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## STARTING THE CONVERSATION WITH LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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BY ANDY POLAND,  
GENERAL MANAGER

The most important part of starting the conversation with a Mormon is preparation for the conversation. Since I left the Mormon Church there have been a number of things I have discovered about basic teachings within Mormonism. The basic teachings—men can become gods, God was once a man, temple marriage for eternity, multiple gods over this earth, the need for the priesthood, and others—are not contained within the Book of Mormon. This knowledge is very helpful for starting the conversation with a Mormon.

For example, I focus on the basic understanding of God. The Book of Mormon many times actually agrees with the Bible on this topic. In Alma 11:26-29 there is a great conversation between Zeezrom and Amulek about how many gods there are. “And Zeezrom said unto him: Thou sayest there is a true and living God? And Amulek said: Yea, there is a true and living God. Now Zeezrom said: Is there more than one God? And he answered, no.”

The Bible also agrees with the concept that there is only one God. “Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? Ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any” (Isaiah 44:8).

This teaching is very different from the teachings of Joseph Smith “I will preach on the plurality of Gods...I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage

of Spirit: and that these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods...” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 370).

Now that we have something to talk about we are ready to start the conversation. The question that I would ask my Mormon friends is: “I have been studying the Book of Mormon and have some questions. Would you be willing to discuss the meaning of some passages within the Book of Mormon with me?” A Mormon cannot answer “no” to that question without breaking the commandment to spread the gospel.

As they decide to meet with you, I would turn to the passage in Alma 11:26-29. Ask them if they believe that there is only one God over this earth. If they are honest, they must respond that there are three Gods over the Earth (as Joseph Smith explained). If they say that there is only one god over this earth, ask them if they believe that Elohim is a God? They should answer yes. Then ask, do they believe that Jesus is a God? They should answer yes to this question because Jesus has progressed to become a god. The next two questions will help the Mormon realize that Mormonism teaches two gods rule over this planet. Does Elohim have authority over this earth? Does Jesus have authority over this Earth? The answer to both questions should be yes. After they recognize that Mormonism teaches there are two gods that rule over this Earth, ask them:

How do you reconcile the statement in Alma that there is only one God with the belief that Jesus and Elohim are both gods?

I would want them to know how difficult it is for me to accept the teachings of Mormonism if they disagree with the Book of Mormon and with the Bible.

Concerned Christians provides many resources like these to help Christians become prepared for the conversation with Mormons. (See a complete listing on our web site). Our “Basic Teachings tract” provides 15 examples of current Mormon teachings that are not found within the Book of Mormon. *The Mormon Scrapbook* also helps to provide scriptures within the Book of Mormon that disagree with current LDS teachings. We also provide training to help Christians learn about how to witness to Mormons. If you would like us to come out to your church, please let us know.

The key to any good conversation is asking the right questions. As Mormons are confronted with difficult questions they are provided with an opportunity to learn the truth about who God is and how one gains salvation. In the end, the only way a person can be freed from error is to learn the truth. It is my prayer that we will be effective beacons of truth and that we do not hide our truthful beacon under a bushel because it might offend someone. †



Check our web site for witnessing  
resources... and much more!

[www.concernedchristians.com](http://www.concernedchristians.com)



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# AMAZING QUOTES

From LDS Church Leaders:



“We can receive God’s greatest gift, eternal life, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the restored gospel.”

Elder Paul Sybrowsky,  
*Ensign* Feb. 2010 p. 34.

**BIBLICAL RESPONSE:**

Mormonism teaches that we earn eternal life by paying God with our obedience to the Mormon law of God. This is quite a contrast to the teachings of Paul in Galatians:

“Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified” (Galatians 2:16).

## BIBLE STUDY AT CONCERNED CHRISTIANS

TUESDAY NIGHTS AT 7:00 PM— LED BY STEVE WEBB (SEE RELATED ARTICLE ON PAGE 3) 

Come and join us! Learn how to help Mormons understand God’s word. If you are a Mormon and want to learn what Christians believe about the Bible, this class is for you also.

## Concerned Christians Radio Program on KXXT 1010 - Mondays at 4 pm

The program is called, *Out of Mormonism* where you will hear testimonies of ex-Mormon Christians, and much more. If you are outside the Phoenix area, you can listen to our prerecorded broadcasts online anytime via streaming audio. Simply go to [www.familyvaluesradio.net](http://www.familyvaluesradio.net) and click the flashing, red “ON AIR” (upper left-hand corner). Listen anytime to our podcasts: [www.outofmormonism.com](http://www.outofmormonism.com); or just go to our website for details:

[www.concernedchristians.com](http://www.concernedchristians.com)



*Do your best to  
present yourself to  
God as one  
approved, a  
workman who  
does not need to be  
ashamed and who  
correctly handles  
the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15*

# INTRODUCING STEVE WEBB

By Bob Betts

Eleven months ago a man walked through the Concerned Christians office door and announced, "Hi. My name is Steve Webb. God is leading me to move here from Ohio to get involved with Concerned Christians." Andy and I responded with a slightly apprehensive, "Wow, okay." It's not that we don't welcome all the help we can get. If it wasn't for our volunteers, operating this ministry would be incredibly more difficult, expensive and time consuming.

However, we didn't know Steve from Adam. Consequently we didn't know God was leading Steve to Concerned Christians. Convinced that God led him here he didn't waste any time selling his home and most of his worldly possessions. As his beloved wife of twenty-three years, Katrina, had gone to be with the Lord in June of 2008, he loaded up his son Isaac and himself for the long trek from Columbus, Ohio to Arizona.

Steve experienced many doors opening afterward that simply confirmed his decision to follow God's leading. In the meantime, Andy and I watched and waited while getting to know Steve.

Steve is sixty-eight years old and has been a follower of Christ since the age of eight. He has been a Sunday School teacher for forty-five years and gone on numerous short-term mission trips, one to Romania and three to China. A former student at Ohio State University, he is a devout "Buckeye." Until his retirement two months ago, Steve had a successful thirty-five year career with Preferred Risk Insurance.

The road to Concerned Christians for Steve and Isaac started with a search for a certain book and happened upon Judy Robertson's *Out of Mormonism* in the process. That set off the series of incredible, confirming signs that brought them to us. They've moved into their Gilbert home and settled into a local church.

Steve is teaching the new Tuesday Bible study for Mormons in transition, and is daily learning even more about Mormonism from Andy and me. Steve will be joining six of us who will travel to Salt Lake City for the LDS conference in April. He has many good qualities we could expand upon, not the least of which is his generosity. He treated not only the Tuesday night Bible study, but those on the staff, to a fine dinner we so enjoyed right before Christmas.

Welcome, Steve. You are already making a positive mark on concerned Christians, and much more importantly, the kingdom of God.



Happy Easter! Sunday—April 4, 2010

From the staff and volunteers at Concerned Christians

...HE IS RISEN! Matthew 28:6

The CROSS

## From the Mailbag



Dear Concerned Christians,

For many years God has given me a special desire to study Mormonism in order to gain knowledge on what they believed. Over the years, I've been able to witness to numerous Mormon missionaries that have come knocking on my door and recently met someone that has become a dear friend. For months I've wanted to donate to CC and for months I've put it off. After discovering my new friend was raised Mormon, although currently not practicing and considers himself "spiritual," I knew God had allowed him to cross my path for a reason. I have not stopped praying for him, for his salvation, for his eyes to be opened to the truth and I truly believe in God's faithfulness. I love what your organization does in honor of God's absolute truth and for Mormons and so I send you this donation in honor of my friend. Thank you. ~ Queen Creek, AZ

Concerned Christians,

I am always pleased to read of all the work your group does and happy to hear even one person out of Mormonism when they learn of our one True God. Hope this small gift will help in some way. May God's blessing be with you. ~ The Dalles, OR

Dear Concerned Christians,

My wife and I have committed God's share of the income from some of our investments to your work. We pray that it will help open the eyes of some of our Mormon family and friends. Thanks again for keeping us on the mailing list for "The CROSS." ~ El Dorado Hills, CA

Concerned Christians,

It was nice meeting Andy the last time I was at your office helping get "The CROSS" ready [for mailing]. It's always great reading about all the people who have finally seen "The Light" because of people like you all! ~ Mesa, AZ

To the fellows at Concerned Christians,

Thank you for your work in showing compassionate concern to the deception of LDS. Also, thank you for sending us your informative newsletter. We happen to be MO Synod Lutherans but our son is going to get married at the Portland, OR temple in January, 2010. We have tried our hardest since 2005 when he told us to find out about the LDS. All we found out was deception from the "get-go." This is the epitome of a cult. We're not going to be able to see our only child married, only to go to the reception. We will continue to pray for them and her family that they would someday see the light of Jesus who gave it all for us on the cross. They listened to the CD's when they visited us at Thanksgiving. P.S. The check represents 10% of my monthly retirement plus money for the materials. ~ Detroit Lakes, MN

(Continued on back cover)



# Concerned Christians of Mesa

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## *From the Mailbag—continued from Page 3*

Concerned Christians,

I would really appreciate it if you could find me an ex-Mormon support group. I live in S. Jordan, Utah. I am really struggling with leaving and this might be very helpful. Thank you!

[Editor's Note: Concerned Christians was able to connect this person with a support group in their area]. ~ South Jordan, UT

Dear Concerned Christians,

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

Concerned Christians,

I thank God that I was saved by the hand of God after 37 years of active Mormonism in 1993, and remain active in Christian belief to this day. Never too late in my 60<sup>th</sup> year of age to still serve Christ. Since then, 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 of Mesa, for being there for us. ~ Buckeye, AZ

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. In Christ, ~[City/State withheld]

Concerned Christians,

I enjoy reading the newsletter. Most of the issues have information I didn't know while being a member. Joining the LDS church is easy – canceling membership is not. Not having a great income and not able to work, I can only send small amounts. Have a great day and a wonderful eternity. Christian love, ~ Salt Lake City, UT

Concerned Christians,

I would like to make this contribution for the radio effort in Salt Lake. Although I'm not able to make a commitment for a specific amount each month, I hope to contribute periodically. ~ Flagstaff, AZ

Dear Andy,

Thanks for the newsletter and for what you folks do at CC. Praying that 2010 is a blessed year for you. Keep up the great testimony. ~ Bonners Ferry, ID