

The Joseph Smith Papers
By Ronald Esplin
2008 FAIR Conference

Thanks Scott and I am pleased to be here. This is a season of Joseph Smith Papers because we are finally counting down to publication and will be more than a virtual project. Max Evans who headed the NHPRC, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission which is a commission of the National archives is now on our board of directors, the editorial board of the Joseph Smith Papers. Long time friend; many of you may know him from his work in history in Utah earlier.

Max said to us once when he looked at our ambitious publication schedule, Ron, you have to remember nobody, in other words in these kinds of projects, nobody ever get's anything done in the first 5 years. It takes that long to get your arms around the project. And in fact there has been a recent study of documentary editing projects which suggests that the average time is 7 years. We have then become more or less average, we haven't beat the average but when I am looking embarrassing in the company we travel in.

But finally we are moving to publication beginning this fall. For our first volume in late fall and another volume first quoted next year and marching forward with two sometimes three volumes a year from that point. I want to say one word about the orientation of the project that will provide some context and background that will be useful as I provide an overview with the aid of this PowerPoint.

I noticed the first word on your program is defending and the last word on our vita or our description of the Joseph Smith Papers would be defending. And that's important for you to know. There'll be plenty of materials in our corpus once they're done for defending and for those who are so minded; they'll find some things for attacking. But our job is to present the material in a scholarly fashion that folks from many persuasions and certainly non member scholars can access and have confidence and then use to write better history about Joseph Smith and early Mormon beginnings.

The brethren who have control of our materials, without whom we could not publish because the church owns 90% of the Joseph Smith Papers, have clarified over the years that it's essential that we meet the scholarly audience first that everything about our work our eventual website, our publications must be geared to the scholarly audience and that if we don't meet that audience we have failed.

We on the Joseph Smith Papers are confident that if we can lay out the life and works of Joseph Smith, Jr. through his papers, he'll do fine. And so our task is understanding, making available in a way that you can understand the materials that document Joseph Smith's early life from his own papers and that's a little bit different than some might assume would come from the Church History Department under the auspices of the Church Historian in Salt Lake City.

But in fact this is first and foremost an effort to be like other documentary editing projects that provide materials that folks can use to write about Joseph Smith and I'll talk about how that is done and why it's important. Hopefully we'll answer fairly quickly because I want to leave sometime for questions. These questions here: What are the [Joseph Smith] papers? Why is it important? How does the project "work?" How do we operate and undertake our endeavors? And we won't have much time but maybe a word or two about what this tells us of Joseph Smith.

Elder Jensen, Church Historian is now our boss. He chairs the Executive Committee of the Joseph Smith Papers and gives us counsel, support, and assistance. He has called us in print "The single most significant historical project of our generation." One of the reasons why I think that's true is not going to be addressed in the details I'll provide in just a moment but is an interesting little side note of what's happening behind the scenes with the Joseph Smith Papers project.

Here we are 175 years after, more than 175 years after, the organization of the Church and we as a people, we as Latter-day Saints scholars do not understand the documentary record of our beginnings. Beginnings are always interesting. They are very important and for Latter-Day Saints they are crucial. As a historian I've used these records many of them for a long time. They have been known to us and many others have used them but we have not necessarily understood them in the way that allows us to have to full meaning and full understanding of how they document our beginnings.

And never before have we had a concerted effort of a large group of scholars focused together on unraveling or interconnecting in many cases these documents and understanding them in great detail. The rewards will be terrific in terms of understanding where we came from, who we are. President Hinckley in 1978 was one of the advisors I think they were called liaison to the Twelve back then, to the Historical Department responsible for counseling the directors of the Department on History.

And he said to us one day when he was over giving some general counsel to the staff at a staff meeting that he scratches his head often when he was over across this plaza in the Church Administration Building and in all these long meetings and I said to myself we would not have to have these long meetings if we understood our history. And then he said to us the historians if we're going to stay on the track the Lord put us on at the beginning of this dispensation we must know our history. It's clearly crucial for Latter-Day Saints who are historical people not just conceptually believing in the biblical accounts and other scriptural accounts but reliving those accounts in our lives and founded on historical events, it's crucial that we understand our history.

And in a real sense this is maybe the first time when we've had concentrated effort year-after-year of a group of scholars and archivists working to understand our history in more detail. This will be a comprehensive edition of all known Joseph Smith documents. What that means is we are not selecting the interesting ones or the important ones. We are not deselecting the controversial or the boring ones; we're publishing the Joseph Smith Papers that is whatever meets our criteria as a Joseph Smith Paper.

It is not a documentary history. We are not bringing together everything about Joseph Smith, We're bringing together the materials that were part of his office, his collection, his creation of papers. The letters he wrote, the letters he received and that were in his office. The minutes of meetings where he presided but also the minutes of the high council which happened to be recorded in a minute book in his office.

So that's sort of the parameters of what we are doing; gathering things that were Joseph Smith Papers and we are doing this following modern documentary editing standards of which I'll say more in a moment. Documentary editors are dedicated to gathering, transcribing, annotating and publishing documents of historical events, or movements, or figures and in this case of course Joseph Smith.

Why is our project important? Here are some of the reasons? It will make available many of the most important sources of Joseph Smith's life and work? It will of course provide accurate access to these materials for scholars wherever they're working. And what this results in it's happened with other documentary editing projects in our first preliminary works that Dean Jesse's done it's been demonstrated. When scholars have access to the right sources they use them. In fact if they don't use them they can't be credible, once they are easily accessible to everyone and that will mean more scholars use them. In fact if they don't use them they can't be credible once they are easily accessible to everyone and that will mean more scholarship about Joseph Smith and early Mormon beginnings, it will mean better scholarship than we would have otherwise.

The project will also preserve materials in two ways. One, we have lot of skill going into getting accurate transcripts and the transcript themselves preserve these documents but we also are able to use modern technology to preserve digital images that have data beyond what the eye can see. And as we go through the project and identify the most important things and create digital records of them we are preserving them in a state they are now and they won't get any better.

It's important then because we'll have more accurate texts, easier access to the records, it brings everything together in one place, and we will put the documents in historical context. We are not just throwing the documents out there although we're going to do some of that too. Our website will have facsimiles of documents and transcriptions of documents before they have historical annotation in many cases.

But in the published volumes and eventually on the website we will provide context that allows you to see how documents work together the historical setting in which they were created and operated and how they interconnect. Many other projects have paved the way for us. The Thomas Jefferson Papers were first. On the 200th anniversary of the birth Thomas Jefferson 1943 Julian Boyd set himself the task of gathering all the Thomas Jefferson Papers and preparing what he envisioned to be a comprehensive addition of Thomas Jefferson Papers according to new modern scholarly standards.

It took him 7 years, 1950 the first volume was published and that goes on that work is not finished yet. Our body of materials is a little less, our resources are more and we're not going to take 57 years but we have taken a while and we're going to take a while longer before this is done. After Julian Boyd and Thomas Jefferson many other projects also started up. I can bear testimony if you will, to the importance of these because of the Benjamin Franklin papers.

When I say scholars will do more studies and better studies I can point to my master thesis as an example. I happened upon a topic of young Benjamin Franklin for my master thesis at the University of Virginia which happened to fall within the period that had already been done in the Benjamin Franklin papers. The first 11 volumes provided me a goldmine. I went to New York Public Library, the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, to the National Archives but where I really did my work was in the Alderman Library in Charlottesville at the University of Virginia with the Benjamin Franklin Papers. And we want that to be accessible in the same way to scholars anywhere dealing with Joseph Smith and early Mormon beginnings.

In February there were a series of hearings and testimony before Congress about documentary editing projects and one of the participants was Ralph Catchum who underscored that, beginning with the work of Julian Boyd, these modern editions have set a standard for documentary editing that is so different than 19th century standards or even earlier 20th century, in terms of the rigorousness and their scholarship, that everything since then must meet those standards or they are not credible. So it's not just that we want to meet the standards, which we do, but we must or people cannot have confidence and will not use our materials.

David McCullough is one who has testified not just in Congress in February, but in many of his works and speeches about the importance of the papers of the Founding Fathers. Not an academic historian but a historian who's relied on the folks that are pulled together all these materials for 50 years. He says it allows people like him and will allow people without extensive historical training, writers and scholars of other disciplines to write good history, accurate history because the materials have been brought together by fine scholars.

Therefore we have these great biographies and historical studies of the revolutionary area. We could not have them without the Founding Fathers. Their value is unassailable, immeasurable, they're superbly edited, they are thorough, they are accurate. Now scholars would smile—"The footnotes are pure gold." No one would expect people to think that footnotes are gold but they are masterpieces of close scholarship and we have lots of those; where we have mined a great deal of information and distilled it into annotation. Without them he says, I could not have written John Adams or 1776.

The task of documentary editing is not just to present the documents but to make them understandable, hopefully as understandable as would have been those who saw the documents in their day. This means again the historical setting is important, illusions within the text, people and places, events mentioned that we may not be aware of. These

are all part of trying to make the documents connect with us so that we can understand them and use them.

How does documentary editing work? First you gather all the documents and that's a major task even though 90% of it has been in the possession of Church since Willard Richards and Thomas Bullock, boxed it into boxes and put it on wagons to come across the plains from Nauvoo. The other 10% or 12% or whatever it turns out to be, is everywhere in court houses, in repositories from the Huntington on the west coast to Binica Library on the East Coast and many places in between. And so gathering the documents is a major effort.

After you collect, then you transcribe and I'll say something in a moment about transcription and how that works and annotate and then you can publish a volume. Now what is that volume? It's a reference work. It's not a history, it's not a narrative, it's not bedtime reading as one of our readers of an early volume said: Oh I learned so much I am certainly glad you allow me to read this but it's not bedtime reading.

Even one of our General Authority review panel who is a scholar himself wrote when he sent back one of the volumes. I have finished the tough slog. He was very praiseworthy of what was there but it was not bedtime reading. So it's a reference volume and then what can happen? Then others will write the narratives and the history books out of these reference works. So that's the task we've set ourselves and what documentary editors do. Here is just one other example from another writer who is reviewing a work of another historian suggesting that again we have this great outpouring of scholarship on the revolutionary era because of documentary editing. If you look at that or what David McCullough said and substitute for Americans and American history – Mormons and Mormon history, you'll get a sense of why this is vital and what we expect the impact to be of this work.

Here's a sample of some of the books that have been published on Joseph Smith. Going back to the pioneer, well B.H. Roberts version of the pioneer *Manuscript History of Joseph Smith* and up to *Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling*. Every one of these even *Rough Stone Rolling* could have been even better had the edition of the Joseph Smith Papers been available.

Now Richard Bushman who is one of our general editors had access to lots of the background material that we're working with but he didn't have published volumes yet because we don't have them. One day a new biographer of Joseph Smith will be able to start from a collection on the shelf and branch out from there in a way that Richard Bushman could not do. While this is for scholars, Latter-Day Saints scholars and non Mormon scholars, will it have applicability for Latter-Day Saints generally? We hope. We had some early discussions before we got the approval to do the Joseph Smith Papers project with General Authorities who cared about this but wanted to help frame the way in which it might be done. One of them said if it's not credible to scholars, it's not worth doing. Another said if it's not accessible for Latter-Day Saints, it's not worth doing. So we have tried to do things that will help Latter-Day Saints understand our history better, as

well as scholars understand our history better. But what drives this is the scholarly audience and we are trying to provide the background for folks that don't know much about Mormon history as well as provide pathways for all of our fellow Latter-Day Saints who want to know how things were back then and we know the framework of our history. It then can be, not bedtime reading but a source of study, a reference material for personal study for lessons, for many things. We think it will be of value to tens of thousands of Latter-Days saints even though, again it's geared for the scholars, the Latter-day Saints will be able to access it.

I've said something already about the importance for scholars and I think we don't need to say more except to underscore again that we've almost been surprised that even though we have these two audiences in mind from the beginning the General Authorities who have authorized the project from the Presidency on down have underscored the scholarship has to drive everything. The scholarly audience is first.

Now what will we have? We have maybe 2500 documents we'll publish 2000 or more, our control flyers has maybe 5000 entries. Some of those are duplicate versions of the same document, for example some revelations existed in a number of copies. Sometimes a letter will exist in more than one copy. A letter book copy and then a receipt copy. But we will select the best version of each document and those that meet our criteria as Joseph Smith documents will be prepared in this edition. It will include transcriptions, annotations and reference material, extensive reference material to help use and understand them.

We anticipate having about 30 volumes. We hope none of the volumes get over 700 pages but in documentary editing a 900 page volume isn't unusual. 500 to 700 pages each maybe 30 volumes and these will be divided into a number of series. This overview screen shows the series and we'll just briefly go through the series. We'll have three volumes that do the Joseph Smith diaries. The volume coming out this fall is the volume of the 1830s diaries. It goes from the first diary Joseph Smith wrote beginning on the 27th of November, 1832 and ends with a little diary kept by his clerk before him, James Mulholland in Commerce, Illinois before it became Nauvoo, so 1832 and 1839 for the first volume.

You'll notice on this slide that we have 1600 pages of diary material but of that only 31 pages are in Joseph Smith's own hand. For example the graphic up here which you can't see well enough to read, this is from the wonderful sketchbook is what they call this diary. It's the diary for the 6 months leading up to and including a dedication of the Kirtland temple--1835 and 1836.

And Joseph Smith dictated number of entries here that were in the hand of his scribe but he only wrote in his own hand one and that's the diary that's on this screen. And whenever you see Joseph Smith's own hand there is a quality of personality and character which you might expect comes through different from when his scribes are writing for him. It always has nearly every entry that he writes in his own hand encapsulates a little prayer and acknowledgment of God's hand in his life or a plea for God's blessings. That's

one example of how it differs from what his scribes would write. So three journal volumes and the last two volumes will be the four large notebooks kept mainly by Willard Richards that detail the Nauvoo activities.

In some ways the historical core, although the diaries can't be beat for importance and interest, will be the document series which interweaves chronologically the correspondence revelations, reports, minutes of Joseph Smith's life, so you can see how the documents interconnect with one another and then each document has its own historical setting and they unfold overtime as these events happened.

The revelations and translation series is designed to present the manuscripts behind our revelations and translations and the way those scriptures looked to Latter-Day Saints in Joseph Smith's lifetime. So we'll republish a version of the Book of Mormon the earliest Doctrine and Convents or Book of Commandments and we will do the manuscripts behind them.

The second volume that were publishing will come out the first quarter of 2009, is the first volume in this series and it will be a volume of manuscript revelations. So that we'll have access to the manuscripts behind the Book of Commandments and the manuscripts behind the Doctrine and Covenants. The History Series will be a very interesting and important series. The *History of the Church* has been seminal document used by scholars and lay folks alike for many decades, centuries almost.

It's also been mistrusted and misunderstood and we will make available the original manuscript, the sources behind the manuscript will be identified and you'll be able to understand how well it was put together according to the standards of the time and use it with much more confidence. It will also give us the opportunity to correct chronological and other errors in the history. These folks worked under very difficult circumstances spread over a number of years using the documents have had and in some cases we have more documents in hand than they did and we can make corrections that have been embedded in the history all these years.

The first volume of the History Series will be the third volume we published and it brings together all the early histories that sort of lead up to the creation of this massive manuscript history of the Church. It's an introduction if you will to the other volumes. The Legal and Business Series will be of great interest. This is one Elder Jensen, a lawyer himself has asked me several times, "Ron can't we put that on the web, the legal and business, nobody is going to want read that." I think he forgets how many <00:06:53> Mormon lawyers there are. I tell him we're going to sell more volumes at the legal than we will of the revelations. But at any way that's going to be very important because it has so much new material and helps underscore why Joseph Smith did what he did and how well he operated in the legal and financial world he lived in.

Well I have three volumes. The first is going to be fully drafted hopefully by the end of this year. We are now writing cases and I'll not just gathering case files. And I think it

will be a marvelous addition to historical understanding of Joseph Smith, of the legal world he lived in, and of the challenges the church faced in his lifetime.

The Administrative Series will bring together records that were kept in his office, the minute books, the letter books, and other records of great importance. Now just a little bit more detail about how the project operates on the operational level, day-to-day. We collect the documents, we study each one to make sure we understand the chain of custody, the provenance, that is who created it, when, where it's been. We are all aware of the Hofmann problems in the 1980s. We think we know what all those are but he is not the only one capable of forging documents. Most of these documents again have been in our possession for a long time but we are very conscious in working through a provenance and chain of custody for every documents so we can have confidence in it, then we create transcriptions. And the transcriptions are not simply, let's type this out and put it to the web or prepare it for publication. We verify three different times with different techniques and eventually proofing against the original with modern technology where we need to.

We've used multispectral imaging, we use magnification, and ultra-violet light. George Throckmorton was one of the criminal investigator that helped unravel and unveil the forgeries of Mark Hofmann. He then afterward worked with the Utah State Crime Lab. We consulted with him when we're going to purchase a new microscope about which kind of equipment he would recommend as being most useful. He said well here's what you can do or there's what you can do but I can save you some money; get the raw images of a very high resolutions scan, put it in Adobe Photoshop and I'll show you what kind of tweaks it will let you see what you can't see with the microscope.

So together we have been able to do some very interesting things in reading and recovering texts. Dean Jesse has been involved in correcting texts of Joseph Smith for many, many years. One of the most interesting examples is an item in the History of the Church that was published, transcribed and published; Emma had another child which did not survive it's birth and Dean showed us sometime ago that doesn't say Emma had another child; it says Emma had another chill, malaria, fever, and chills and the historians who wrote the early history wrote in did not survive its birth because if a child had survived they would have known it. And they didn't know of any child and they transcribed it wrong. So we correct those kinds of things.

Here's just one another example of what we've been able to correct. Joseph Smith was involved in many more cases. After one of them he had been in Springfield before a circuit judge he came back to Nauvoo and explained the experience he'd just had and Willard Richards just scrawled as quickly as he could this account of Joseph Smith speaking about his recent experience. Willard Richards you know was a Thomsonian doctor and one of our volume editors who has to deal with Willard Richards hand says I will never forgive Joseph Smith for having assigned a doctor as his scribe. And actually that's unfair to Willard because he could write very legibly but when he was in a hurry trying to catch speech as it was given it deteriorated it into a scrawl. So here is the text. You probably can't all see that well enough to transcribe it or even you could see it you couldn't transcribe it as I couldn't.

One spiritual minded circuit judge and several fit men. That's the way it was published in one transcription but as we've looked at this and worked through it knowing Willard Richards handwriting better it really says "one spindle shanked circuit judge and several fat men," which I am sure captured better the feeling of Joseph Smith as he described this experience. So we will not have as many that are that humorous but we'll have corrections that are important in the text.

And the annotation and I won't take more time on that but we do work very hard on the annotation. It's probable that half our resources go to annotation or to the creation of reference materials around it. We have new maps, wonderful new maps that are based on extensive research of these places important Joseph Smith's life and in our history. We have gone back to the sources on Joseph Smith's own pedigree and found many errors and corrections and refinements and additions we could make.

We have glossaries. The glossary by the way defines terms for non Latter-day Saints so that if we used his as Latter-day Saints a little differently, they can see what it meant to Latter-day Saints but it's important for you because it defines terms as they were used at the time and today the some terms we use a little differently than they did. So the glossaries are very important and other reference materials we'll have.

Production editing is a major endeavor. It's not just ensuring quality, it's building in quality and takes months of work. We have wonderful people involved in that. One of the quality is by review panels or committees that read every volume. There is more peer review on the Joseph Smith papers than any other project like it. Thomas Jefferson, Jonathan Edwards, Roger Williams, none of them had review like this is getting. Because it matters to so many people and because it matters to us that it be credible and it be right.

So we have a General Authority review panel; we have internal reviews; we have an external review panel of scholars; and then when we finally publish we have confidence that we've done the best we can do at the time not perfect; we'll continue to learn. The website will continue to expand the information, sometimes correct information, but it will be useable and credible.

One demonstration of this is we have passed muster with the NHPRC, National Historical Publications and Records Commission to get their endorsement or certification as a project that meets these standards. One of our colleagues in the field of documentary editing, Harry Reid, who chairs the Editorial Committee of the Benjamin Franklin papers and is the General Editor of the Jonathan Edwards papers wrote this little comment for the news about why this endorsement matters to us. And it matters because it helps other people understand that we meeting rigorous scholarships standards and can be believed; that it will be credible.

We have dozens of people involved. We have full time employees like myself, some paid for by the Church, some paid for on project funds by donations from the Larry and Gail Millers, from their foundation now, but before from them individually. We have student

researchers, we have part-time volunteers, we have full-time volunteers, we have contractors, dozens of people, and all are involved in the work of Joseph Smith papers.

Our outside reviewers, let me just quickly show who they are: Harry Stout <00:05:21> who I just mentioned is one, Stephen Stein who has published a great deal in the American religious history and has edited volumes of the Jonathan Edwards papers is another. Mary-Jo Kline wrote the book on documentary editing and her husband happens to be the editor of the George Washington papers at the University of Virginia and Terryl Givens a Latter-Day Saints scholar. So these four scholars are outside reviewers.

These volumes will be published by a New Imprint--The Church Historian's Press. In some ways it would nice if this was going to be published by Yale or Oxford and they had conversations with them but in the Elder Jensen believed that this was an opportunity to create for the Church an imprint that would embody the highest scholarship and that could earn the trust and credibility over time.

So we have a lot high hurdle in the sense that we are Latter-Day Saints, employed by the Church History Department, published by the Church Historian's Press, and yet you can believe our scholarship and we are going to earn that trust over time and I am confident we will. Richard Turley, Assistant Church Historian has made this little statement that was published in the press at one point to underscore why the Church Historian's Press is important.

The first thing is hopefully we'll assure Latter-Day Saints that they don't have to be afraid of the scholarship because the Church Historian is the one that's offering this in his imprint. But it's going to earn the reputation of quality scholarly work because nothing is going to be in that neighborhood, nothing will be printed by the imprint except that best scholarship based on good documentary research.

I've talked about the publication schedule I don't think we need to say more about that. Our website josephsmithpapers.org is an information, site, a teaser site, it has some sample documents, It will be interesting to you but it's only a teaser compared to what we're going to have a year from now when we'll begin to offer full text and transcriptions and eventually all the annotation.

Our reference materials on the web will extend what will be in the published volumes and make available a great deal of research about people, places, thought, terms, and again the maps and other aids. Let me just give you one example of the charts. All of us as scholars have understood some of the basic framework of how the Church operated in Kirtland for example and how it was organized. None of us understood the details and we do now. We have a chart that lays out the church organization in a very concise but insightful way. You look at that chart and say well this is interesting. I look at that chart and say how many hundreds of hours do that take every piece of that chart to get the documentation right behind it.

Richard Bushman made this statement, the closer you get to Joseph Smith in the sources, the stronger he will appear, rather than the reverse, as is so often assumed by his critics. Richard made his point little differently at another time when I heard him speak. With many men he said the closer you get to them, the less confidence you have in them. You see their flaws and their strengths don't look so great in close detailed context. But with Joseph Smith the closest we get to him, the more you do see as he suggests here his strength and you also end up feeling like here's a guy who given the challenges did a pretty decent job of everything and a magnificent job of most things in rising above the challenges and staying the course in spite of all the difficulties. All of the scholars of the Joseph Smith Papers would echo Richard in the sense that the more we know Joseph the more we study early Mormon history, the more confidence we have that we don't need to defend him, we'll need to present him and his documents and he'll do okay.

This is one example from Jeff Walker who is coordinating our Legal Series team. We learned a great deal about Joseph Smith that we didn't know before and part of what we learned in the legal cases is that Joseph Smith was a careful capable and sophisticated businessman and citizen. The legality team has said this a little differently and formally, Joseph Smith understood the law and worked within the law better than his critics. Daniel H. Wells was a non-Mormon justice of the peace in Nauvoo later accounts of Brigham Young in Utah. Daniel Wells said the best lawyer I ever knew was Joseph Smith and why you say? Because he didn't read the law, he wasn't a lawyer because he had to live 200 law cases and he counsels with many lawyers and gave counsel to his lawyers and became pretty skilled at it.

Let me conclude by acknowledging what has been in print in public before that we could not be what we are as a project without the Millers. This is a little clip from the Deseret News that talked about the Millers funding for this project. The Church has given great support, the authorization to publish, offices and infrastructure but the number of us that are paid by the church on this project are pretty few, a handful. All the rest are supported by the foundation or the endowments, excuse me, that Larry and Gail had provided. One of Larry's interesting insights that's become sort of a model of the project come from W.W. Phelps' great hymn, "Praise to the Man" and the chorus or the ending where it says "Millions shall know Brother Joseph again."

Our intention is to do this work in such a way that we'll know Joseph for the first time in many cases in detail about the documents and events of his life but there is a sense in which Brother Miller is right that through this millions has Phelps prophesied in his hymn millions can know Brother Joseph again. So that's the endeavor we're in, it's a very demanding and large one but with the kind of support we have, with the importance this is, with the blessings, that we feel we received to have this project come at the right time with the right resources and the right talent and the right authorizations; we're confident we can get this out so you can all benefit from it in the future.

You can watch this entire lecture on our Youtube site at:

- Pt 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePY8vO8RGfM>
- pt 2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdklrTja3_M&feature=related
- pt 3 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggINnxvZ5qw&feature=related>
- pt 4 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LZAw2rYrlA&feature=related>
- pt 5 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4hPLTqiYTY&feature=related>
- pt 6 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oZSSrWPr2Q&feature=related>