

Darryl Withrow's Talk on Friday night of Noronto Reunion during the Closing Celebrations and presentation of the Cross Project which he and Peter Williams worked at throughout the week to create.

“If you ever listen to any of my talks from the pulpit you will get a recurring theme running through each one. It doesn't really matter what the theme for the day is, I tend to always come back to the same idea - that idea being.... we are unique in this society,...we are unique because we have each other... Basically we are never alone !!

If one of us suffers we know that there are prayers and concerns and actions on the part of our church family that will help us. We support each other in all areas of our lives.

Whether it is a health concern in our lives or simply a play that our children are in, we are supported by others.

That makes us unique !

That makes us strong !

So many people in the world give up hope and end up living a life that is full of misery and pain because they have no-one with whom to talk, they have no one with whom to share, they have no one with whom to love.

Some end up in nowhere jobs, in nowhere places, in nowhere lives.

And that is a concept that is foreign to those of us who have been raised in this church... who have experienced these events.

When I was growing up I just assumed that everyone had

patience for everybody else. I just assumed that mistakes would be forgiven and people would assume the best from others before they assume the worst.

And there were some painful lessons that I had to learn because I assumed that the world would work just like my church.

We are unique ! and ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, don't ever take for granted the strength and the love you receive from your church family. It has, and is, a huge part of who you are and what you have or will become. People will see the difference in you because of the way you are treated in this church family and they will see the difference in you because of the way you treat others because of this church family.

We are unique but unfortunately we are not the norm.

That is the basis of this cross.

As I said at the beginning of the week, this needed to be a symbol for us, and the only way that would happen was if it contained pieces of us.

We are who we are because of our history. It is the people in our lives who have shaped the person that we have overcome. So the individual boards represent where we have come from. We have a representation on that cross that reaches far and wide. We have pieces from the temple carpentry shop. We have pieces from the Smith homestead in Nauvoo. We have pieces from previous guest ministry who have affected us and in turn have been affected by us. We have pieces from the north that have served as buildings for our grandparents and

pieces that have been recovered from the depths of rivers. We have pieces that have come from our history in other branches and pieces that have come from our own backyards. We have pieces that come from special camp grounds where we meet our extended church family and pieces that come from individuals within our immediate family.

And together..... together they make up who we are today. They are in no particular order or position of importance. The only thing that governed their position was the type of wood. The hard wood runs down the middle of the arms and the softwoods are on the outside.

They are surrounded by a common wood as God surrounds us.

They are bound in the middle with a criss-cross of that same love... as Christ's own cross was once bound.

The ends are open to represent our openness and our ability to open our church and our society to others. To show that even if you have not shared in our past history, you are allowed to join in.

If you look at the hands and feet, you will find holes where 3" spikes marred and stained the wood during that piece of furniture's original construction.

There is a book that shows the positions of each of the donations. It is a work in progress. Feel free to write on it, correct any mistakes or omissions and add any thoughts of your own.

The front of the book has a scripture reading which is the foundation of the cross. It reads...

*But God has combined the members of the body
and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it,
so that there should be no division in the body,
but that its parts would have equal concern for each other.*

*If one part suffers,
every part suffers with it;
If one part is honoured,
every part rejoices with it.*

*Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.*

..... 1 Corinthians 12: 24 - 27”