

Radiant Mormonism: Using Our Faith in Christ to Power World-changing Service

by [Warner Woodworth](#) (Author) 2022

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Praise for Radiant Mormonism:

Professor Muhammad Yunus—Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2006, founder of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, microcredit and social business pioneer, Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland, member on the board of directors of the United Nations Foundation, author of books such as *Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty*, *Building Social Business*, and other best-sellers: recipient of awards including the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal:

“Professor Woodworth became a great friend over the years. He invited me many times to speak to his students and conferences. It led to his many visits to Bangladesh to spend time with Grameen Bank. He and his band of Brigham Young University students have rolled out multiple NGOs around the globe, and this book explains how and why.”

Richard Bushman—Historian and Gouverneur Morris Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University, having also taught at Harvard, Boston University, and University of Delaware; winner of the Bancroft Prize; recipient of fellowships at the Smithsonian, Claremont, and Princeton; author of the best-selling *Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling*: *“If Warner’s book is taken seriously, readers will emerge with a greatly enlarged idea of what the Mormon movement can accomplish in the world. Mormonism is more potent than we have imagined.”*

Paul H. Thompson—Former president of Weber State University, Harvard Business School professor, vice president of Brigham Young University, dean at BYU’s Marriott School of Management: *“I can think of no one who is better qualified to write a book about helping the poor. Warner has spent a great deal of time in the past 50 years working tirelessly in many parts of the world to help people at the bottom of the pyramid. This book describes a few of the NGOs with which he has worked to better the lives of many people and will inspire its readers to follow Warner’s lead.”*

Curt Bassett—JD, CEO of Impact Investment Leaders, founder of Purpose Investors Network, formerly a finance leader on Wall Street: *“Warner Woodworth, Ph.D., is the ‘Johnny Appleseed’ of social enterprise because no one can match him in starting up both nonprofit and for-profit social enterprises around the world—aided by his many admiring MBA students. He wanders through the world, planting tiny NGO seeds that grow into large, lasting oak trees. Today many economic analysts believe we’re now in a ‘Purpose Economy,’ where the primary driver in successful business is social purpose. In his latest volume, *Radiant Mormonism*, Warner again shows he’s one of the world’s leading social entrepreneurs*

and explains why LDS members are among the most socially minded people in the world and thereby prepared to excel in this new economy. The Church encourages the core pillars of 'Purpose' in the New Economy: volunteerism, service, and charitable giving to redistribute wealth to the poor. But just as important, he explains how LDS teachings about the principles of responsibility and self-reliance must govern all wealth redistribution. When combining these principles with the Church's 'pioneer-culture,' 'can-do' attitude, and 'hard-work-ethic,' this has resulted not only in the Church and many of its members ranking high in affluence, but also in Utah's ranking #1 in social entrepreneurship around the world."

Joseph Grenny—Four-time author of New York Times best-selling books like *Crucial Conversations*, *Influencer*, and others, co-founder of global consulting firm Vital Smarts, and Unitus: *"My life would be impoverished were it not for the good fortune of Warner Woodworth's previous books' landing on my desk 25 years ago. Working Toward Zion translated my abstract religious commitments into concrete moral duties that set me on a different life course—one that has infinitely enriched my life. And I am not alone. I know I speak for hundreds whose lives beat to another trajectory after encountering Woodworth's writings. Radiant Mormonism is destined to do the same for the next generation. The establishment of Zion is not just a prophecy, it is a commandment. And few men in our generation have attempted to obey it more completely than Warner Woodworth. This is not just an interesting account of intrepid do-gooders; it is a sure guide for filling the measure of our creation."*

Margaret Blair Young—Now living in Democratic Republic of the Congo, former president of the Association for Mormon Letters, co-author of a trilogy of historical novels about Black Mormon pioneers titled *Standing on the Promises* and creator of the "Nobody Knows: The Untold Story of Black Mormons" shown on PBS; award-winning playwright of "I Am Jane" about Black Mormon pioneer Jane Manning James: *"We have had no electricity or internet for a while, having to use a battery pack for internet now. Village violence claimed many lives, including children's lives, last week. A land dispute fomented the violence. One side was victimized, but then the victims 'became the executioners.' This is the cycle of violence and will be repeated until it is stopped not by a new policy or persuasive words, but by a change of heart. I have come to see the ideal of Zion as the real hope for the DR-Congo—and for all of us. Here in this part of Africa, the ideal seems like the only way out of the corruption and war, and indeed a matter of life and death. Violence in the USA has become more verbal than physical, but it is pervasive. I have long looked at Warner Woodworth as one who lives the ideal, who seeks to do good at all times, who has provided templates and patterns for unity and success throughout the world. This kind of 'Radiant Mormonism' shines like stars in an often dark world."*

Devin Thorpe—Well-known podcaster, motivational speaker, author of a number of books such as *Your Mark on the World*; *Crowdfunding for Social Good*, and *Adding Profit by Adding Purpose*: *"Radiant Mormonism describes aspirationally the Church I believe in, follow and preach. Author Warner Woodworth uses his articulate, respected voice to nudge us toward more Christlike lives, defined more by action and generosity than by hollow expressions of faith."*

Matthew Bowman—Associate professor of history and religion, Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies, Claremont Graduate University; author of *The Mormon People: The Making of an American Faith*: *"Warner Woodworth's inspiring call for a religion that transforms not only ourselves, but the world around us into the image of God, is borne out by the work of his lifetime. This book will introduce you to the message and the messenger."*

Louis M. Pope—Former CEO, social entrepreneur and business leader, humanitarian globally, especially in Africa: *"Radiant Mormonism reawakens in us that knowledge that we should be doing more to help the poor. Dr Warner Woodworth has given us insight not only the 'why' but the 'how' we can make a difference and make this world a better place for all."*

Liz Wiseman—CEO of Wiseman Group, a leadership research and development firm headquartered in Silicon Valley, consultant to Fortune 500 firms globally, New York Times best-selling author of books such as *Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter*, recognized in 2019 as the top leadership thinker in the world: *"For years Dr. Woodworth has inspired his students to create organizations where people at all levels can contribute and flourish in meaningful ways. His teaching changed my vision. Now in Radiant Mormonism, he invites saints everywhere to set our sights higher and help build communities where poverty dies and humanity flourishes. This book is a powerful call to think bigger, to serve more expansively, and to stand for the highest ideals in the gospel of Jesus Christ. I hope everyone in the church reads this book."*

Terryl L. Givens—Author of a dozen-plus books such as *Wrestling the Angel* and, with Fiona Givens, *All Things New*; professor emeritus of literature and religion at the University of Richmond: *"Joseph Smith referred to Zion as a global enterprise 'that has interested the people of God in every age.' Building Zion will require extraordinary efforts to transcend our historical proclivity toward self-concern, in order to alleviate suffering and build community across religions, cultures, and peoples. Warner Woodworth provides a marvelous template for the kind of innovations and creativity he and kindred souls have fostered to move us in that direction."*

Sarah Carmichael Parsons—Canadian cofounder and manager of NGOs, Wave of Hope, Empowering Nations, board member of HELP International, founder of Dolls of Hope and the Undaunted Foundation: *"I have had the privilege of learning from Warner Woodworth as a graduate student at BYU and during a number of years as we worked together to*

respond to the devastation of the South-East Asian Tsunami through 'Wave of Hope,' as we worked to create the nonprofit Empowering Nations, and later as a board member of HELP International. Warner provided me with the means to do what has been in my heart for so long. I am grateful for his tutelage, mentoring, and support over the years and feel incredibly honored to have been able to work alongside him and to rub shoulders with him. His legacy has reached the tiniest of villages from the Philippines to Kenya, from Ghana to Peru, from Paraguay to Haiti. If anyone is qualified to write a book about how members of the LDS Church can more fully live out the gospel of Jesus Christ and build Zion, it is Warner."

Robert A. Rees—Ph.D., UCLA professor, assistant dean, poet, Fellow at the Center for Advanced Research, visiting professor at numerous schools, currently director of Mormon Studies at Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley; co-founder and vice president, Bountiful Children's Foundation: *"Apostle Jeffrey Holland stated, 'Jesus's first and foremost messianic duty [was] to bless the poor.... [He] has issued no more persistent call than for us to join Him in lifting this burden from the people.' I don't know of anyone in the modern church who has responded to Jesus's call more successfully and more consistently than Warner Woodworth. The title of his new book, Radiant Mormonism, is an apt summary of Warner's own life and ministry, not only as a supreme philanthropist, but as a teacher, inspirer, and leader of others to address the needs of the poor, the needy, the downtrodden, the forgotten—those Mother Theresa calls 'Jesus in disguise.' This book chronicles in a concrete way not only that such work must be done, but how it can be done—by anyone who chooses to follow Jesus. Get this book. Read it. Be inspired by it. Warner Woodworth is not only a Radiant Mormon, he is a radiant human being whose radiance has blessed and is blessing millions!"*

Martín Burt, former mayor of Asunción, Paraguay, Founder and CEO of Fundación Paraguaya, Poverty Spotlight, and Teach a Man to Fish (UK), recipient of the prestigious Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University, PhD: *This book adds a unique perspective to the conversation on poverty. With his persistent and unrelenting dedication to those experiencing poverty, Warner Woodworth is a beacon for all of us, and in this book he shares some of his most inspiring stories. I have been lucky enough to get to know some of Warner's work in person and am thrilled to see his expertise now available as a book for everyone to learn from. This book is bound to motivate and guide readers of all faiths to join the fight against poverty and to reduce human suffering."*

Sam Daley-Harris—Founder of RESULTS, Civic Courage, co-founder of the Microcredit Summit Campaign, author of Reclaiming Our Democracy: *"I first met Warner Woodworth more than 25 years ago at the University of Michigan where he'd driven a dozen BYU students to a microfinance conference to meet future Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus. Since then, I have been inspired by his deep commitment to empowering students and Mormons from all walks of life to do 'More Good' and practice 'Radiant Mormonism' on behalf of the world's poor."*

Jaime Figueroa of Cusco, Peru, cofounder and Field Director in the Andes of what originally was the NGO called Chasqui Humanitarian named after the ancient Incas of the Peru that later evolved into Eagle Condor Humanitarian: *"This will be a valuable book in educating thousands of volunteers and donors to establish future NGOs among the "pobrecitos" of my people. Hearts will increasingly turn to especially aid Lamanite communities in their struggles for emancipation. In our MPA courses, Dr. Woodworth, helped us start innovative strategies to do rural development, set up schools, offer economic development through microenterprises, provide adult literacy, and in many other ways empower the ultra-poor of the Lamanite people." The programs continue their impacts today, 20 years later. Yes, change is possible. 'Sí, se puede!'*

Afton Beutler—of Geneva, Switzerland, a longtime leader serving on the UN Committee on the Status of Women, Alliance for Health, and Freedom of Religion Committee: *"In 2004, the Nigerian women's leader Carol Ugochukwu of Worldwide Organization for Women (WOW) and I miraculously met Warner, and it changed my perspective toward global endeavors. My heart and life was never, ever the same. So, I am happy to support his new book on NGOs. He has always been my inspiration to continue such work in human rights by his great example of being an advocate and a voice for those whose voices at the grassroots are not always heard. Warner has been the voice guiding many of us at this time in history."*

Jim McConkie, attorney, a founder of the Refugee Justice League (2017), a non-profit organization of attorneys offering pro-bono legal help to refugees discriminated against because of religion, ethnicity, or national origin that now has a membership of over 800 lawyers, former Assistant United States Attorney, law practice focuses on civil rights and personal injury, UTAH State Bar "Lawyer of the Year," coauthor of Whom Say Ye That I Am: Lessons from the Jesus of Nazareth and a Mormon history book, Looking at the Doctrine and Covenants Again for the First Time: *"Warner Woodworth's book, Radiant Mormonism, is an inspiring look at what individuals and groups can do to help alleviate the suffering and pain in this world. It makes you want to get up of your comfortable armchair and do something! It is a lesson on how to magnify good intentions and good works that are at the heart of Christianity and put into practice those same impulses that inspired our LDS forefathers to live the Law of Consecration and sacrifice for each other."*

Gordon Shepherd—Co-author of The Palgrave Handbook of Global Mormonism and Growing Up in the City of the Saints, professor at University of Central Arkansas: *"Through both word and action, Warner Woodworth challenges members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to live lives of compassion and service beyond their organizational roles in a demanding lay religion. Radiant Mormonism demonstrates the many ways that abstract concern for*

the welfare of underprivileged people worldwide has been effectively transformed into concrete modes of volunteer action for helping people in need to help themselves. The subtext of this inspiring book is the ethical demand required of church members—both individually and collectively—to actively embrace the unselfish standards signified by the designation of ‘Latter-day Saints.’”

Gary Shepherd—Co-author of *Binding Earth and Heaven and Talking with the Children of God*, professor of sociology and anthropology at Oakland University: “Warner Woodworth has dedicated the entirety of his adult life not only to passionately advocating for the poor but, more significantly, to creating and implementing innovative ways that have improved and elevated the economic prospects for tens of thousands of impoverished people around the world. In this volume, he details case studies that show how he and others he has inspired have put into action core values of their LDS faith to bring about powerful economic and social improvement for people previously ensnared in the seemingly hopeless grip of structural-generational poverty. An apt subtitle for this book—aimed squarely at Warner’s Mormon co-religionists—would be *Actualization of Faith, Hope, and Charity.*”

Scott C. Hammond—Author of *Lessons of the Lost: Finding Hope and Resilience in Work, Life and the Wilderness*, Professor at the Huntsman Business School, Utah State University: “Warner Woodworth shows how today’s Mormon pioneers should keep walking, beyond ‘This is the Place...,’ beyond prosperity, beyond education, to a real Zion. Read, but don’t expect to be comfortable! Expect to want to get busy.”

João Bueno—Brazilian LDS Church leader, BYU Master of Public Administration graduate, executive director of Care for Life in Africa, administrator of Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions with the US Department of Education adjacent to the Ute and Navajo reservations: “I was in Warner’s social entrepreneurship class where I learned about self-reliance and increased my lifelong desire to serve the poor. This book, like his many ‘required articles,’ helped me develop one of the most successful community development programs implemented in Africa: our NGO called Care for Life. Warner has become a friend, tutor, and mentor. I never could have imagined his influence on me and the villages of Mozambique.”

Table of Contents:

Chapter 1: The Need for Latter-day Saints to Change the World (November 2020)

Chapter 2: HELP International (Honduras and Beyond from 1999-2021)

Chapter 3: Ouelessebougou Alliance (From Utah to Mali, West Africa 1985-2021)

Chapter 4: Sustain Haiti (Post-Haiti’s Earthquake 2010-2020)

Chapter 5: Philippines Enterprise Development Foundation (Mentors International 1990-2021)

Chapter 6: MicroBusiness Mentors (Utah Latino Immigrants & Refugees 2003-2021)

Chapter 7: Eagle Condor Humanitarian (Peru 2002-2021)

Chapter 8: Unitus Global Microfinance Accelerator (1999-2021)

Chapter 9: How to Design Your Own NGO—Tools and Methods for Launching New NGOs (February 2021)

Chapter 10: Conclusion: Practicing Personal Consecration Globally Through Private, Personal, and Social Innovations (April 2021)

Acknowledgements

Preface

Glossary of Terms

Appendixes:

Lists of LDS and Other NGOs

Global Change Agents, Inc.

Expectations for Volunteers

NGO Legal Liabilities Document

Sample NGO Handout

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