

## PURE RELIGION

# Did Not Our Heart Burn within Us?

They were not rude or disrespectful, but they were demanding, these reporters from Seoul, Korea—five men who represented the five largest national newspapers in South Korea. One newspaper alone had a circulation of 10 million. These reporters made request after request, and when the information did not materialize quickly enough, they were impatient. They were powerful men, and they knew it. They were men who shaped the opinions of the masses, men who daily demonstrated the truth of the phrase, “The pen is mightier than the sword.”

They had come to Salt Lake City to file stories about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After three days, they’d nearly worn out Bill and Sidney Price of Church Hosting. Brother and Sister Price had done their best to show them the significant sites of Salt Lake City, but nothing seemed to impress them. Throughout their stay they remained cold and professional. They rarely spoke except to ask formal questions. “Usually, a guest will begin to warm as we show them Temple Square and other Church sites,” Sister Price explained, “but in this case, nothing. They said little, and when they did speak it was usually to request information of one kind or another. Nothing seemed to reach them.”

The fourth and final day the reporters would be in Salt Lake City approached and still they had not seen Welfare Square or the Latter-day Saint Humanitarian Center. The Prices had hoped to get an early start on that one remaining day, but the reporters were late filing their stories and weren’t available until 11:30 a.m. To make matters worse, they had a 2:00 p.m. commitment that couldn’t be broken. Undaunted, the Prices decided they’d do the best they could and take them on a whirlwind, hit-the-highlights tour.

They practically ran through the LDS Humanitarian Center, but in spite of the necessarily superficial nature of the tour, the reporters began to warm up. They started talking to each other. The cold, professional look gave way to one of enthusiasm and excitement.

Just as quickly, they hurried through Welfare Square. By the time they had finished, the reporters were animated and talkative. One of the journalists pulled Brother Price aside. “I think I understand now the difference between this welfare program and all the other governmental assistance programs,” he said.

Brother Price asked him to explain. He said, “The Korean government has a reasonably adequate welfare program. Many of the developed nations also have their version of the same. But each of those programs is based upon two principles: politics and money. The fortunes of the poor are dependant on who is in power and how the politicians balance politics and money. Your program,” he continued, “is based upon two entirely different principles: sacrifice and love. Government programs try to help the poor. The welfare program of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only one that can work to truly benefit the poor.”

Finally, something had penetrated the cool exterior of these professional journalists—the discovery of the secret that drives the welfare program of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They saw firsthand how the gospel of Jesus Christ inspires its members to so love their fellow man that they are willing to sacrifice their time, resources, and talents to lift the lives of others. They had discovered the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

