

# THE CROSS

Concerned Christians

Volume 1, Number 4

Summer 2009

*"Comparing Biblical Truth to Latter-day Revelation"*

## PRETENDING TO KNOW GOD

BY ANDY POLAND, GENERAL MANAGER

Does God really care if we know about whom He is and what He wants? As a Mormon I thought it didn't really matter what I thought about the nature of God. Then after I left Mormonism I began seriously considering what my concept of God was as a Mormon.

My Mormon picture of God was that He was a man like me. In fact there were three gods that were men that ruled over my Mormon life. Jesus was my older brother and my perfect example of how to become a god. The Holy Ghost was another brother that had figured out how to achieve godhood and Elohim (god the father) was my literal father in heaven. Elohim had proved himself faithful on another world and had received godhood for his reward. These gods had become my equal. They were simply colleagues that had learned the proper way to perfect themselves and bring glory to their names.

My identity was wrapped up in the idea of who these gods were. Moreover Lucifer played a part in my world view. Lucifer was another of my brothers in heaven. He was rebellious and was cast out of heaven with 1/3 of my brothers and sisters, never to become gods.

I perceived the world differently as a Mormon. Those who had not lived valiantly in the pre-existence were cursed to be born black, dark or yellow skinned or into Christian, Buddhist, or Muslim homes. These births were considered punishment for not living valiantly in the pre-mortal realm. I believed that I was a chosen valiant servant of God. I had been born with white skin and into a Mormon home under the eternal covenant of marriage. These were signs that God had blessed

me for my pre-mortal righteousness.

The truth about my Mormon god was that he was weak and unable to save me unless I completely abandoned my sins. He was just a man that existed before me who was trapped in his physical body. He could only be in one place at one time and was dependant on other gods for his power and dominion.

My view of God and myself changed drastically when I became a Christian. In contrast to the finite gods of Mormonism, God had always been the only God in the entire universe. He never planned on making more gods besides himself. He did not need to make me or save me for more power and dominion. He already had full dominion without me. The angels created before my birth that were cast out of God's presence were no longer siblings nor was Jesus or the Holy Ghost. My fellow man became equal human beings -not cursed for unrighteousness from a pre-existent life. I was not the literal child of God; I was his wayward creation he loved enough to die for. God literally adopted me as his son-He chose to save me. I was no longer His equal. No longer was God a colleague. My salvation was changed into a gift that I did not deserve instead of payment for righteous acts. I discovered the glory I longed for as a Mormon belonged only to God not to me. My view of God and myself was completely turned upside down. I began to understand that God was so powerful that He could not be contained within the heavens; that there was no place where I could go to escape His presence and I became aware that I was sinner without pre-mortal worthiness.

My false Mormon beliefs had been

setting me up for a fall. Jesus warned us *"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted"* (Luke 18:14). I had exalted myself as an equal to God and brought God down to my own level. I did not know Jesus or God; I was just pretending to know Him.

Jesus said there will be many pretenders on judgment day. *"Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"* (Matthew 7:22-23).

I had lived my entire life trying to be good so that God would reward me. I never knew that these good deeds would prove that I was only serving my own self-interest and imagined self-glorification, not God. In the end I would have been just a pretender. I praise God today that I am no longer a pretender. I am an authentic, spiritually redeemed, adopted child of God.



### Ex-Mormon Support Groups:

There are four Concerned Christians support groups in Arizona:

Mesa in the East Valley, Glendale/Peoria in the West Valley, Prescott Valley in north-central 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 Thursdays.

## AN IMPORTANT CONCERN!

by Jim & Judy Robertson

We at Concerned Christians recognize that everyone has been hit in one way or another by our nation's current financial downturn. This has affected our ministry also even the possibility of having to reduce staff, if necessary, something we certainly do not want to do. We recognize not everyone can help us. However, if many could help in any way, this can amount to what we need to cover the shortfall we are experiencing at this time.

### SOME POSSIBILITIES

Those of you who have enjoyed *The CROSS* newsletter free over the years, would you consider giving what you believe would be a reasonable subscription price? We are cutting costs in every way possible. One way is cutting the size of our newsletter and printing it in-house. So if the look of the newsletter is not as professional as it has been in the past, because of the splendid printing skills of D&L Press, it's because we're doing it ourselves temporarily.

If you enjoy fancy coffee, would you consider fasting from that at least one day a week, and pray for those who must refrain from coffee entirely because of the Mormon *Word of Wisdom* and give whatever you would have spent to Concerned Christians?

The LDS fast the first day of every month and give whatever they think they would have spent on meals to the Relief Society on behalf of those LDS who are in financial straits. Would you be willing to fast the first day of every month and give whatever you would have spent on meals to Concerned Christians?

These are just a few ways you might consider helping. The point is every little bit helps and if you've thought about donating to Concerned Christians in the past but have just let it slide, we would be grateful if a number of you would consider asking God's direction for donating to Concerned Christians.

Despite our financial downturn, God is providing for us many opportunities to reach those who are lost in Mormonism. We believe when hardships come, God is refining us and the end result will be a closer walk with Him. There are many things we cannot do without God's help. We know without a doubt that His grace is sufficient for us. We have approached the throne of grace for help in our time of need. Would you consider being an answer to our prayer?

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). †



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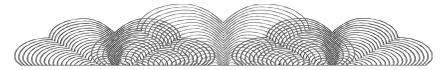
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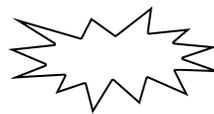
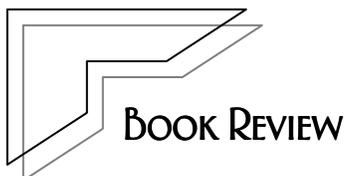
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*Bring all the tithes into the  
storehouse, that there may  
be food in My house...*

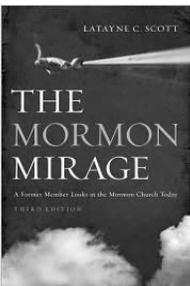
*(Malachi 3:10a)*



LISTEN TO OUR MULTI-PART INTERVIEW WITH  
LATAYNE SCOTT VIA STREAMING AUDIO.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS!

## THE MORMON MIRAGE by Latayne C. Scott



The Mormon Mirage - Latayne C. Scott was a faithful and happy Mormon for ten years, attending Brigham Young University on a writing scholarship and working as a staff member for two of BYU's weekly magazines. Three decades after leaving the Mormon faith, Latayne Colvett Scott looks back to her original journey out of Mormonism and the reasons why she left. Revised and updated, this third edition of *The Mormon Mirage* presents both a fascinating inside look at Mormonism and new and formidable evidence against its claims and teachings. Buy it now at the online CC Bookstore: [www.concernedchristians.org](http://www.concernedchristians.org).



# From the Mailbag



**Dear Concerned Christians,**  
Mormons claim they never attack other beliefs. Their attack on Christianity is just passive, whenever I am asked which church I attend they have had some odd personal attack on the pastor and call them anti-Mormon. Oddly, the pastors always say how nice Mormons treat them. My LDS family is so nice to me in person but outside my family people tell me the mean and vicious things they are saying about me. I just know it's easier for the LDS to attack the believers than their belief because they have no defense for their beliefs. (Rigby, ID)

**Dear Andy,**  
I give praise to the Lord for you and your ministry. I look forward always to reading your newsletter and am so blessed to read of those who have found the Truth, received Christ as Lord and Savior and were able to leave the LDS church. My heart is so burdened for those I work with who are Mormons. They are precious people who I know the Lord wants to free. I want to commit to a life of prayer for God's deliverance of His people. (location unknown)

**Dear Concerned Christians,**  
I appreciate receiving *The CROSS* and applaud the work you are doing in bringing the true Gospel of Christ to the Mormon people and educating others to their false teachings. Some years ago I was asked to speak on Mormonism to an adult Sunday school class. One lady told me after class how much she appreciated learning about the Mormon church's teaching – she had just returned from Florida and a Mormon sat next to her and shared some teaching with her – she did not know how to respond to this person, not knowing anything about the church. She said the next time she might be confronted by a Mormon she would know how to respond (I had papers printed for everyone to take home). I have found through the years that so many people know nothing about the Mormons. I was raised in the Mormon Church. My mother and grandparents joined the church through a missionaries teaching

and came to the United States through the church's sponsorship and settled in SLC. I became a Christian after I married and through the years have read many books and articles on the Mormon church, the latest being Judy's book *Out Of Mormonism* and Christine Carroll's *Journey Out Of Mormonism*, both being excellent books. I am so thankful to God that I found the true Christ and the One and only God. How blessed I am! I pray that God will continue to bless your work. (Petersburg, IL)

**Gentlemen,**  
My wife and I receive your newsletter and we pray for your efforts frequently. As part of your recent newsletter, you quoted several verses from the Book of Mormon regarding the necessity of having a perfect sinless life. As I have grown in my Christian walk it becomes more and more apparent that this type of life is really impossible. May the Lord bless your efforts to bear witness to the truth that Christ died for our sin and rose to conquer death, that He took our sin and we need not worry about being sinless and perfect as the Mormons claim. (name withheld)

**Dear Concerned Christians,**  
I thank God that I was saved by the hand of God in 1993 after 37 years of active Mormonism. I remain active in Christian belief to this day. Although I'm in my 60<sup>th</sup> year of age, it is never too late to still serve Christ. Since 1993 I've come to grow more and more to serve the true and living God and not the god of Mormonism. Thank you Andy and Concerned Christians for being there for us. (Buckeye, AZ)

**Dear Concerned Christians,**  
We love to get and read *The CROSS* as it gives us hope, at least 75 members of our large family are strict Mormons. We pray every day that there will be a break through for them to believe as born again Christians. May God bless you in these difficult times. (Corvallis, OR)

**Dear Andy, Bob & Cheri,**  
Thank you for letting me help you get *The CROSS* out to some of the people in the area. I love it, so many people are reached and touched by your "words of wisdom". Thanks to all of you who help put it together. I continue to pray for all those who have yet to meet our Lord and those whom you all have touched. (Mesa, AZ)

**Dear Concerned Christians,**  
Thank you so much for this web site and your ministry. I too am an ex-Mormon from Kentucky who has struggled in seeing the true God and the true reflection of Christ for many years. But the Lord sought me and I was baptized for the thirteenth time (1 baptism into the LDS church at age 8 and eleven by-proxies at the DC Temple) as a true Christian. When I found your web site, I started to sob, this is the same call God has laid upon my heart. I believe my past in Mormonism allows me to minister to those caught up in its snares and at times I get very frustrated with the church and its leaders. It's hard to explain at times the turmoil of going against Mormonism at every family function (my family remains in the church). I was wondering if you offer a curriculum that is available to purchase for small groups for our area. I have been requested to start groups for ex-Mormons and have found very little literature for use in small groups. Any suggestions would be appreciated greatly. I'll be praying for your ministry and ask for your prayers with ours as well. Thanks and God Bless! (Catlettsburg, KY)

**Dear Concerned Christians,**  
Needless to say, I love your newsletter *The CROSS*. Last year our grandson from back east met a Mormon girl at college and love won out over reason! They plan on being married in October. As my husband says, they are nice people, just misguided. Still breaks my heart. I hope the enclosed check will help in some small way. Love in the Lord. (name withheld)



# Concerned Christians of Mesa

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## AMAZING QUOTES From LDS Church Leaders:

“We are charged with the responsibility of getting people out of their ruts and routines, out of their problems and their pain, out of their little arguments and ignorance and sins, and take them to *the Gods*—to the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost—ultimately we are to take them toward *their own Godhood*.”

Elder Jeffery R. Holland, Deseret News, July 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 Devine Companion.

## Biblical Response:

Isaiah 43:10 states: “You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me” Isaiah 43:10. Godhood is not possible because no god will be formed after God!

Jehovah declared that he knew of no other gods as stated in Isaiah: “Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one” Isaiah 44:8. God knows everything there is to know, but does not know any other gods!

## ON THE AIR– CONCERNED CHRISTIANS RADIO PROGRAM — MONDAYS AT 4 PM

The program is called, *Out of Mormonism* where you will hear testimonies of ex-Mormon Christians, and much more. Outside the Phoenix area? You can go online to [www.familyvaluesradio.net](http://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. Listen anytime to our podcasts: [www.outofmormonism.libsyn.com](http://www.outofmormonism.libsyn.com); or just go to our website for details: [www.concernedchristians.com](http://www.concernedchristians.com).

