

LOST FEAR and Found LOVE

By Andy Poland, General Manager

Fear and love—are they compatible? “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18). I could never understand this scripture until I left Mormonism. As a Mormon, fear ruled my life. My current belief in Christ has taken away my fear and replaced it with love. How is that possible? Understanding how my fear was replaced by God’s love requires a look at my relationship with the god of Mormonism and my current relationship with Jesus. I believe the parable of the good shepherd parallels my current relationship with Jesus and my relationship with the god of Mormonism.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep” (John 10:11-13).

In my comparison, Jesus is the good shepherd; the god of Mormonism is the hired hand; sin is the wolf and I am the sheep. When I followed the hired hand (the god of Mormonism) I was always afraid to sin because of the punishment that would be attached. The god of Mormonism would punish me by removing his Holy Spirit until I repented. I was taught that you must be worthy to have the Holy Ghost. That means that if I sin or do something wrong, the Holy Ghost leaves me (see Doctrine & Covenants 1:33). I struggled very hard to keep all of God’s commandments as a Mormon. What I found was that I could not escape my sinful nature. When Paul said, “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do

what is good, but cannot carry it out” (Romans 7:18). I could really relate to that. My whole life was motivated by a fear of failure. I tried every day to be worthy of the exaltation I thought God was going to give me. When I sinned during my Mormon life, the scripture from Doctrine & Covenants 82:10 would scream in my ears: “I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when you do not what I say, ye have no promise.” I was left alone and without a promise of redemption because of my inability to keep his commandments. The result was that when sin (the wolf) came, the god of Mormonism abandoned me just like the hired hand and left me to die.

There are two important things that Jesus does for me now. First, Jesus does not abandon me when I sin. He searches for me until he finds me. (see Luke 15:4-7) Second, Jesus saved me in a place where I did not expect to find him—in the middle of my sinful nature. (see Romans 5:8) Jesus showed me that, “all who rely on observing the law are under a curse” (Galatians 3:10). The reason why I could not escape my sin was because I did not have the power to keep all of God’s commandments. Christ became “the end of the law” (Romans 10:4) so that I could know the righteousness that comes as a gift to those who believe. I was saved because I believed Jesus took all of my sin on the cross and gave me the gift of His righteousness. And just like the parable of the Good Shepherd, sheep (myself) do not have the power to fight off the wolf (sin). The Shepherd must give his life to save the sheep.

Embracing Jesus’ gift has changed the way that I view life. I know that the punishment of my sin is taken away, therefore my fear is gone and I have found perfect love. This kind of love is a gift to those who do not deserve it. The reason why I try to keep

the commandments now is not to avoid punishment, but to show love to God for His gift of righteousness to me. So how do I describe my life now? I can sum it up in one word – **Hope.**

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us” (Romans 5:5).



Ex-Mormon Support Groups:

There are five Concerned Christians support groups in Arizona:

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 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

Look for us on the web!



concernedchristians.com



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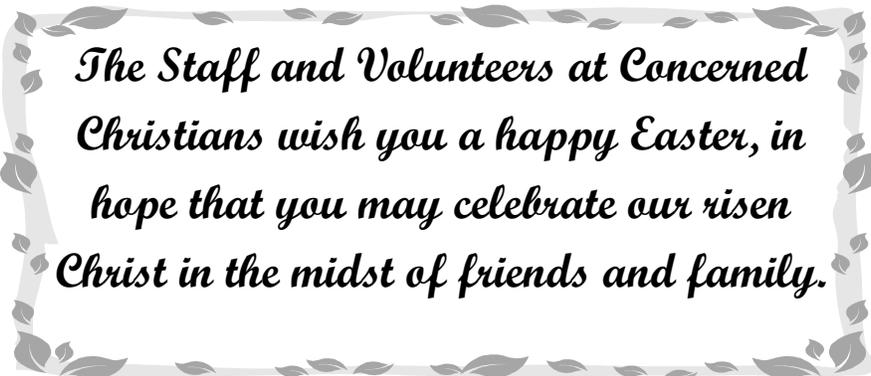
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"I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! [in the tomb]. He is risen from the dead just as he said would happen..."

Matthew 28:5-6



Concerned Christians of the White Mountains:

Meets every fourth Friday of the month at 6:00 pm at Calvary Baptist Church in Show Low. For directions to Calvary Baptist Church you can call 928-537-7555 or go to their website:

www.calvaryshowlow.org

and go to Directions. Meetings will consist of a one hour class on the difference between Mormonism and Biblical Christianity, then an hour of open discussion.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wondering what the following acronyms stand for? FEMC stands for Fellowship of Ex-Mormon Christians. COME stands for Christian Outreach [for] Mormon Evangelism (see description below). Both groups have a desire to reach out in witnessing to Mormons, and your involvement is welcome.

APRIL 18, 2009

FEMC

Concerned Christian's Fellowship of Ex-Mormon Christians (FEMC) is hosting a potluck dinner for ex-Mormons and friends on Saturday, April 18th at 5:00 p.m. at Concerned Christians, 525 E. Broadway Rd., Mesa, AZ. Bring the meat and buns of your choice, along with a side dish for all to share. **RSVP by Friday, April 10.**

MAY 9, 2009

FEMC invites you to join them in breaking the Word of Wisdom, Saturday, May 9, 2:00 p.m. at Centerpoint Coffee Plantation, 680 South Mill Avenue, Ste. 101, Tempe, AZ.

MARCH / APRIL 2009

COME

Those who would like to participate with Concerned Christians in sidewalk witnessing and counseling at the LDS temple during the week of the LDS Easter Pageant on any of the evenings from April 6th to April 11th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. All who are interested are encouraged to attend training classes at Concerned Christians, Thursdays, March 12, 19, 26 and April 2.

JUNE, 2009

Christian Outreach [for] Mormon Evangelism (COME) is a new "arm" of Concerned Christians, dedicated to providing opportunities for Christians to share the hope of Christ with their LDS friends. COME will be sponsoring "Chats," similar to the venue of an LDS "Fireside." The difference being, ex-Mormons will give their Christian testimonies. The first "Chat" is scheduled for Saturday, June 27th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. See the upcoming May-June issue of *The CROSS* newsletter for more details.

MONDAY
AFTERNOONS
at 4:00 pm

Concerned Christians on the Radio and Podcast

In metropolitan Phoenix, Concerned Christians is now on the air at KXXT 1010 AM at 4:00 PM (MST). The program is called, *Out of Mormonism* where you will hear the testimonies of ex-Mormon Christians, and much more. If you are outside the Phoenix area, you can go online to www.familyvaluesradio.net and click the flashing, red "ON AIR" (upper left-hand corner) to listen to the streaming audio of our pre-recorded broadcast.

Can't listen at 4:00 PM on Mondays? You can listen anytime, at your convenience, to our iTunes podcast. Just go to our website, www.concernedchristians.com, and follow the instructions in the first article, "cc iTunes podcast; 2 steps to there."



ON THE AIR – Concerned Christians on the Radio
Listen Mondays at 4:00 p.m.
on **KXXT 1010**

BY GOD'S GRACE, I'M FREE TODAY

By Ryan Henrie

I was born and raised in the Mormon Church. As a child I remember singing songs in Primary and I really enjoyed it. Sacrament Meeting was another story because I had to be so quiet. Through my teen years I stayed active in the church, but always had questions about Joseph Smith. In the back of my mind I constantly questioned, "Why should I believe the story of one man?" After graduating from High School and getting married I became inactive. I still believed in the Mormon Church because it was all I had ever known. Also, I relied heavily on other family members' testimonies. To me religion seemed too hard to figure out and I was too lazy to research what I was supposed to believe.

As the years went by, I strived without success to fill the emptiness inside me. I also wanted my children to have some kind of religion in their lives, something to help build morals. During this time in my life, a person I love and respect came to me and said, "You know the Mormon Church is where you need to be." That was the statement that changed my life forever. I had to be honest with myself. I really didn't know if that was where I needed to be. That's when I began my search.

My family and I started attending the Mormon Church. I figured I had just missed something in my younger years. We took the missionary lessons and started reading the Book of Mormon. I became a home teacher and was ordained as a priest so I could baptize my daughter.

During the next three years we continued going to the Mormon Church, hoping to find a spiritual truth that would let us know this was the true church. Every Sunday I attended, thinking, today I'll get the testimony I've been lacking.

One Sunday while my wife and I sat in Sunday school, our teacher began using the Bible for some of his

lesson. This seemed different than usual because the class we were in seldom used the Bible. I carried a Bible with me to church but we seldom used more than two or three verses from it. That day my wife and I decided to start reading the Bible. It was hard and slow for me but I kept at it.

Meanwhile, a good friend of mine returned to the states and moved close by. Every time he visited me, he would talk about the Bible. He told me things I had never known before and stirred my curiosity enough that I started reading the Bible more. He said Jesus was the only way to heaven and nothing else. In the back of my prideful mind I thought I would convert my friend to the Mormon Church and maybe find something from the Bible to back it up. I asked God to show me truth. I was fairly open minded as I began researching everything I could find pro and con on Mormonism. I looked into Christianity and the Bible for what it claimed to be. I wanted Mormonism to be right, but the evidence was against it. The more I looked for truth in Mormonism, the more things I found false. I came to the conclusion that I could trust the Bible. In order to believe in Mormonism, I would have to forget everything I had found.

Now I see how God used people and His Word to draw me to Himself. I found that it's about a relationship, not a religion. Since that time I have repented of my sins and put my trust in Jesus alone for my salvation. Jesus released me from the burden of a works/righteousness religion. I realize that by His amazing grace I am saved. I could never be worthy enough or clean myself up enough. I came to Him a sinful man, who became justified by the blood of Jesus. He continues to reveal Himself to me through His word the Bible. Since 2004, He has been molding me into the person He wants me to be. Not only has He changed my life, but also the lives of my family. †

"And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace."



*The Apostle Paul
Romans 11:6*

From LDS Church Leaders:

“Our Heavenly Father declared, ‘this is my work and my glory – to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man’ ... because of the Atonement, immortality – or resurrection from the dead – became a reality for all. And because of the Atonement, eternal life – which is living forever in God’s presence, the ‘greatest of all the gifts of God’ – became a possibility. To qualify for eternal life, we must make an eternal and everlasting covenant with our Heavenly Father.” [Note—According to the remainder of the speech/article, the eternal covenant mentioned above is a temple marriage].

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Sunday afternoon session of the 178th Semiannual General Conference on October 5, 2008 (*Ensign*, November 2008, Volume 38, Number 11, page 93).



POINTS TO PONDER:

Exactly how inaccurate is the Mormon Church in this Amazing Quote? In fact, eternal life has nothing to do with whether or not people are married in a Mormon temple. The everlasting covenant is Jesus Christ Himself, through whom we qualify for eternal life by grace through faith.

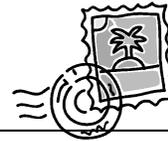
Furthermore, the terms *atonement, immortality, eternal life* and *everlasting covenant* are all terms that have been redefined by the Mormon church, and deviate from historic Christianity. The LDS goal is to incorporate religious works (temple marriage) into the lives of the people in order to qualify for the Mormon version of heaven. By perpetuating manmade laws and ordinances in a temple ceremony, the LDS deny the complete and final work Christ did for us on the cross, ushering in the true “new and everlasting covenant.” The Bible is very clear in its teachings about eternal life with God in heaven—we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, which is a free gift, and is *not* works related.

A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO THE AMAZING MORMON QUOTE:

“For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.” Hebrews 9:15

“...Because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” Hebrews 10:14

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works...” Ephesians 2:8-9



Hi there,

I just wanted to say I am enjoying Judy's book *Out of Mormonism*, so happy they found the Lord Jesus and were saved from this false religion. I have never been involved with Mormonism, it makes me sad to see so many young people striving to do "better" door to door ... scary! I wanted you to know there are Christians here in Nova Scotia praying for your continued strength and courage to speak out against such a cult.

(Nova Scotia, Canada)

Dear Concerned Christians,

Thank you for the newsletter you send out. It is great to hear what you all are doing for the people who need to break away from Mormonism. There are so many who need to hear your good news about Jesus Christ, our Savior who died for us all. Keep up the good work which is just very important to our world. Many thanks and God bless you all who are doing this GREAT work.

(Longmont, CO)

Dear Concerned Christians,

My wife and I are happy to receive your newsletter. My brothers and sisters are still in the Mormon church. I've sent them Christian tracts ... we pray for them daily.

(San Diego, CA)

Dear Concerned Christians,

I appreciate very much the work you are doing and read every newsletter with interest. I cannot contribute financially but I pray for you regularly. I do want to send this small amount to partially cover the expense of producing and mailing your newsletter.

(Escondido, CA)

Dear Concerned Christians,

I have no Mormon friends but thank you for the DVD and the work you do among Mormons.

(Wenden, AZ)

To Whom it May Concern,

Please stop sending this garbage to my home (written on the back on an envelope containing a torn up newsletter inside).

(Newberg, OR)

Dear Jim, Judy and staff,

I sure appreciate your newsletter and am very happy you haven't taken me off your mailing list. Hope you're back in Mesa a while from your travels, to enjoy being settled down, even if it's in the RV.

I need to share this ... October 20th, sometime that week, two missionary boys from the LDS came by and said they'd like to share the *Book of Mormon* with me. I told them that I knew all about the *Book of Mormon* and the church. They said "you do"? I said I was a Mormon for 59 years and left. The one guy said "Do you mind if I ask why"? I said, not once have I ever heard in the Mormon church that Jesus Christ died on that cross for me, you speak of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young and the Bible tells us that the priesthood isn't passed from one to another and Mormons do that. When the boys are twelve they get the Aaronic [priesthood] and at age 17 the Melchizedek [priesthood]. They didn't know what to say. The one said "can we come back to talk to you again"? I said sure.

So again, I thank you and Judy for your time and patience on that month of November of 1996 and December 4th when Jim baptized me before I came back to Sturgis, SD. How many times over have I thanked God for that special

time. I'm still very much into God and want more of Him.

God bless you all.

(Sturgis, SD)

Dear Bob & Cheri,

Well, I see by "The CROSS" that Andy Poland is taking over for Jim. I'm glad they found someone so that Jim can take care of himself. I didn't realize his health problems had become so great a problem. Bless all of you for all you do. Concerned Christians has come a long way since I first became acquainted with it – thanks to the likes of you two and others. Best wishes, lots of prayers and all my love.

(Mesa, AZ)

Dear Concerned Christians,

Thank God for people like the Robertson's and you Andy.

(Mesa, AZ)

Dear Concerned Christians,

Congratulations to Andy Poland! We wish you and staff God's anointing for your ministry. This year we are focusing on [a ministry reaching out to children]. We commend your efforts to inform citizens of the false doctrine of the LDS. However, in the honesty of being good stewards perhaps must downsize our support. We kindly request you delete our home address from your contact of mailings.

(Queen Creek, AZ)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the good work you are doing. God bless you as you continue to serve Him.

(Des Moines, IA)

You may go to our secure website at:

www.concernedchristians.com

for book and video descriptions, prices and to place an 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
- Journey From Mormonism by Christine Carroll  New
- Latter-day Saints: Where Did You Get Your Authority by Hal Hougey
- Long Way Home, The by Paul Trask
- 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 \$5.00
 ⇒ DNA vs. the Book of Mormon
 ⇒ 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



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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
