

B'nai Shalom, Children of Peace, Org.
Our Mission Statement: What Does It Mean?

Preamble: Our Mission Statement highlights a chapter in the Book of Mormon as our ensign; calling together in fellowship the families of Ephraim and Judah in this dispensation, as promised by the Lord in all sacred scripture. Many members, I suspect, do not understand this very important chapter and how it relates to our organization. The following Explanation will help to clarify an essential portion of the Plan of Salvation that B'nai Shalom, Children of Peace, is founded upon.

Marlena Tanya Muchnick-Baker
International President

Affiliation with B'nai Shalom is open to all members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other interested in promoting the objectives of the organization, whether or not such persons are of Jewish ancestry.

A) An invitation to our members and *interested others* to enjoy social fellowship insofar as they agree with and/or respect the beliefs and objectives of our Organization. B'nai Shalom, Children of Peace, Org. holds social gatherings to inform and entertain through activities that invite the presence of the Holy Ghost, foster an understanding between the families of Joseph and Judah, and inspire and reinforce testimonies of the Restored Gospel.

B) B'nai's invitation is extended to those who are of Jewish lineage, and to those who are not. We endeavor to share spiritual experiences and expressions through our twice yearly gatherings in LDS church buildings.

C) Our Salt Lake core group and chapter(s) are to embrace the same expression of the Mission Statement. **A chapter is a reflection and extension of the core group, responsible to those same governing documents, working in unity.**

D) Those who support our organization will further its progress: they help to encourage and nurture one another, while sharing the other "objectives", as explained in the following paragraphs.

"We believe in the gathering of Israel and the fulfillment of ancient covenants as described in the Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 29; that it is an ensign proclaiming the gospel of salvation."

A) We are an assembly of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Lord's ancient covenant people. Those of us who plan and organize our gatherings should be of one mind, relative to "the gathering of Israel", as explained below:

B) The Abrahamic Covenant was bestowed upon Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants (the Twelve Tribes of Israel). See Genesis 12:1-3: 15. The eternal covenants were given to mankind through the atonement and sacrifice of our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

C) The Book of Mormon assures us those eternal covenants will be fulfilled only in these latter days. This quote makes clear the situation that caused the *Diaspora* (dispersion):

"As descendants of Abraham, the tribes of ancient Israel had access to priesthood authority and blessings of the gospel, but eventually the people rebelled. They killed the prophets and were punished by the Lord. Ten tribes were carried captive into Assyria. From there they became lost to the records of mankind... Two remaining tribes continued a short time and then, because of their rebellion, were taken captive into Babylon. ... A loving but grieving Father vowed, "I will scatter you among the heathen," and that He did—into all nations." Elder Russell M. Nelson, The Gathering of Scattered Israel", October 2006 General Conference

D) The Great Apostasy eventually brought spiritual darkness to the earth, but Heavenly Father, through his prophets, also promised an eventual gathering of those lost tribes. Through establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Gospel is today being preached to the world. The Gathering is under way.

E) The Restoration of all things began through the calling of the Prophet Joseph Smith. "All divine powers of previous dispensations were to be restored through him". ([Russell M. Nelson, "The Gathering of Scattered Israel"](#)). Because of the First Vision, the Restored Church is on the earth today.

F) This knowledge is available to all who seek it in through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Book of Mormon speaks of these prophecies and their fulfillment in our day, in 2 Nephi 29 and in numerous other scriptures. These scriptures testify that Heavenly Father is preparing the way to bring the families of Judah and Joseph together again through acceptance of their ancient covenants that have been restored in these latter days.

G) The membership of B'nai Shalom, Children of Peace, Org. believes they are the covenant people of the present dispensation; the spiritual descendants of the Jews, God's first covenant people – and heirs to the promises through membership in the Church. *They are a bridge between present and past.*

H) Members also accept the Plan of Salvation:

- Truth of the Resurrection through the atonement of Christ,
- Knowledge of our pre-earth life
- True nature of the Godhead
- Three Degrees of Glory
- Laying on of hands through the Holy Ghost
- Sacrament covenants
- Restored priesthood as in the primitive Church
- The Book of Mormon and additional scriptures
- Continuing revelation
- Living prophet and apostles
- Baptism by one having priesthood authority
- Temple ordinances for the living and dead.

I) How does 2 Nephi 29 fit into this picture? The Lord tells us he remembers the covenants he made with the Jews; he will recover them again. We read his promise in another sacred scripture – The Book of Mormon. He reminds us of the promises made by ancient prophets foretelling the future of the House of Israel. He tells us the Gentiles will reject the Book of Mormon, but Jews are his ancient covenant people who produced the Bible. He speaks of the Gentiles who have forgotten the Jews – they have “cursed them and hated them” (verse 5). The Restored Gospel is an ensign to all nations.

J) The seminal part of 2 Nephi 29 is based on the Lord's words spoken through the Hebrew prophet Nephi “... *the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? ... And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of two nations shall run together also.*” He tells us the Bible does not contain all his words. He speaks to the Nephites and the Jews - they shall have each other's words. God shall gather the house of Israel (12 tribes) home to the lands of their possessions. He will remember his “seed” forever as he seals the covenant he made with Abraham. The Bible joined with the Book of Mormon is that prophetic testimony – the bridge between the families of Israel. Jew and Gentile are brethren separated through wars and purges. They must be reunited and invited to feast at the Lord's table.

K) Can we hurry up the timing of missionary work to the Jews? Is this a function of B'nai Shalom? No. In chapter 54:2 of Isaiah we learn we must “*Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes.*” This is the ultimate plan of the Lord, as he stated in the great Intercessory Prayer to his Father: “*Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none*” (John 18:9). And again in Isaiah 49:16, referring to the Jews: “*Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands...*” The Lord is in charge. He has not forgotten the Jewish people. He *determines the timetable of missionary work to other nations and races. It is not a function of B'nai Shalom.*

L) Israel will be gathered with power in the last days because the Messiah will be a light unto the Gentiles. We, as Latter-day Saints need to gather **our** spiritual oil *before we can teach those who lack it, so together* we will be fulfilled. *B'nai Shalom's purpose is to enjoy the fellowship of our members and friends. The ancient promises restored to Jew and Gentile are our binding agent.*

M) B'nai Shalom is like a bridge that seeks to bring the Restored Gospel to those who seek it through the activities listed in A, B, C, D. We promote, encourage and provide interest and opportunity in fellowship so we can progress together. We then become a living “bridge”.

N) Some have asked to have representatives of the Jewish religion teach us in our gatherings, which are held in church buildings. Our Organization's Constitution has developed criteria for choosing this option. In the main, they are welcome to hear our testimonies and be spiritually uplifted.

B'nai Shalom has rarely hosted speakers of other faiths. All speakers must be compatible with our values. **Non-LDS speakers do not carry a testimony of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ.** Our Board of Directors and Presidencies will consider these choices very carefully. Jews do have the sword of religious energy and commitment, but without an understanding of the items mentioned above, their lives lack blessings that can be theirs.

"Objectives of this organization shall be carried on within the framework of existing LDS programs, and are as follows: A. To promote the faith, activity and spirituality of Jewish members (by some descent) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ("Church"), their families, and other members of the Church ("Mormons") and other interested persons.

B. To encourage interest in genealogical work by members of the Church of Jewish ancestry. To develop a program to assist members with problems of research peculiar to Jewish heritage through use of genealogical research and available options.

C. To provide, via gatherings and other events, the opportunity for Members to enjoy Jewish culture, e.g., music, food, and conversation in the context of membership in the Church. To promote understanding of culture, traditions and attitudes between Mormons and Jews.

D. To engage in other spiritually based activities directed to carrying out objective of the organization."

Disclaimers:

This Organization has no affiliation with the Church, does not represent the Church, receives no support from the Church, is not sanctioned by the Church in any way; therefore, its actions cannot be attributed to the Church.

No officer, Director, or member shall proselytize or act in any way that may be construed as having the purpose of proselytizing of descendants of Abraham in the State of Israel.

Important Note: *The Disclaimers are an important part of our Statement. B'nai Shalom, Children of Peace, Org. is chartered as a non-secular entity. We are a volunteer organization. We essentially are a spiritually driven social group that meet in LDS church buildings. We have the cautionary warning not to exceed our bounds as a social group dedicated to the Lord and his Church, yet separate from all Church connections. Our word is our bond in this regard and we ask all who join our gatherings to honor our Mission Statement by not opening the possibility of discordant, political or missionary intentions.*