

Ex-Mormon Support Groups

In Arizona, there are five Concerned Christians support groups: Mesa in the East Valley, Glendale/Peoria in the West Valley, Prescott Valley in North-Central Arizona, Taylor in Northeastern Arizona, and Tucson in Southern Arizona.

For times and directions to the location nearest you, call the Mesa office at 480-833-2537.

Please Note: The Mesa meeting starts at 7:00 PM on Thursday evenings.

Weekly Prayer at Concerned Christians
We encourage all of our Metro-Phoenix friends to join us in prayer for our LDS neighbors, every Monday, 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 Strohmeier of Concerned Christians.

Praise to the Man? by Cheri Billingsley

Over the past year, several writers of CROSS articles have mentioned how the LDS glorify or praise Joseph Smith. I was again reminded of this while reading Church News (week ending July 8, 2006) where there was an article entitled, “Two services honor Joseph, Hyrum, Emma.” This article briefly reviewed how hundreds of people attended services at both the Smith Family Burial Ground and the Carthage Jail in memory of Joseph Smith on June 27, the anniversary of his “martyrdom.” In the service at the Carthage Jail, “David Warner, director of music and cultural arts for the Church ... described contributions the Prophet Joseph Smith has made that continue to bless those who participate in today’s restored gospel of Jesus Christ.” The service was concluded by the singing of two LDS hymns, the second of which was “Praise to the Man.”

Out of curiosity, I looked up the words to “Praise to the Man” and couldn’t believe what I was reading. Rather than praising God, this is a hymn about a man who “communed with Jehovah ... who died as a martyr ... who was faithful and true ...” and who is lauded as a hero.

1. Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah!
Jesus anointed that Prophet and Seer.
Blessed to open the last dispensation,
Kings shall extol him, and nations revere.
2. Praise to his mem’ry, he died as a martyr;
Honored and blest be his ever great name!
Long shall his blood, which was shed by assassins,
Plead unto heav’n while the earth lauds his fame.
3. Great is his glory and endless his priesthood.
Ever and ever the keys he will hold.
Faithful and true, he will enter his kingdom,
Crowned in the midst of the prophets of old.
4. Sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven;
Earth must atone for the blood of that man.
Wake up the world for the conflict of justice.
Millions shall know ‘Brother Joseph’ again.

(refrain) Hail to the Prophet, ascended to heaven!
Traitors and tyrants now fight him in vain.
Mingling with Gods, he can plan for his brethren;
Death cannot conquer the hero again.

(Hymn 27, Hymns of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1985 ed.)



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Praise to the Man?

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This praise of Joseph Smith runs contrary to all that is in the Bible where men are called on to praise God for who He is and what He has done. Never do we read that men are praised, rather they are simply servants of the One True God to whom all praise belongs. God never has and never will give that which rightfully belongs to Him to another. "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols" (Isaiah 42:8). Although the LDS Church claims to be a restoration of "the Church of Jesus Christ," we are once again reminded that their true focus is on Joseph Smith and not Jesus.



AMAZING QUOTES

from LDS
 Church Leaders

Ensign, May 2007, Volume 37,
 Number 5, pgs. 115,117

"Now I offer you a very simple recipe which, if observed, will assure your happiness. It is a simple four-point program. It is as follows:

(1) pray, (2) study, (3) pay your tithing, and (4) attend your meetings

... If you will do these four things, I promise you that your lives will be fruitful, that your happiness will be great, and that your accomplishments will be tremendous and satisfying in every respect."

(from the General Young Women Meeting, March 24, 2007 by LDS prophet Gordon B. Hinckley)



For by
GRACE
 you have
 been saved
 through
FAITH ...
 it is the gift
 of **GOD ...**

Ephesians 2:8, NRSV

Thank You for Your Hospitality

To all those who have so warmly opened their hearts and homes to us throughout our travels we humbly say thank-you ... Thank-you for the delicious meals, delightful company, and for your encouraging support of us and our ministry even though many of you have never heard of Concerned Christians

before. You are truly a blessing to us. As John says "...you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you" (3 John 5). "To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen" (Romans 16:27).

Jim & Judy Robertson

A Scarlet Thread Binds Us Together by Judy Robertson

Driving into the RV Park in Independence, Missouri we were shocked to see we were within a stone's throw of the temple of the Reorganized Church of Latter-day Saints. It's steeple, shaped like a spiral sea shell reaches to the sky several hundred feet. Pretty impressive. As we gazed over this amazing sight from our vantage point sitting on a hill above it, we could actually see the four corners of deceit. On one corner, the RLDS temple, across the street the Utah Mormon's "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," on another corner, "The Remnant Church," and on the other "The Church of Christ, Temple Lot." Each of these churches claims this is for them, "Zion." And each claims to be the "only true church." I felt as though there was electricity in the air in the form of demonic beings each vying for the most important place.

One morning as I walked across the RV park I couldn't ignore a man sitting on a bench. I greeted him cordially and he asked a question about the laptop I was carrying. Drawn into a conversation about the temple in full view, our chat turned to, of course, religion. After telling him I was ex-LDS he began telling me that he and a number of others had pulled away from the RLDS and had organized the "Restored church." This group felt that the RLDS, which now calls itself the Community of Christ, was in "a state of apostasy." We found out from others that there are so many off-shoots of the LDS/RLDS that it is difficult to keep up with what each believes and says about the others. Keep in mind that each of these groups believes firmly in Joseph Smith as their founding prophet and the Book of Mormon as the inspired word of God. The RLDS/Community of Christ and off-shoots all use, exclusively, the "Inspired Version" (Joseph Smith's translation) of the King James version of the Bible.

Then the good things began happening. An ex-RLDS lady, Carol Hansen who had corresponded with us earlier, invited us to East-side Baptist Church where she and her husband, Gene, attend and to dinner at their lovely home afterward. She had invited another ex-RLDS couple, Paul and Leslie Trask, to join us. What a wonderful time of fellowship we had. The six of us stared in wonder at each other reflecting on the fact that God had graciously pulled all six of us out of the web of deceit we had each been woven into.

I felt as though a puzzle piece was firmly planted into the whole picture as we shared the ministry each couple has. The Hansen's, Lifeline Ministries to RLDS. The Trask's, Refiner's Fire Ministries, an outreach ministry to those still involved in the RLDS church and ours, Concerned Christians outreach to LDS.

In a place that seemed in some ways to be the pit of deception, God had planted His warriors to fight falsehood in its finest clothes. How can three different break-off churches of the original church Joseph Smith founded, each stand its ground claiming to be the real one that God ordained? Mind boggling.

As we continued with a most delicious meal at the Hansen's, we concurred that networking with each other and using the material that each of us has written will better equip us all in fighting the war against Satan's deceptive forces.



The spire of the Community of Christ (RLDS) Temple, Independence, Missouri.

Carol has written: *The RLDS Church: Is It Christian?* And many other excellent resources. Her website is www.lifeline2rlds.org. Paul Trask has written: *Part Way to Utah: the Forgotten Mormons* and *The Long Way Home, Moving From a Pseudo-Christian Cult Into Genuine Christianity*. His website is www.help4rlds.com.

We will be communicating and helping one another in many ways in the future. We are all on the same team as ambassadors for Christ. To God be the glory for helping us find each other and meet this day.



ASK ANDY

by Andy Poland

QUESTION:

I was reading an article about Mitt Romney and came across your website. I read through some of the testimonies and was especially touched by Melissa's testimony. She said to "Put your religion to the test." I have done this.

I know Jesus is my Savior. I know He loves me and that He died for me. Only through Jesus Christ can I be saved. I have messed up so many times. If it wasn't for His love I am fearful to know where I would be today.

One of my favorite scriptures is Hebrews 11:5 – 6. "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Without God I am nothing, without the sacrifice of Jesus I have no hope.

Have I come to the same conclusion about the LDS Church that Melissa came to? I believe my desire to do good and to help others come unto Christ is as much of a desire that Melissa has. I believe I must confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and that He is the ONLY way, the truth, and the life. I believe God loves us, that we are His children, that He wants us to return to Him in Heaven. I believe God listens to and answers our prayers, I believe He uses me to help and serve others (Matt 25:40).

Because He hears and answers prayers, I believe the Heavens are open to revelation from God. From the small to large problems in life to needing a miracle to happen so my car doesn't crash on a scary snowy night.

A young man had a question about which church to join. He read James 1:5 - 6, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." In answer to his prayer he said he "saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above (him) in the air. One of

them spake unto (him), calling (him) by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!"

I believe Joseph Smith saw what he said he saw. The result is the current status of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As we all work together to help each other and lift each other up, this world will be a better place.

ANSWER:

The kind of "test" that Melissa was referring to is not a feeling "test" or if you have prayed and felt good about it "test." It is a biblical test, which requires you to put aside your feelings and look at some things from a study and research perspective. It means that even if you feel really good about something but yet what you believe goes against the Biblical "tests," then you must not follow that belief. In fact the Bible tells us that our hearts are not reliable (Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 28:26).

There are three tests for determining what comes from God. The first one is in Deuteronomy 18:20-22 "*...When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*"

In this test do you see any mention of feelings or praying to ask God if he is a true prophet? I do not see anything like that. I see that it requires research and study to find the answer. First you have to look at the prophecies of the individual. That means gathering them up, which takes work, and then doing the research in history to find out if they were fulfilled. That means studying history and church sources such as journals, publications and others to see if they were fulfilled. Have you gathered Joseph's prophecies and the history and compared them to see if they were fulfilled? We, at Concerned Christians, have checked this out thoroughly and have found that Smith has failed many times in predicting the future. If you would like to know where to find our research we have a book entitled *The False Prophecies of Joseph Smith* by Dick Baer and Jim Robertson.

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ASK ANDY

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The second test for determining if something is from God or not is found in Deuteronomy 13:1-5 *“...If there arise among you a prophet...and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet... for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...”*

This test comes after the first one because even if you have a prophecy fulfilled it could come from the wrong source. Again this test does not ask you to pray or rely on a feeling to know what comes from God. It requires research and study. Jesus even warned us of this type of false prophet. See Matthew 24:24.

Have you looked at the God of the Bible and compared it with the God that Joseph taught? In the Bible over and over it says there is only one God. But Joseph taught that there are three Gods over us and that they are God the Father (Elohim), God the Son (Jehovah/Jesus), and the Holy Ghost. Each of these is a distinct God. So if I trust the Bible is accurate, then the Gods of Joseph cannot save me, only the one true God in the Bible. It does mean that no matter how great the sign given by Joseph that comes to pass or even if an angel were to bring this to our own ears and our own sight it has to be rejected, because it is not the same God of the Bible (see Galatians 1:6-9).

The Apostle John in I John 4:6 wrote the last test in the Bible. This test also does not say trust your feelings or pray to know what is from God. Speaking as an Apostle of Jesus, John says that if any one will not listen to him or any other apostle or prophet in the Bible then he has to be rejected as a false prophet. Joseph said that the words of Jesus and the words given to his servants the prophets had been altered and lost. He also said a person could not rely on their accuracy, because of erroneous translators. In fact he “corrected” the Bible by writing the Joseph Smith Translation.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:35 *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”*

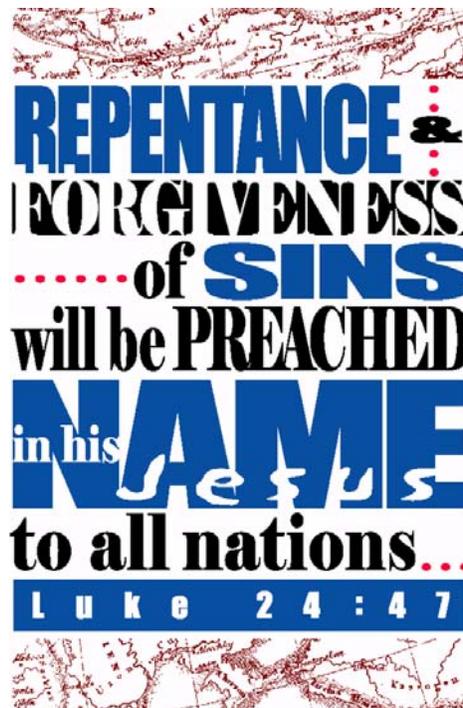
In order for you to believe what Joseph said you have to deem Jesus a liar and that He did not mean what He said.

For the New Testament books alone, we have manuscripts that come from all different locations dating from 50 A.D. to 350 A.D. In total, there are in existence, some 25,000 manuscripts. What is more amazing is that when you compare these manuscripts you find that they agree with each other. If someone wanted to change the Bible they would have to find and gather up all of the manuscripts from all the locations and change each one individually. The evidence shows that this did not occur. We also have been blessed to find all of the books of the Old Testament in the Dead Sea Scrolls, that date before the time of Christ, and have found when compared to the Hebrew, it did not vary at all. That is amazing evidence that fulfills the prophecy of Jesus concerning His word. Joseph fails to listen to Jesus and to all the prophets whose word he altered. This means that he fails the last test as well. If you would like to see the research for the Bible and its accuracy see *New Evidence That Demands A Verdict* by Josh McDowell.

Are you willing to follow the evidence? Or will you continue to listen to your heart and to signs given to you making you believe in Joseph? The evidence points one way, your heart and the answers to your prayers (signs) point in another direction. You must decide what you will do.

In His Care,

Andy



From the Mailbag



My thanks to Duane and his wife for the hand delivery of DVDs to those who so desperately need to hear the truth. May God bless the Strohmeyers for their faithful witness!

Henderson, NV

May God watch over you all as this new phase of 'on the road' begins. Bless you all! Stay strong! Dear Friends, I pray you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your souls are going well.

Mesa, AZ

Dear Jim & Judy,

As you know my father is on the board of directors. What a joy it is to my heart to see his earnest involvement in your great work. I know he is grateful for the opportunity and the rewards of serving the Lord in this way. Keep up the wonderful work that you are doing. You and others have been laboring with hard, consistent, patient work trying as you might to help people see the lies they have been taught. As I see from some of your newsletter responses there will always be those who do not understand that the love of God is always based upon truth. When people are deceived by false doctrine, correction unto truth is a form of His mercy and love. The Bible tells us that people will be destroyed because of lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). I bear witness that what you guys are doing may appear to be 'bulldogish' at times, but it is truth in love. I praise the Lord for you. Without a doubt, Apostle Paul was a bulldog too. Many people in the nation and world have been veiled by the enemy from being able to see and discern the Truth (1 Corinthians 2). As you know, we have been fighting a spiritual battle with spiritual forces of darkness in heavenly places (Ephesians 6). Please know that you are not alone. Many are behind you waging war in the heavenlies...

Prescott, AZ

Concerned Christians,

We would like to have 5 DVDs of *Jesus Christ vs. Joseph Smith*. We enjoyed the DVD and would like to give it to some people.

Scottsdale, AZ

Dear Concerned Christians,

Thank-you for the wonderful work you are doing. I found out about Concerned Christians after reading Judy's book "Out of Mormonism."

The book was very enlightening and I was surprised to learn a lot of Mormon theology that I had no clue about! Leaving the church at 15 (over 25 years ago) I simply wasn't taught certain doctrines yet.

What the Lord did instill in me at an early age was to question what I was taught within the Mormon church. Time after time as a child I would hear Mormons bearing testimony and all the while longed to hear about Jesus. I would leave the sanctuary feeling void and that my thirst was not quenched. I am so thankful for God's love, my relationship with Christ and the one and only owner's manual to life – the Holy Bible!

Recently my Pastor announced his son's best friend will be doing missionary work in Utah to reach Mormons with the gospel of Christ. I was able to get to him Judy's book and all the great information on your website to aid him in God's will!

Our Father is a Great God isn't he?!

I will continue to pray for you and for all those we love in the Mormon church.

Edmund, OK

God bless you all!

May our Lord especially give Jim & Judy travel mercies and guide their footsteps as they continue His work in these United States.

Mesa, AZ

To Jim, Judy & the entire Concerned Christians organization,

I am a strong Christian and a firm supporter of your Ministry. I love my Mormon friends so deeply and I pray that one day their eyes may be opened to the truth. I hope this small amount of money can be of some help as you begin your travels. I pray that many eyes will be opened through your diligence. Thank-you so much for your love for the Mormons and I will be praying for your continued ministry. God bless you all!

Auburn, WA

Dear Jim,

In the recent June newsletter 'The CROSS' I read all the comments from the Mailbag, including a couple that called you names and ridiculed you for your work in this ministry. I can only say 'bravo!' The devil is aware and is upset so it seems. The Bible says to count it all joy that you have ruffled some feathers on the subject of Mormonism. I have heard you speak in person and I have read several of Judy's books. I know what you say is true. It is what it is. We know when people say such awful negative things, they are blind to the truth. So, be encouraged! You are doing a great and marvelous job for the Kingdom of God. I pray the Lord will anoint you and your ministry extra and mighty since those attacks on you. I also pray that one day those same people who lash out at you will finally see the truth you represent before it is too late. For we know it is all for His Glory! Blessings to you and your ministry of Concerned Christians.

Apache Junction, AZ

The CROSS,

I look forward to receiving this publication and truly enjoy reading it. Praise God for those that are led to the Jesus Christ of the Bible through your ministry. I would like to receive a copy of the DVD that was delivered door to door in Taylor and Snowflake [*Jesus Christ/Joseph Smith*]. I would also like the book "Witness to Mormons." Thank-you & God Bless.

Forsyth, MO

Hi Cheri,

I was looking for an older book put out by Concerned Christians. I lent it out years ago, and now I wish I had it for my library. It had Mormon doctrine on one side and Scripture on the other. It was clear and concise and easy to use...It also had a road map to Heaven for Mormons and what the Scripture said to get to heaven ... Could you help me figure out which book in your library this was? Late 80's is when I got it. Maybe you have something better now?

(Kingman, AZ)

[the book being described is *Witness to Mormons*]

What Does it All Mean?

The Temple was the focus of Old Testament worship. It was there that the LORD called his people to worship Him with gifts and sacrifices that were done in a way ordained by Him. It was there that the Israelites were to go to celebrate a festival to the LORD three times a year. It was there that atonement was made annually for the sin of the Israelites. The Temple, of which the Tabernacle was the prototype, was the focus of the Israelite's life. Detailed instructions are given to Moses by God regarding its construction ... "Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show



you" (Exodus 25:9).

Have you ever wondered what it all means? After all, over 30 chapters of the Bible describe the Tabernacle/Temple and its offerings. Most people tend to skip over these chapters when reading their Bible and yet, God doesn't waste words. Why is so much time spent on this subject and what is its importance? Over the next several newsletters we will explore the importance and meaning of everything in the Tabernacle.

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

No Comparison by Concerned Christians

Potholes on the Road to Paradise by Judy Robertson

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 Jerald and Sandra Tanner

An Address to all Believers in Christ by David Whitmer

An Examination of B.H. Roberts' Secret Manuscripts

by Wesley P. Walters

Answering Mormon's Questions by Bill McKeever

Archaeology and the BOM by Jerald 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 Jerald and Sandra Tanner

Confessions of John D. Lee reprinted by Jerald and Sandra Tanner

Evolution of the Mormon Temple Ceremony by Jerald and Sandra Tanner

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 Jerald 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 Jerald and Sandra Tanner

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

Mormonism Exposed by William Swartzell

Mormonism, Magic and Masonry by Jerald and Sandra Tanner

Mormonism: Shadow or Reality? by Jerald and Sandra Tanner

Mountain Meadows Massacre, The by Josiah Gibbs

No Man Knows My History by Fawn Brody

Point by Point by Steven Lee

Quetzalcoatl - Jesus in the Americas by Eric Johnson

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 Jerald and Sandra Tanner

