



The CROSS

Concerned Christians

October — November 2007

On the Road

by Judy Robertson

We continue to meet people who are in need of the ministry of Concerned Christians; a high school principle in a nearby town, a youth pastor we met at a glass repair shop, a couple in a restaurant we engaged in casual conversation, and many church workers needing the information we have. We are so glad to give out the literature they need to educate the people who are in their scope of influence.

On the other hand, we've had our share of travel hazards. The windshield of our motor home cracked in several places and pulled way from the center and sidebars necessitating a rather scary slow drive from Montana to Idaho where our motor home windshield could be replaced.

We're grateful for duct-tape, as we had to stop ever so often to apply more while on the side of an interstate highway where strong wind gusts were common. I steadied the ladder for Jim as he reached high on the windshield applying duct-tape and lifted up prayers in continuous fashion. God hears and God is good. We made it to safe haven and now have a new windshield.

The glass company owner/youth pastor wanted to see *Understanding My Mormon*

Friends' Faith and Mine. The next day as we arrived to pick up our motor home, the lady behind the desk said her boss had given her instructions to take \$47.00 dollars off the \$1147.00 bill for the literature we gave him. Now that's a blessing!

Plans to travel up the Western border of Idaho for visiting others interested in forming a support group for LDS in their area were delayed because of a forest fire. The highway was shut down for a time. But we find, as always, God has a purpose for the delay. We met others, in the meantime, who wanted to meet with us for help in reaching out more effectively to the heavy LDS community in which they live.

One phone call produced a meeting with four staff members of Calvary Chapel and a one-hour radio show that reaches many LDS in this region. Much networking and distributing of our Concerned Christians' literature has occurred all along our journey. We continue to thank God for bringing people into our path, who are passionate about this ministry and well equipped to disciple those who transition from the false gospel of Mormonism into God's kingdom.



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, 7:00-8:00 PM, at our Mesa office, 525 East Broadway Road (two blocks east of Mesa Drive, southwest corner of Broadway Road and Pioneer). Hosted by Duane Strohmeyer of Concerned Christians.

Amazing Quotes from LDS Church Leaders

"We need to recognize and acknowledge angry feelings. It will take humility to do this, but if we get on our knees and ask Heavenly Father for a *feeling of forgiveness*, He will help us ... Only as *we rid ourselves of hatred and bitterness* can the Lord put comfort into our hearts."

(President James E. Faust, Sunday morning session, General Conference, April 1, 2007)



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September Dawn – Movie Review

by Bob Betts

The long-awaited and anticipated opening of *September Dawn*, in about 800 theaters around the U.S., finally arrived on August 24, after two opening date postponements, for reasons unknown to myself.

Unfortunately, it didn't open with a bang, but more with a muffled pop and was out of the theaters in a week. There were few television promotions; I saw no billboard advertisements; and, Jon Voight, the most noted actor who played the part of the fictitious, Bishop Jacob Samuelson, promoted the movie on only a couple of national programs that I'm aware of: Barbara Walters, and FOX News.

I don't know how many other actors' names you might recognize, so I'll only mention Terence Stamp, who played a grim-faced and stoic Brigham Young, and Jon Gries, who acted the part of John D. Lee, the only Mormon out of 58 who was prosecuted, convicted and executed for his part in the Mountain Meadows Massacre (see my article about the massacre, combined with my PREview of *September Dawn* in the June/July CROSS Newsletter).

Most professional movie critics agreed that, for their varied reasons, they didn't like the movie. But, then, if they knew the details surrounding that momentous event and understood the implications of the LDS doctrines behind it, that might have helped.

There are two fictitious side stories, which I agree with some critics, are distractions from the importance of the reason the movie was made. One had to do with the taming of a horse by a young Mormon man, a son of Bishop Samuelson, and that same young man's flowering relationship with a Christian young lady from the wagon train. Some significant differences between Mormonism and biblical Christianity do come to light in the conversations between the young man and lady, while the lengthy horse whisperer segment seems to serve no purpose other than to "spur" the attraction of the young couple.

The pleasant surprise for me was that the

depicted story of the massacre, while being the big finale at the end, was shown to simply be the logical fruit of the seed sown by the LDS doctrine of "blood atonement." Several LDS leaders gave sermons on the subject, but in the movie, Brigham Young was quoted liberally and verbatim from *Journal of Discourses* on that topic which certainly helped precipitate the atmosphere in Utah Territory, to make the Mountain Meadows Massacre possible.

For the record, I still highly recommend that you see *September Dawn*. For the sake of those who will rent the DVD, I will conclude with a few of Brigham Young's "blood atonement" comments.

"The time is coming when justice will be laid to the line and righteousness to the plummet; when we shall ask, 'Are you for God?' and if you are not heartily on the Lord's side, you will be hewn down." Vol. 3, p. 226, March 2, 1856

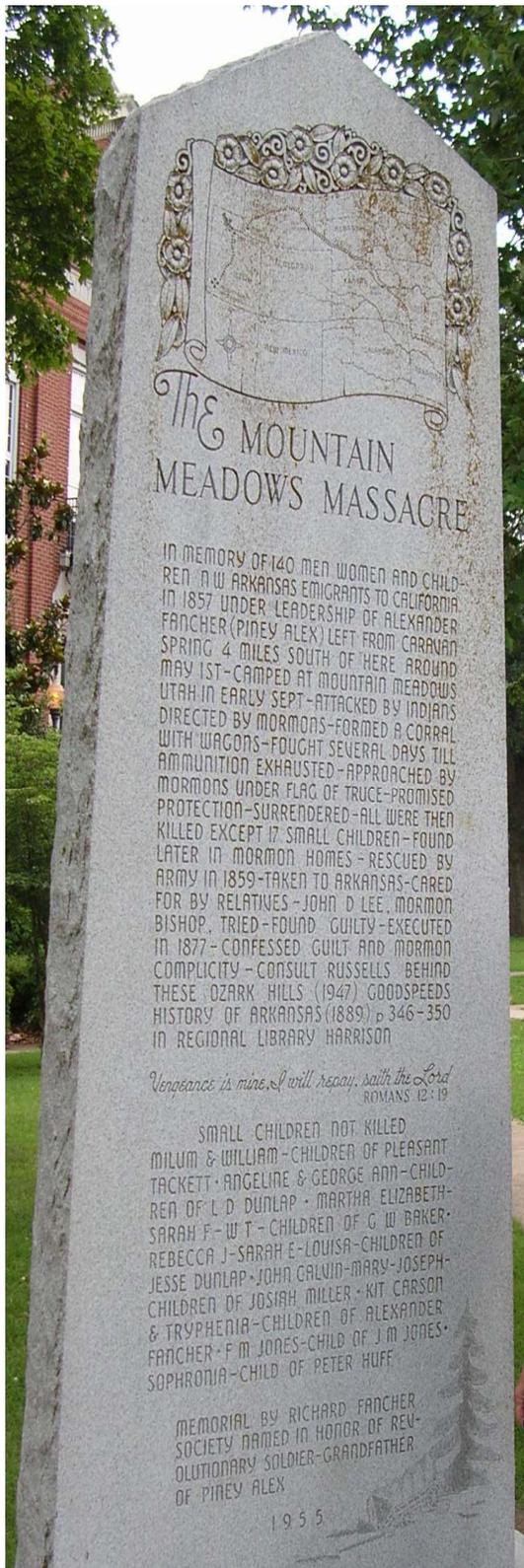
"There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it;..." Vol. 3, p. 247, March 18, 1856

"When will we love our neighbor as ourselves?"

"I could refer you to plenty of instances where men have been righteously slain, in order to atone for their sins.

"This is loving our neighbor as ourselves; if he needs help, help him; and if he wants salvation and it is necessary to spill his blood on the earth in order that he may be saved, spill it. Any of you who understand the principles of eternity, if you have sinned a sin requiring the shedding of blood, except the sin unto death, would not be satisfied nor rest until your blood should be spilled, that you might gain that salvation you desire. That is the way to love mankind." Vol. 4, pp. 219-220, February 8, 1857





The Mountain Meadows Massacre Monument in Harrison, AR. The story of the massacre is on one side. The names of the victims are on the other. Harrison is the location the victims were originally from.



The 4th Annual Golf and Walk Benefit for Concerned Christians

Kokopelli Golf Club
1800 W. Guadalupe
Gilbert, AZ

Saturday, November 17
7:00am Shotgun for the Golfers

10:00am One-hour Fun Walk
for the non-golfers

Trophies awarded to golfers, along with two
hole-in-one chances:
one for a new car and one for \$1,000,000.

Free lunch for golfers and walkers.

If you are willing to help raise needed support
funds for Concerned Christians by either
playing a round of golf or walking near the
Golf Club for one hour, call Bob, Cheri or Andy
at the office,
at 480-833-2537, or e-mail:
bob@concernedchristians.org



From the Mailbag



Dear Judy, Jim, Bob & Cheri,

Thank-you so much, as always, for all you do for so many people, helping them find the right, the best, the only way to GOD! I've enjoyed getting to know all of you better over the years. Bless Judy & Jim in their travels.

(Mesa, AZ)

Hi,

Thank you for your ministry. If it weren't for your website, I don't think I would have ever been able to get up the courage to leave the church. I had spent 10 years away and then suddenly felt the urge to re-investigate the church and whether it was what I had been taught it was cracked up to be. Friends of mine from the Christian church I've been attending used to live in AZ and told me about your ministry.

I wrote up my resignation letter with the help of your website about a month ago. I just couldn't bring myself to make that final step. Then yesterday the missionaries came to my door (the Elders, I won't talk to the male missionaries due to two bad run-ins when I converted to LDS and right after...) and I hid from them. It was then I made the final decision and mailed the letters (after they were out of sight).

This probably sounds jumbled up, but I had to tell you what you've done for me! Thank you and God Bless!!

(received via e-mail)

Oh how thankful I am for you and your faithfulness. "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:25).

(Mesa, AZ)

Dear Concerned Christians,

Thank you for sending "The CROSS" to us – we look forward to this each month. We appreciate your work as we left Mormonism a few years ago after being members 30 years. After prayer and study of many books and videos, we know we were in a mindtrap and are now free. We enclose a few dollars to help.

(Chelmsford, England)

Dear Concerned Christians,

I just finished Judy's wonderful journey "Potholes on the Road to Paradise" and am looking for the 2nd book. Thanks and God Bless you. [note – the sequel has not yet been published]

(Port Orange, FL)

Dear Concerned Christians,

I am a non-denominational Christian who grew up in Utah, God has put a love in me for the Mormon people and a desire to reach them with the truth of His Word and grace. Your ministry has been a tremendous resource for me and I wish to help any way I can. Please accept my donation. May God richly bless all of you involved in this ministry.

(Mesa, AZ)

Dear Concerned Christians,

Thank you for your work. My spouse who was raised in Utah reads your magazine when he/she picks up the mail. Please pray that he/she will fully see the light of the wrongs of the LDS church. He/she has a relationship with Jesus Christ but at times the raisings of his/her childhood grips him/her. He/she reads your CROSS magazine and quietly seems to ponder the writings. May Satan be defeated! With prayers for your work!

(location withheld by request)

Dear Concerned Christians,

Always enjoy your newsletter and am pleased to hear you are expanding to other cities. Know you will be successful in reaching the lost and teaching them to believe in our one true God. Keep up your faithful work.

(The Dalles, OR)

Hi,

It was great to have Jim & Judy in Twin Falls on August 26, 2007. Blessings.

(Twin Falls, ID)



Self-deception, the ill-fated task of Mormons

by Judy Robertson and Andy Poland

“Would a woman, in the event of her untimely death, be big-hearted enough to share a cherished husband with a ‘sister wife’ in heaven? Would a divorced LDS mom have to live forever with an ex-husband she despised?” Such was the topic of an online article, *Mormons: Is Polygamy in Afterlife OK?* on MSNBC.com Newsweek, September 3, 2007 issue. Will it “all work out” as the LDS woman is told by her leaders?

Most of us would have a difficult time wanting to go to a heaven where such a state awaits us in the afterlife. But Mormon women deal with this issue daily or stuff these thoughts away somewhere in the back of the mind because the reality is too difficult to consider. Trying to forget the teachings of their errant prophets is an ill-fated task Mormons find themselves with in an effort to make the Mormon religion work for them.

For, as we see and hear, the hierarchy of the LDS church denies its roots, even its founders’ words that are considered scripture:

No group is more emphatically and publicly opposed to the practice of polygamy than the Latter-day Saints. The topic is however irresistible and perennial. While the Mormon Church banned plural marriage more than 100 years ago and promises excommunication to those who practice it, its spokespeople find themselves having to explain polygamy's legacy over and over to reporters who watch "Big Love" or are curious about Mitt Romney's ancestry. "I wish to state categorically that this church has nothing whatever to do with those practicing polygamy," said LDS president Gordon B. Hinckley more than a decade ago. (Quoted from MSNBC.com article above)

Andy

As I read the news article on MSNBC.com what struck me the most was the fact that everybody is running away from the answers that have already been given by [LDS] Church leaders concerning polygamy. The early church leaders had no allusions as to whether polygamy would be practiced in the next life. It was understood that of course it would. Many times in priesthood meetings I attended, the scripture in Isaiah 4:1 was quoted as referring to polygamy coming back.

And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

The priesthood holders in my quorums knew it was coming back and they were looking forward to it. The early church leaders had no doubt about polygamy being forced on women and practiced in the Celestial

Kingdom. Polygamy is inevitable in Mormonism.

Brigham Young taught, "The only men who become gods, even the sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy" *Journal of Discourses* vol 11 pg 269.

How can one who is a Latter-day Saint get around a statement like that? It is very clear on the importance of the doctrine of polygamy, if one is to become a God someday.

Just by looking at this evidence it is hard for me to believe that the church leaders are confused about the eternal consequences of this law. I just think that they want to stick their heads in the sand and say the hurricane is not coming. It seems that this is the operating procedure in the church, to cover their eyes so that they won't be able to see it.

“We have great faith that it will all work out,” says LDS spokeswoman Kim Farah.

As we speak to and pray for our LDS friends, let’s not forget the mental juggling they must constantly do while attempting to be good enough to secure a place in the Celestial kingdom when they die.

Working the LDS church “system” does not gain its faithful anything but self-deception. We pray regularly, and ask you to join us, that our LDS relatives and friends will, by God’s amazing grace, come out of Mormonism and accept the Jesus of the Bible.



Jim and Judy: Meeting new people everywhere they go.

In His Presence

A brief overview of God's relationship with man

by Cheri Billingsley

Then

Since the beginning of the world, God's desire has been to have intimate fellowship with man. We see a glimpse of this in the Garden of Eden where we read, "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?' He answered, 'I heard you in the garden and was afraid...'" (Genesis 3:8-10). Adam knew the sound of God walking through the garden, so we can assume that before the fall, Adam had intimate fellowship with God and that they walked and talked together. Then sin entered the world and the devastating results were that the fellowship man was created for was broken. Adam ran and hid from God. Just after the fall, God promises to eventually destroy the effects of sin, suggesting that fellowship would once again be restored. Until that time, they were shown that something had to die for the effects of sin to be covered (Genesis 3:21).

Throughout the times of the patriarchs, sacrifices were offered, though we are not told much about them. Then, after God leads the nation of Israel out of Egypt He established his covenant with them saying, "now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:5-6). The Law was given. Immediately after receiving the law, the people are told about how they may return to God when they sinned. They were to make an altar and sacrifice on it their burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. God was providing a way back to fellowship with Him. However it had to be as He directed.

While Moses was up on the mountain for forty days, he received instructions how to build the tabernacle where God would once

again meet with man. Moses was told, "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering ... Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you" (Exodus 25:2, 8-9). The tabernacle was built according to specifications and upon its consecration "the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34-35). God resided among men, in the form of a cloud over the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant. Although fellowship was reestablished, it was not the same as what God and man had once enjoyed. Man could not enter into God's presence whenever he wanted because he would die. The Israelites in their representative, the high priest, were only allowed in God's presence for a few seconds, once a year (on the Day of Atonement), with the blood of a sacrifice (Leviticus 16) that would temporarily cover their sin.

Now

Everything about the tabernacle spoke of a future sacrifice that would not just cover sin but would destroy its effects forever. We now know this to be Jesus. It was His sacrifice that reestablished full fellowship between God and man. Those of us on this side of the cross have a privilege that the saints in Old Testament times only dreamed of ... we reside in God's presence. When we become believers, we essentially open our eyes to a new life and find ourselves in God's presence, in the Holy of Holies. How did we get there? We will see as we begin our walk through the tabernacle in the next newsletter.



LDS interpretation of tabernacle

"...the layout and construction of the tabernacle itself typified, or symbolized, man's progress toward perfection so that he could enter into the presence of God." (*Old Testament: Genesis – 2 Samuel Student Manual*, Religion 301, published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, pg 154)

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will....

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



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

NEW **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

AUDIO

Understanding Your Mormon Neighbor by Jim Robertson

SPECIAL: While Supplies Last!
These VHS Videos are \$10.00
**DNA vs. the Book of Mormon and
The Lost Book of Abraham**

VIDEOS AND DVDS

The Bible vs. the Book of Mormon (DVD)

DNA vs. the Book of Mormon (VHS or DVD)

Freemasonry: Darkness to Light (DVD)

Jim Robertson Talks to LDS Missionaries (DVD)

Joseph Smith's Temple of Doom (DVD)

Understanding Your Mormon Neighbor (DVD)

Mormonism: The Christian View (DVD)

Temple of the God Makers (DVD)

The Lost Book of Abraham (VHS or DVD)

Mormon Dilemma (DVD)

God Makers (DVD)

Mormonism: Has Anything Changed? (DVD)

Lifting the Veil of Polygamy (DVD)

SPANISH MATERIALS

El Mormonismo: Póngalo a Prueba (Witness to Mormons)

– by Concerned Christians

El Mormonismo y Yo (Mormonism, Mama & Me) by Thelma Geer

La Biblia contra El Libro de Mormón (Bible vs. the Book of Mormon) – DVD

Los Mormones: Sus Doctrinas Refutadas a la Luz de la Biblia

(Mormon Claims Answered) – by Marvin Cowan

El ADN Contra El Libro de Mormón (DNA vs The Book of Mormon) – DVD

Los Creadores de Dioses el Templo Mormón (God Makers) – DVD

El Libro Perdido de Abraham (The Lost Book of Abraham) – DVD

Enseñanzas Básicas de La Iglesia de Jesucristo de Los Santos de los Últimos Días (Basic Teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)

– tract by Concerned Christians



Concerned Christians of Mesa

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A Prayer of *Thanksgiving*

God our Creator, our centre, our friend,
we thank you for our good life,
for those who are dear to us,
for our dead,
and for all who have helped and influenced us.
We thank you for the measure of freedom we have,
and the extent to which we control our lives;
and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us,
and our awareness of you and our hope in you.
Keep us, we pray you, thankful and hopeful
and useful until our lives shall end.