



THE CROSS

Concerned Christians

February—March 2005

Weekly Prayer At CC

We encourage all of our Metro-Phoenix friends to join us in prayer for our LDS neighbors, every Tuesday, 7:00-8:00pm, at our Mesa office, 525 E. Broadway Road (two blocks east of Mesa Drive, southwest corner of Broadway Road and Pioneer). Hosted by Duane Strohmeyer of Concerned Christians.

From the Executive Director:

Is the Practice of Polygamy Forever?

As I was gathering materials and my thoughts on the topic of polygamy, my wife Judy handed me an article on the subject. It was written in January 2003 by Marvin Cowan, an ex-Mormon and now a Baptist pastor in Salt Lake City. I thought it was something I couldn't improve on so, so with Marvin's permission, I decided I would share it with you.

When Brigham Young died, John Taylor became the third Mormon prophet. On page 14 of *Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, by John Taylor*, he said, "The

truth does not change. What was true 1,800, 4,000, or 6,000 years ago is true today, and what was false in any age of the world is false today. Truth, like the great Eloheim, is eternal and unchangeable..." The January 2003 LDS Ensign magazine says the above book was prepared by the Mormon Church as the 2003 curriculum for the Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society, which includes most Mormon adults (p.20). In the same *Ensign* article Taylor said, "When men go forth in the name of Israel's God, there is no

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Core Values of Concerned Christians and How We Carry Them Out

What is Concerned Christians about?

Evangelism and glorifying God by exalting His Name and making Him known. We are a teaching/counseling/nurturing ministry providing a compass for those who've been lost in the woods of Mormonism. Our main purpose is two-fold: To rescue Latter-day Saints and help them become established in The Lord's Kingdom and to train the Body of Christ in witnessing to them. We endeavor to obey the great commission given by Jesus; "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

How do we go about it?

1. Pray Every new project, literature or event is bathed in prayer to first get the Lord's direction and approval.

2. Teach We speak/teach in Churches, in small or large groups and in the community. We teach LDS, ex-LDS and non-LDS.

We expose error and proclaim truth, as Paul taught in

Ephesians 5:11-13. When error is exposed in Mormonism; truth from the Bible is lifted up in contrast, whether in our literature, videos, teaching or counseling.

We teach only salvation issues. We do not take positions on denominational or controversial issues. I.e. Pre/post/au millennialism, tongues, faith healing and the like. For instance, we teach from *The Mormon Scrapbook* to keep witnessing focused on the nature of God and salvation.

We strive to be as current as possible in a non-mocking way, no sensationalism or shock effect but in a spirit of love.

Before use by the public, all new literature is reviewed. We have checks and balances in place for content, format and grammar.

3. Provide We provide resources; people, literature both old and new, videos, website and other multimedia. We produce literature that helps, encourages and teaches by exposing error and proclaiming truth from the Bible. Our facts are all verifiable.

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Is the Practice of Polygamy Forever?

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power on earth that can overturn the truths they advocate" (p.27). Taylor's son asked his father how far the new and everlasting covenant (about polygamy in the *Doctrine & Covenants, Section 132*) was binding upon the LDS people. John Taylor replied that he received a revelation on September 27, 1886 which said, "Thus saith the Lord, all commandments that I give *must be obeyed* by those calling themselves by my name unless they are revoked by me, or by my authority and how can I revoke an everlasting covenant? For I, the Lord am everlasting and *my everlasting covenants cannot be abrogated nor done away with but they stand forever...I have not revoked this law nor will I* for it is everlasting and those who will enter into my glory must obey the conditions thereof. Even so. Amen" (*Unpublished Revelations, vol. 1 p.206*).

But less than four months after Taylor's "revelation", Congress passed the 1887 Edmunds-Tucker Act making polygamy unlawful, disfranchising all practicing polygamists, and confiscating expensive properties. So, four years after Taylor's "revelation," the *new and everlasting covenant* was supposedly revoked by Taylor's successor, Wilford Woodruff, the fourth LDS prophet. He said, "...And I now publicly declare that my advice to the Latter-day Saints is to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the law of the land" (Official Declaration 1, at the end of the *Doctrine & Covenants*, dated September 24, 1890 and is LDS scripture). You will note the words that I underlined are not commandments, but only suggestions. However, most Mormons try to insist that it has been outlawed. D & C 132 is still LDS scripture and marriages to more than one wife are still performed in the temple, mostly for the dead. Woodruff also said, "I say to Israel (Mormons), the Lord will never permit me or any other man who stands as President of the (LDS) Church to lead you astray" (*The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, pp. 212-213*). This quotation has been taught by all LDS prophets. But is it true?

In the beginning of this article we quoted Taylor as saying, "Truth is eternal and unchangeable." The question must be asked why, then, are there so many changes in the doctrines of Mormonism? God has not and would not revoke the law of His eternal truths. Mormons need to know the unchangeable God (Malachi 3:6) whose word is eternal (Isaiah 40:8).

✝ Jim Robertson

Core Values of Concerned Christians

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4. Counsel for LDS issues only. We will refer the following issues to those who are trained in these areas: sexual abuse, physical/ritual abuse, substance abuse. We also do not provide counseling for marriage or emotional/mental problems. We have no after-hour appointments and we never counsel opposite-sex alone.

5. Support for the ex-LDS. We nurture, support, and encourage their involvement in a local Bible based, Christ centered Church while providing Biblical truth to replace the error of LDS Doctrine.

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Concerned Christians Witnessing Resources

You may go to our secure website at:

www.concernedchristians.org

for book and video descriptions, prices and to place your order. Or, call us to place an order, at (480) 833-2LDS [833-2537]. Just have your VISA or MasterCard handy when you call.

BOOKS BY CONCERNED CHRISTIANS' AUTHORS

Out of Mormonism by Judy Robertson

Witness to Mormons by Concerned Christians

False Prophecies of Joseph Smith by Jim Robertson and Dick Baer

Understanding My Mormon Friends' Faith and Mine by Judy Robertson

Amazing Mormon Quotes by Robert Betts

No Comparison by Concerned Christians

Basic Teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tract by Concerned Christians

Mormonism Tract Pack (13 tracts) by Concerned Christians

BOOKS BY OTHER AUTHORS

3,913 Changes in the BOM by Gerald and Sandra Tanner

An Address to all Believers in Christ by David Whitmer

An American Prophet's Record – The Diaries and Journals of Joseph Smith edited by Scott Faulring

An Examination of B.H. Roberts' Secret Manuscripts
by Wesley P. Walters

Answering Mormon's Questions by Bill McKeever

Archaeology and the BOM by Gerald and Sandra Tanner

Beyond Mormonism by James R. Spencer

...by his own hand upon papyrus by Charles M. Larson

Changes in Joseph Smith's History by the Tanners

Confessions of John D. Lee

Evolution of the Mormon Temple Ceremony by the Tanners

God's Word: Final, Infallible and Forever by Floyd McElveen

Have You Witnessed to a Mormon Lately by James R. Spencer

Joseph Smith and Polygamy by Gerald and Sandra Tanner

Joseph Smith Begins His Work, Vol. 1

Joseph Smith Begins His Work, Vol. 2

Joseph Smith's Egyptian Alphabet and Grammar

Joseph Smith's History by His Mother by Lucy Mack Smith

Joseph Smith's Plagiarism of the Bible by the Tanners

Latter-day Saints: Where Did You Get Your Authority
by Hal Hougey

Mormon Claims Answered by Marvin Cowan

Mormonism 101 by Bill McKeever and Eric Johnson

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With the *merciful*
you will show yourself *merciful.*
2 Samuel 22:26

Unexpected Needs

Wow! What a month this has been. First, Arizona has a record-setting amount of rain and we find out we must replace our leaking roof. Then our trusty lawnmower calls it quits. And if that wasn't enough, our phone system bites the dust.

All of this has left the ministry in need of your help. If you are able to provide an extra financial gift this month to offset these unexpected expenses, we could sure use it!

Please pray about our needs this month and if the Lord leads you to make a special gift to Concerned Christians, we will certainly put it to good use.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. You are a blessing to us in more ways than you can imagine!



FROM THE MAILBAG



Dear Jim,

I continue to pray for my granddaughter as we continue to take her to our Methodist Church every other Sunday. Her involvement with the Mormon church with her mom seems to be increasing. I appreciate so much your talking with me via the phone regarding this matter. Thank you!

Germantown, Maryland

Concerned Christians,

Enclosed is a check for your ministry. I've been on your mailing list for several years & do enjoy getting it. I have shared it with many, many people & have given several copies of "No Regrets" or "Out of Mormonism" to a lot of people. Our daughter is a Lutheran pastor in Montana and she says it's amazing how little people know about Mormonism. You can be sure I have sent her plenty of reading material to share with her congregation.

Mesa, Arizona

Praise the Lord!

May you continue to be in God's favor with your life and ministry. We live here in Mormon land. We're waiting and preparing for the light to come on the Mormon people. It's going to be great when they come to know the real Jesus!

Layton, Utah

Dear Concerned Christians,

Thank you for doing the Lord's work. May God bless you abundantly!

Tempe, Arizona

Dear Jim & Judy,

I appreciate the two copies of "The Cross" that comes regularly. I read one copy and then gave both of them to others. During this year I came across 2 copies of "Under the Banner of Heaven" at a local store here and one in Henderson, NV. I've read one and have loaned out both copies. Additionally, Tim Rule of Campus Crusade left tracts on our boat that contained a discussion of Christianity vs. Mormonism. The Christian was an EV Free pastor from Utah. The Mormon was Dean of Students at BYU. If you could use either item, please call. I am enclosing a check that is to be used as God directs.

Clovis, California

Dear Jim & Judy,

Thank you for the Concerned Christians ministry. May God bless you and the work that He has been doing through your wonderful ministry. I cannot forget how you blessed the 50 some odd folks at Valley Cathedral. We do appreciate your labor of love to reach the Mormons. God love you!

Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Folks,

Thank you for all your work through Concerned Christians. We learn so much from your Thursday night meetings. May God bless you and your families this New Year.

Mesa, Arizona

Jim,

I thank you so much for all your help & information. I can truly tell you are working for the Lord. This must be a big passion for you to help others understand they are believing in a false teaching. God must have sent me to you. I look forward to reading this material you sent & talking to any LDS I meet in the hopes of planting seeds. Thank you again for giving me some strength to do so.

Arlington, Texas

Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

We thank and praise the Lord for your ministry – for the persons who are coming to know the TRUE Jesus as their Savior & Lord. May the Lord continue to bless you and make you a blessing!

Mesa, Arizona

Concerned Christians,

Keep up the good work! I'm so happy to be educated as my son is "trapped" in a Mormon marriage. Thank you.

Port Orange, Florida

Dear Jim & Judy,

Thank you for all you do in your ministry. I am especially grateful to have heard Jim's presentation at our church this past May. Keep up the good work! May God bless you all. Enclosed is a donation to help in your work.

Mesa, Arizona

Dear Concerned Christians,

We love receiving your newsletter, "The Cross" and can only hope that one day we can have a group as great as yours in Northern Utah. Please pray for a young lady that we have been meeting with. She was raised a Mormon and has lot of LDS questions. She wants to know more about the Bible. There is lots of turmoil at home due to her questions. She is now a believer, but continues to struggle with the pressures at home. Thanks for all you do to help those seeking the truth.

Clearfield, Utah



Mormonism And Polygamy by Lloyd Sharp

Of all the controversy that has surrounded the Mormon Church since its inception in 1830 none has caused more anger, debate, strife and public relations issues than polygamy. It has continued to be a thorn in the side of LDS Church despite the fact that members have mostly refrained from its practice since "the Lord" issued a divine decree to cease and desist polygamy in 1890. This is due in large part to a combination of two important facts. First, the Bible clearly never teaches men to engage in polygamy and condemns those who do. Second, various LDS sects have continued to engage in polygamy in secret, claiming to follow the original teachings of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and other early and prominent Mormon leaders.

Yet the despite all the controversy the bottom line is this: is polygamy a God ordained doctrine? If it is, then why did "the Lord" change His mind and decide to stop it? If it is not, then the LDS Church is teaching false doctrines in the name of God. With this in mind, let's look at what the Bible and the Book of Mormon have to say about polygamy.

The Mormon doctrine of polygamy was officially announced in 1852 (B. H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 4: 55 - 57). It did not become part of LDS scripture for another twenty-four years. The revelation was recorded in July of 1843, but it was not added to the Doctrine and Covenants until 1876. This section of Mormon scriptures outlines the Mormon doctrine of polygamy as God allegedly revealed it to Joseph Smith.

Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines...

For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory (Doctrine and Covenants 132:1, 4).

According to this revelation, polygamous marriages could only take place under the direction of Joseph Smith and future LDS prophets (D&C 132:7). Entering into polygamy was one of the prerequisites for attaining godhood.

And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife by my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant, and it is sealed unto them by the Holy Spirit of promise... they shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.

Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting... Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them (D&C 132:19-20).

As noted earlier, this revelation was allegedly recorded in 1843. Joseph Smith had, however, been engaging in polygamy since 1833, with a secret marriage to Fanny Alger, a 16-year-old girl of an LDS family. Emma Smith, Joseph's wife, discovered the affair after seeing Joseph and Fanny together alone in the barn!

He also informed me of the spot where the first well authenticated case of polygamy took place in which Joseph Smith was "sealed" to the hired girl. The "sealing" took place in a barn on the haymow, and was witnessed by Mrs. Smith through a crack in the door! The Doctor was so distressed about this case, (it created some scandal at the time among the Saints,) that long afterwards when he visited Mrs. Emma Smith at Nauvoo, he charged her as she hoped for salvation to tell him the truth about it. And she then and there declared on her honor that it was a fact--"saw it with her own eyes." (THE SALT LAKE CITY DAILY TRIBUNE--WEDNESDAY MORNING,

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Mormonism And Polygamy

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OCT. 6, 1875, online at <http://www.xmission.com/~country/reason/beadle1.htm>

The controversy surrounding the discovery of this affair was denied with an addition to the Doctrine & Covenants in 1835.

Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy; we declare that we believe, that one man should have one wife; and one woman, but one husband, except in case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again (D&C 1835 Edition, Section CL:4, online at <http://www.utlm.org/images/changingworld/chwp206dcsection101.gif>).

This denial of polygamy was in the Mormon book of *Doctrine & Covenants* until 1876. Twenty-four years later it became an official doctrine.

The Change

Despite the previous "revelation" by the "Lord" to Joseph Smith that polygamy was a God ordained institution, the Manifesto was issued in 1890. It declared in part the following:

Inasmuch as laws have been enacted by Congress forbidding plural marriages, which laws have been pronounced constitutional by the court of last resort, I hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws, and to use my influence with the members of the Church over which I preside to have them do likewise. (Doctrine & Covenants, OFFICIAL DECLARATION—1)

The passing of the Edmunds-Tucker Act brought about this change. This new law made entering into polygamy a crime in the United States and punished those who were currently practicing polygamy by denying them the right to vote, being jurors, or holding public offices.

The Bible And Polygamy

The Bible nowhere commands polygamy. God merely tolerated its practice. Monogamy is the God ordained

Keep these words...
in your heart:
Recite them
to your children...



standard. This is based on several Biblical facts.

God made one wife for Adam in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 2:18)

The law of Moses prohibits polygamy. (Deuteronomy 17:17)

Paul affirmed the Mosaic law. (1 Corinthians 7:2)

Polygamy is first mention in the context of sin and rebellion against God. (Genesis 4:19, 23)

Every polygamist paid for this sin, even David and Solomon. (1 Chronicles 14:3)

Jesus spoke of marriage in the context of two becoming one. (Matthew 19:4-6)

Nowhere does the Bible speak of polygamy in a positive way. It consistently condemns it.

The God of the Bible has never ordained polygamy. He has always shunned it and warned His people to do likewise. The claim by Joseph Smith that God told him to enter into polygamy is yet another sign of his false status as a prophet of God.



**Ex-Mormon Interview —****It Just Didn't Seem Right** by Judy Robertson

With this issue of the Cross, we begin a new feature—an interview with an ex-Mormon. We hope this will enlighten and encourage you as you hear the various ways God is drawing Mormons away from bondage, one by one. We will not use the individuals' names in order to protect their privacy.

Doug (not his real name) is an outspoken and knowledgeable former Mormon. When he came to Concerned Christians for our Thursday evening support group, Doug seemed to have a story or experience to share about practically every doctrinal issue we discussed. When I asked if he would mind being interviewed, he was open and encouraged me in this endeavor. I was anxious to talk with him.

Here's Doug's story:

Doug was born and raised in the LDS church, and grew up in Mesa, Arizona. He was very active in the church, a devout Mormon, and held many callings, including Sunday school president, home teaching, the elders quorum, and a stake mission. He was also called for special temple work for the dedication of the Albuquerque, New Mexico temple when the prophet made an appearance there.

The first thing that caused him to doubt Mormonism was Polygamy. "I didn't believe it," he says. "I began searching in Doctrine and Covenants 132 where polygamy is called the everlasting covenant. Joseph Smith is talking in circles here. The girls he married weren't virgins. None of it fit. It just didn't seem right. When I read the New Testament, I saw that everything it said pointed to staying married to one woman. We shouldn't uphold Joseph Smith but Jesus Christ."

When asked why he left the church, he said, "Because it's a lie. I studied the Bible and found inconsistencies between what it said and what the LDS church taught. For example, the LDS church teaches that the Holy Spirit is available only to Mormons. When I mentioned this to the elders' quorum, they got upset with me. Another example is the teaching that after death others won't see their family unless they are sealed in the Mormon temple. This didn't make sense to me that so many other good people couldn't have the Holy Spirit and wouldn't see their families after death.

That led to questioning the Temple rituals that are so eternally significant to the LDS. "You have to do handshakes, signs, and progress toward becoming a god

or goddess. It was corny." In 1993, Doug saw a Discover Channel special about Joseph Smith and Free Masonry. As he studied more about Free Masonry, he realized that some of the garments, oaths, signs, and handshakes were the same as those used in the Mormon Temple. "The more I advanced in the temple ceremony, the more I realized it's manmade." Before he studied the connection to Free Masonry, he thought that the LDS was the only true church, the only church with the eternal covenants and ceremonies. "When I connected it to Free Masonry, I knew it was fraudulent."

He also saw how the LDS concept of becoming gods and goddesses of your own world didn't align with Biblical Christianity. "It's Satan's goal to trap people into thinking they can be above Christ. In the Mormon church it is slowly introduced that you'll be equal to or better than God." Reaching this goal requires attending the Temple, and adherence to the teachings, practices, and laws of Mormonism.

"Also, Mormons don't uphold their own teachings. I heard stake presidents and bishops say, 'I hope I can make it.' I told them the church has us chasing a golden carrot. None of us could do it. In fact the LDS way pushes us farther away from Christ. LDS act nice on the outside but they're faking it. They're hurting more than they want to admit. They're carrying heavy burdens of their callings in the church and the guilt of not really knowing if they're doing enough."

Doug knows that we have to reach out to our Mormon neighbors in love. He says, "Arguing is the wrong thing to do. Yes, truth has to be presented, but it must be done in a spirit of love and caring. No debating. Christians should be so honest and genuine that a Mormon will begin to question what causes the Christian to be that way. No competition—there should be none. LDS are programmed that they're superior that's why this will never work to help them see their need to change."

To help those who are coming out of Mormonism and into Christianity, he says, "A Christian should show the fruits of the spirit. They should display Christ's love and be an example of what it means to have Christ and love one another."

Thank you, Doug. May God bless you as you reach out to your family members and friends who are still Mormon.





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Mormonism Exposed by William Swartzell
Mormonism, Magic and Masonry by Gerald and Sandra Tanner
Mormonism, Mama & Me by Thelma "Granny" Geer
Mormonism: Shadow or Reality?
by Gerald and Sandra Tanner
Mountain Meadows Massacre, The by Josiah Gibbs
No Man Knows My History by Fawn Brody
One Nation Under Gods by Richard Abanes
Point by Point by Steven Lee
Quetzalcoatl – Jesus in the Americas by Eric Johnson
NEW → **The Mormon Scrapbook: A Christians Guide for Reaching LDS**
by Daniel Thompson
Triple Combination, The by Colleen Ralson
Use of the Bible in the BOM & Early Events
Reflected in the BOM by H. Michael Marquardt
View of the Hebrews by Ethan Smith
Where Does It Say That? compiled by Bob Witte
Why Egyptologists Reject the Book of Abraham
Reprinted by Gerald and Sandra Tanner

VIDEOS

DNA vs. the Book of Mormon (VHS or DVD)
Freemasonry: Darkness to Light (VHS only)
God Makers (VHS only)
Jim Robertson Talks to LDS Missionaries (VHS or DVD)
Joseph Smith's Temple of Doom (VHS only)
Mormon Dilemma (VHS only)
Mormonism: The Christian View (VHS only)
Temple of the God Makers (VHS only)
The Lost Book of Abraham (VHS or DVD)
The Secret World of Mormonism (VHS only)
Understanding Your Mormon Neighbor (VHS or DVD)

AUDIO

Understanding Your Mormon Neighbor by Jim Robertson

SPANISH MATERIALS

El Mormonismo y Yo por Thelma de Geer
Los Mormones: Sus doctrinas refutadas a la luz de la Biblia
por Marvin W. Cowan
DNA Contra El Libro de Mormón (VHS y DVD)
Los Creadores de Dioses el Templo Mormón (VHS sólo)
El Libro Perdido de Abraham (VHS y DVD)
Enseñanzas Básicas de La Iglesia de Jesucristo de Los Santos de los Últimos Días (tratado)