including:

- **Several Lead Characters** tying the show together (Older Nephi, 2 Narrators, Lehi, Sariah)
- **Act 1 cast** (teenagers playing Nephi and his peers, with supporting characters of many ages)
- **Act 2 cast** (adults playing Nephi and his peers, with supporting characters of many ages)
- **Angel Choir** (where people will perform when they're not onstage elsewhere)
- **Onstage Chorus** (people of Jerusalem; children; warriors in final battle scenes, etc.)
- **Live Instrumentalists**, involved in recording an accompaniment soundtrack for the show.

In addition, as we discussed in our first meeting, we will need to enlist people with a variety of talents to help with a wide diversity of tasks, including: costumes, sets, props, lights, sound, publicity, makeup, graphic design, photography, choreography, acting and music direction, missionary outreach, cast management, etc. **Hopefully, as we labor together as a stake to turn this script into vibrant onstage experience, we can build unity, strengthen faith, expand talents, and have lots of fun together!**

Dave Green scheduled the Conference Center Theatre for us the last 2 weeks of April 2016; we will perform there **April 28 – 30th**. The CCT will print tickets for us, provide lights and sound, give us access to costumes, and work with us on developing the script and production. Hopefully this will be an exciting and memorable experience for the children, youth, men, and women of our stake! -- **Carrie W.**