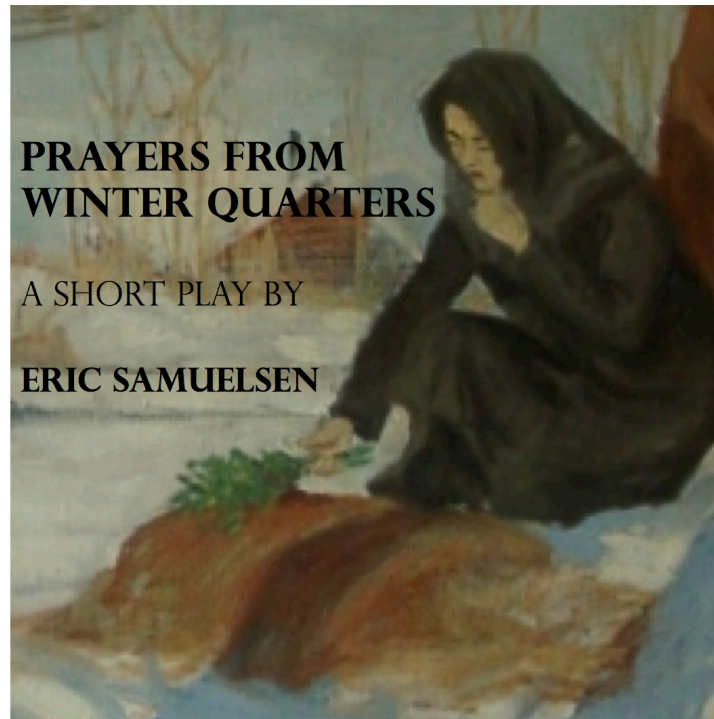


PERUSAL SCRIPT



Prayers From Winter Quarters Eric Samuelsen



Newport, Maine

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Prayers From Winter Quarters

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PRAYERS FROM WINTER QUARTERS by Eric Samuelsen. 3W. While perfect for use by, say, a Relief Society for their monthly meeting, it can also be theatrically produced by a Ward, Stake or Community Theatre. The topics associated with the play are: Prayer, Faith, Pioneers, Trials, Enduring, Being Thankful. It can be produced as a Reader's Theatre or it can be memorized. It is very simple. No setting. No props. Costumes could be worn, or the characters could stay in modern dress. That might tie-in more closely the prayers from Winter Quarters with women of the modern day. For a Relief Society presentation, each prayer could be separately cast to involve more women. **ORDER #2055**

Eric Samuelsen taught at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio before joining the faculty at Brigham Young University in 1992. He became head of the Playwriting program at BYU in 1999. He has also taught as an adjunct faculty member in the Religion department. He retired from BYU in 2012.

As a playwright, Samuelsen has had twenty-seven plays professionally produced in Utah, Indiana, Louisiana, New York, and California. Some of his plays include *Gadianton*, which has seen three professional productions across the country, *A Love Affair with Electrons*, *Family*, *The Plan*, and *The Way We're Wired*. He is resident playwright at Plan-B Theatre Company in Salt Lake City, who designated their 2013-14 season a 'Season of Eric, including productions of six of his plays.

He is a member of the Playwrights' Circle, and the Dramatists Guild. He is three-time winner of the Annual Award in Playwriting offered by the Association for Mormon Letters (AML) and he became president of AML in 2007. In 2013 the organization awarded him the Smith Pettit Award for his lifetime work as a playwright. He has been a staff writer for the on-line satirical magazine *The Sugarbeet*. He was also featured in the book *Conversations with Mormon Authors*, edited by Chris Bigelow. He is a noted Ibsen translator, and has also published scholarly articles on 19th and 20th century Scandanavian Theatre, and more recently, on LDS drama and film. He blogged at Mormoniconoclast.com. Eric died in September of 2019 after a long battle with polymyositis. This has left a huge hole in the Theatre Community within, and outside of, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Prayers from Winter Quarters

(First Prayer)

FIRST WOMAN: Dear gracious father. I thank thee, Lord, for blessings cold.

SECOND WOMAN: Hidden.

THIRD WOMAN: Disguised as trials.

SECOND WOMAN: For ice, and sleet, and snow.

THIRD WOMAN; And cold.

FIRST WOMAN: I thank thee. For ice, that turned a river to a highway.

That dark, bitter morning, our burning homes behind us.

Slipping, sliding, run from the mobs. Driving the oxen, driving the wagon. Driving us west from the mobs.

SECOND WOMAN: For midstream current beneath our feet.

THIRD WOMAN: For fear, for sharpened wits.

ALL: Thanks be to thee.

FIRST WOMAN: For driving sleet, for sharp reminders, that keep us awake, alert on the trail.

ALL: We thank thee.

FIRST WOMAN: For biting cold, taking the weary old, the newly born young. . . . Home, back to thee, to thy warmth and thy rest.

THIRD WOMAN: Happy day, for those freed from the trials of the trail.

SECOND WOMAN: I thank thee. For snow, which hides our paths from our enemies.

FIRST WOMAN: Snow that blankets. . . .

SECOND WOMAN: Snow that covers. . . .

THIRD WOMAN: Snow that blinds. . . .

FIRST WOMAN: We are safe, hidden deep in snow.

SECOND WOMAN: They call this place Winter Quarters.

THIRD WOMAN: Bitter sanctuary.

FIRST WOMAN: Thank thee, dear Lord, for thy blessings.

(End First Prayer)

(This is one of five prayers in this script, each one taking a page.)