

# THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

By Wayne Simmons

John the Baptist and Joseph Smith had a similar calling: To make ready a people prepared for the Lord. The challenge of Christ sent to men and their message in this age is the same as AD. 30. **“Repent...Prepare ye the way of the Lord...Restore that which was Lost...The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand.”** Those who prepare the way for the Christ of the kingdom know that they do not labor in vain, for Christ has already been in the world, and the Spirit of God testifies to his worthiness to rule over all men. What a Herculean task awaits those who shall be laborers of the Lord’s harvest or kingdom! They will not have time for building shrines or cathedrals in memory of the past. **They must prepare for his coming. Jesus said, “No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Let us look forward, not backward, to the Christ.**

Two years ago, in a dream or vision, I was privileged to see the Savior. I was in a Latin American village standing in the midst of a small party of English-speaking friends, surrounded by a multitude of Latin Americans who lined the curbs and filled the narrow sidewalks of the main street. They were waiting for someone to come parade down the street. At first I didn’t know who was being welcomed. And suddenly, the shouting crowd grew still, and I saw the Lord coming from a side street turning directly in front of us so that all of us saw him at the same instant. He was alone. He was a tall man, for his head showed high above the heads of all who were in the crowd. He wore scarlet, and his cloak of the same color, draped around his shoulders, was richly embroidered with gold.

Here was no carpenter, no itinerant prophet but a veritable king, dressed as a king! His head was bare, and he carried no crown or scepter, but the brightness of his face testified to my heart that he was, indeed the King of kings and Lord of lords. He stopped and smiled and made a beckoning movement with his head to us. We followed him...there was no shouting now only a spirit of reverence, and I saw them come, straggling in numbers, first one; behind two more; then four abreast and so on, but all were coming. **I woke to the knowledge that the Christ of the Kingdom, who I had seen, will cause his work to prosper among these people! (Micah 4:1-7)**