



The idea behind the HOPE blog was to feature stories of specific interactions with church leaders or members, callings, or experiences at church. The positive experiences could be used as best practices for us to pass on to our church leaders. The painful experiences help us advocate for change.

Throughout WAVE's first year, we featured HOPE blog stories ranging from experiences with feminist awaken-

stories ranging from experiences with feminist awakenings, including a Bishop's waking up to feminist issues, how feminist resources can affect real change for youth standards night, an experience of censoring a Mormon.org profile, and a successful stake conference. The HOPE blog is continuing to post stories of the good and sometimes not-so-good ways

women are treated in the church.

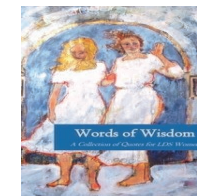
We hope to bring you more stories over the next year that highlight the best of our religion and the places that could still use a little work. We at WAVE truly believe that it is only in sharing our stories and using our voices that substantive change can be accomplished.

GIVING WOMEN VOICE

LDS WAVE Won an Award

We'd like to thank the Academy City Weekly...

In March, LDS WAVE was honored in City Weekly's Best of Utah 2011 awards ceremony. Our very own Tresa Edmunds was there to accept the award for "Best Mormon Feminist" on our behalf. We are honored beyond belief.



02 LDS WAVE HISTORY; WORDS OF WISDOM PROJECT



03 WOMEN'S SERVICE MISSION; CALLS TO ACTION; ASK A FEMINIST



04 THE HOPE BLOG; WAVE NEWS

TO SHARE YOUR STORY EMAIL US AT: HOPEIDEAS@LDSWAVE.ORG



Get daily updates about WAVE along with links to interesting stories and social justice actions by joining our Facebook group.



Help us spread the word about WAVE, and let us know how we can help women in your area.

LDSWAVE.ORG

LDS WAVE in the Media

The media reception WAVE has received over our first year has been extraordinary, beginning with the Salt Lake Tribune including our arrival in the article "[Mormon Feminism: it's Back](#)" and highlighted especially by Salt Lake City Weekly creating an award for us in their yearly Best of Utah awards, naming us "[Best Mormon Feminists](#)." City Weekly also published a couple of interviews earlier in the year, one [introducing](#) WAVE and our goals, and the other in response to comments on that piece surrounding the issue of [changing tables](#) in men's bathrooms. KRCL's RadioActive dedicated an [episode](#) to the mission of WAVE, talking with board members Chelsea Shields Strayer and Meghan Raynes Matthews, and we have also been featured in articles on Patheos.com, and Bitch magazine. In response to a list published by Deseret News highlighting Mormon intellectuals, WAVE wrote an [editorial](#) highlighting the lack of women on the list and announcing an effort to recognize the intellectuals in our community who also happen to be women. WAVE board members have also become recognized experts on issues surrounding Mormonism and women and have been featured in many episodes of Mormon Matters, Mormon Stories, and KRCL's RadioActive.

TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN THE LDS CHURCH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A New Year, A New Wave

DEAR READERS,

Have you ever wanted to: 1) search the entire bloggernacle for all the great posts and comments written on one topic? 2) get a consensus from the online forums to explain (in bullet point formatting) the best way to do something, say, talk to your kids about sex, or modesty, or abuse? 3) direct a friend to the posts that helped you without having to give her 45 links and 35 caveats?

I have often wished for all of these things. I admire and appreciate the many thoughtful Mormon-based blogs out there, but I never have time to keep up on all of them. When I do make the time to search through my favorite blogs with a topic in mind, I often get entrenched in people's stories, sidetracked to other links, and eventually forget what I started out researching in the first place. As the acting president of WAVE this year my goal is to create solutions to of these problems and at the same time fulfill our mission of increasing women's voice and equality in the church.

We are doing some really exciting things at WAVE this year! The greatest feedback we got from our actions last year (from both conservative and liberal members) was from our Words of Wisdom quote book of LDS women. We saw a need (women's voices were not present in 2010 church curriculum materials) and we filled it (our book has more than 150 quotes from women on topics ranging for scriptures to motherhood). We are going to do a similar thing this year by creating a series of **Topical Guides** that will give women's input on various subjects that impact our daily lives as members of the church. For example, we were contacted this year by a bishop wondering what he can do to include women more in his ward. In conjunction with Caroline's recent post about [how to empower women on a ward level](#), WAVE is going to great a guide of suggestions about how women and church leaders can increase gender equality in wards.

However, we want to include suggestions from and previously written posts about this subject throughout the bloggernacle. As such we will need everyone's participation in this project. WAVE has begun creating committees for various topics who will create a first draft of the guide. Then we will make it available to the larger bloggernacle for people to add contributions, advice, and comments based on their experiences (kind of like an open source document). We have already created a [website](#) where people can add links and summaries about what has been written on that topic... (Continued on Pg. 2)



LDS WAVE'S

Vision

1. Provide a safe place to discuss struggles with gender inequality in the LDS church.
2. Work with leaders to allow a more full participation of women and aid in the retention of women.
3. Promote social justice for women both within the church and in the larger world.
4. To encourage LDS women to understand their rich history, develop every spiritual gift promised them and claim the blessings of heaven.

A NEW YEAR, A NEW WAVE

on the various blogs so far. Then we will edit, format, and make it available for free on WAVE's website.

Some of the other topics we are pursuing this year are: how to teach chastity and intimacy, modesty, what to do about sexual abuse and domestic violence, a guide for women and the temple, and how to go back to school after raising a family. If you are interested in being on one of the WAVE committees for a particular **Topical Guide** please contact me at askafeminist@ldswave.org. If you would like to include posts from your own website in one of these guides please go [here](#) and fill out the requested information.

We are very excited about some of the new things we are doing this year and look forward to including as many people in this process as possible. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Shields Strayer

The History of LDS WAVE

On March 21, 2010 Jessica Steed emailed a group of women she thought would be interested in a Mormon Feminist Activist group. The women she invited were people who had responded with great ideas or enthusiasm to the [activist post](#) she had written on The Exponent blog, or women that she knew were already interested in the movement. Jessica felt a lot of passion from brilliant women regarding Mormon feminism and thought we should just start a movement, by building a website and moving toward local chapters.

Our original board included Chelsea Strayer Shields Susan Christiansen Meghan Raynes Emily Clyde Curtis Tresa Edmunds Jenne Alderks Stephanie Snyder Elisabeth Calvert Smith Kaimi Wenger Caroline Klein

After months and a dozen conference calls, we chose the name LDS WAVE- Women Advocating for Voice and Equality, an ac-

tion to advance the cause of gender equality in the church. We want to be a movement that facilitates increasing women's role in the LDS church. We believe that equality is at the heart of Christ's gospel and will move through the church like a wave, small at first, but growing and embracing all members.

Our conference calls were full of enthusiasm and brainstorming. We discussed ways that we could connect with other organizations to be a clearinghouse for resources. We also wanted to have Calls to Action which would invite women and men to take a step toward equality for women and respond with their experiences. With help from Jenne Alderks, our Facebook page became a popular spot for conversations regarding Mormon feminism.

Meghan Raynes, Jenne Alderks, and I worked on our [mission](#) and vision statements over the summer as the website was under construction. Tresa Edmunds did the thankless

work of developing our beautiful website. This site showcased all of our features— the HOPE blog, Women's Service Mission, Calls to Action, Ask a Feminist, Feminism 101, Resources and Support, and Words of Wisdom.

It has been quite a year. Our biggest project for the year and one of our first Calls to Action was Words of Wisdom, a quote book which compiled quotes by LDS women on many gospel topics and quotes by General Authorities on issues of women and equality, which turned out to be a resounding success.

We have had our fair share of criticism but we have also been met with more enthusiasm and support than we ever could have imagined.

As we celebrate our one year anniversary, we look forward to another year of working with you to advance the cause of gender equality in the LDS church and in the world.

A REFLECTION ON THE WOMEN'S SERVICE MISSION

I started out the year by saying that the creation of the WAVE Women's Service Mission was a vision realized. Its been a joy to challenge myself and join with others in advocating at the societal level on issues that do not just affect LDS women, but women everywhere. Part of the goal of the Women's Service Mission is to take an objective look at the causes of human suffering in the world and then methodically [seek effective responses](#) in alleviating this suffering. With the focus on verifiably effective programs, like those recommended by [Give Well](#) and [Charity Navigator](#), the next step is to individually and collectively work to support those efforts. The most inspiring outcome of the Women's Service Mission in the last year was the creation of [Talents of Sisters](#), a craft and collectible cooperative founded by WAVE supporter Courtney Cooke. Using funds generated by sales of crafts and goods on Etsy.com, Talents of Sisters has been able to fully fund projects like providing a latrine to enable girls to continue attending

school in the African bush while they menstruate, or transportation to cut their travel time to school or sterile birth supplies to prevent infection in newborns and mothers. Women's Service Mission has tackled issues that affect women and families in more developed countries: issues such as employment discrimination, flexible work options for mothers and fathers, and health concerns of particular interest to women. The Women's Service Mission hosted guest posts on various topics and a book club with the book [Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide](#). The Women's Service Mission challenged LDS women to reevaluate the economic structure of their own family to become more [self-reliant](#), empowered and [equal](#) in their household duties. The work of the Women's Service Mission has barely begun and the conversations are just getting started. In the coming year and the years to come, guest posts on topics of significance to individuals are always

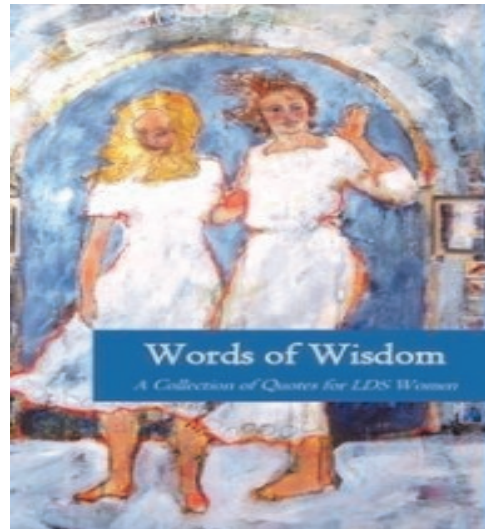
welcome. The WSM exists to offer a platform for LDS women to voice their deepest desires when it comes to blessing the lives of other women. Larger scale coordinated efforts are needed at the levels of the ward, stake and internet community. Keep your eyes out for more cerebral discussion of the issues as well as action opportunities that will assist us as Latter-day Saints to "mourn with those who mourn and comfort those who stand in need of comfort" and "care for the poor and the needy."

-Jenne Alderks



CALLS TO ACTION

When we were envisioning WAVE and its possibilities over a year ago, a central focus of the project was to take action. Not only were we going to talk about ways to broaden Mormon women's opportunities, but we were going to act toward that end. Thus our Calls to Action platform was launched as an important aspect of the WAVE vision. We began with soliciting quotes for our Words of Wisdom quote book, with the idea that for women to ever be seen as spiritual authorities within the Church, Mormons must know what our women leaders have said about various topics, and what our male leaders have said about the equality of women. Later we turned our Calls to Action focus on affirming the Church's efforts to represent women in all their diversity, as we encouraged people to write to the people in charge of Mormon.org and thank them for profiles that featured non-traditional women. Another important thrust of Calls to Action this last year was to help people interested in Mormon feminist activism to connect to one another in real life. And so, we encouraged our supporters to form their own chapter and book group, with the idea that feminist action is most powerful and most easily sustained when we act in concert with others. As we look forward to the next year of WAVE and Calls to Action, we envision producing several new resources for Mormon women and men hoping to expand women's visibility and contributions within the Church.



The goal of Words of Wisdom this past year was to seek out wisdom and knowledge by or about women and to compile these words into an accessible format. This was no small undertaking, but we felt inspired both by President Julie Beck's encouragement to know our Relief Society history as well as our desires to have women's voices heard more in church meetings and in our homes. We spent hours reading dozens of conference talks and books to find the quotes that we thought would be most helpful and edifying. We also received many quote submissions, for which we are very grateful. The book surely could not have been as extensive had we not received this help. We were excited to finish the Words of Wisdom quote book just before Mother's Day, in honor of the women in our history who have led and contributed to Relief Society in innumerable ways. Some wards used them as Mother's Day gifts and many others downloaded the [online-version](#). We were very excited to also be able to offer a professionally-bound version through [Lulu](#), where over 400 copies have been purchased at cost. This coming year we look forward to producing the second volume of Words of Wisdom. We hope to have it completed at the beginning of April so more people can use the books as Mother's Day presents.

Have you asked a feminist yet?

The purpose of *Ask a Feminist* was to allow readers, the supportive and antagonistic, a place to dialogue about WAVE's purpose, mission, goals, and premises. We started out the year discussing what it means to be a feminist, faithful, member of the church while desiring change for greater women's equality. *Ask a Feminist* clarified that we are *not* an organization fighting for the priesthood, or against stay-at-home moms and church leaders. Some of our most popular posts were [36 reasons why we feel unequal](#) in the church, the [consequences of male-only leadership](#), and our response to [a critique of WAVE](#) at Mormon Feminism: a Patheos Symposium. We got a few questions from people critical of our efforts, but we were inundated with more questions than we ever got around to posting from women and men who were in need of real support in their struggle to live with the difficult repercussions of gender discrimination and inequality in the church.