

would ask where I was from and I'd say, "Laramie, Wyoming." And I met so many men down there from Wyoming. So many gay men who grew up here and they're like, this is not a place where I can live, how can you live there, I had to get out, grrr, grrr, grrr. But every once in a while there would be a guy, "Oh gosh, I miss Laramie. I mean, I really love it there, that's where I want to live. And they get this starry-eyed look and I'm like, if that's where you want to live, do it. I mean, imagine if more gay people stayed in small towns ... But it's easier said than done, of course.

MOMENT: JOURNAL ENTRIES

MOISÉS KAUFMAN. Today we are moving from our motel and heading for the Best Western.

NARRATOR. Moisés Kaufman.

MOISÉS KAUFMAN. My hope is that it is a better Western.

NARRATOR. Amanda Gronich.

AMANDA GRONICH. Today we divided up to go to different churches in the community. Moisés and I were given a Baptist Church. We were welcomed into the services by the Reverend himself standing at the entrance to the chapel. This is what I remember of his sermon that morning.

MOMENT: THE WORD

BAPTIST MINISTER. My dear brothers and sisters. I am here today to bring you the Word of the Lord. Now, I have a simple truth that I tell to my colleagues and I'm gonna tell it to you today. The word is either sufficient or it is not.

Scientists tell me that human history, that the world is five billion or six billion years old — after all, what's a billion years, give or take. The Bible tells me that human history is 6,000 years old.

DOUG LAWS

The word is either sufficient or it is not.

STEPHEN MEAD JOHNSON. Ah, the sociology of religion in the West ...

NARRATOR. Stephen Mead Johnson, Unitarian Minister.

STEPHEN MEAD JOHNSON. Dominant religious traditions in this town. Baptist, Mormon — they're everywhere, it's not just Salt Lake, you know, they're all over — they're like jam on toast down here.

DOUG LAWS. The Mormon Church has a little different thing going that irritates some folks.

NARRATOR. Doug Laws, Stake Ecclesiastical Leader for the Mormon Church.

DOUG LAWS. ~~And that is that~~ we absolutely believe that God still speaks to man. We don't think that it happened and some folks wrote it in the Bible. God speaks to us today, and we believe that. We believe that the prophet of the church has the authority to receive inspiration and revelation from God.

STEPHEN MEAD JOHNSON. So, the spectrum would be — uh, on the left side of that panel, so far left that I am probably sitting by myself, is me — and the Unitarian Church. Unitarians are by and large humanists, many of whom are atheists, I mean — we're, you know, we're not even sure we're a religion. And to my right on the spectrum, to his credit, Father Roger, Catholic Priest, who is well established here, and God bless him — he did not equivocate at all when this happened — he hosted the vigil for Matthew that night.

FATHER ROGER SCHMIT. I was really jolted because, you know, when we did the vigil — we wanted to get other ministers involved and we called some of them, and they were not going to get involved. And it was like, "We are gonna stand back and wait and see which way the wind is blowing." And that angered me immensely. We are supposed to stand out as leaders. I thought, "Wow, what's going on here?"

DOUG LAWS. God has set boundaries. And one of our responsibilities is to learn. What is it that God wants? So you study scripture, you look to your leaders. Then you know what the bounds are. Now once you kinda know what the bounds are, then you sorta get a feel for what's out of bounds.