

OUR NUMBER ONE PROBLEM—DATING

BY ANDY POLAND
AND BOB BETTS

OUR FINANCIAL NEEDS DURING 2011

It may surprise you to learn that the number one challenge that confronts us at Concerned Christians is when a minor or adult child of Christian parents becomes interested in a Mormon classmate of the opposite gender, and the relationship turns serious.

The young adult or teen will begin to change. They may become more secretive, sneaky, and rebellious. They may turn cold toward their own family. They may lie to cover up secret rendezvous (on-line, cell phone, texting, or at a location away from home) with their “friend.” They may secretly meet with the LDS missionaries, usually at the Mormon “friend’s” home. They may ask if they can check out a Mormon meeting (social or otherwise) that their “friend” has invited them to. Then, get angry if the parent says, “No.” They may begin to question the Christianity that they’ve been raised in. They may tell their parents something like, “But, they believe in Jesus Christ, too. So what if they have some minor differences from us? They’re Christians, too.”

Sometimes, parents trying to appear tolerant and stay on their teen’s good side, will consent to their dating a Mormon. The parents may even think their teen will be used of God to bring the Mormon to Jesus. Parents can be naive about the power of deception.

Usually, parents panic as they see Mormonism creeping into their child’s life, and frantically try to expose the falseness of Mormonism. Unfortunately, the parents are doing just what their teen’s Mormon “friend” said would happen: the parents are “bashing” the Mormon’s faith, and the parents now look like the bad guys...negative, often hostile, even ranting. Parents can become indignant at their teen. After all, how could *their* teen be duped into believing that Mormonism is Christian? Further, if the Christian home is either broken or the least bit dysfunctional, the

wholesome LDS culture and family togetherness makes Mormonism much more appealing than the Christian home.

However, we’ve also seen teens from solid, healthy-functioning, Christian homes “fall in love” with an LDS classmate. Both attractiveness and high moral standards seem to be the highest criteria. Truth and sound doctrine are quickly and easily forgotten or deemed irrelevant. The heart rules over the head. At that point, when we are called into the family situation to try to reason with their teen, such an attempt seems more like an “intervention.” We are confronted with the teen’s “feelings” for the LDS boyfriend or girlfriend, and frequently they are not much interested in our attempt to show them how doctrinally false Mormonism really is. We just wind up contributing to the teen’s conditioned viewpoint that Christians are just out to “bash” Mormons.

Mormons take advantage of the Christian teen’s good will by targeting them for conversion. When I (Andy) was a Mormon and saw a Christian trying to live as Christ would want them to, I would think to myself “They’re a Mormon that just needs water added.” Meaning, they just needed to be baptized into my church. I wanted to share with them the LDS “fullness of the gospel” because they were already living the basic truths found in the Bible.

My aunt took this type of thinking to the next level. She used dating opportunities with non-LDS males as a way to convert them to Mormonism. She was encouraged by the Bishop of our ward to date outside of the church as long as she used it as a way to gain new converts for the missionaries. Her strategy was simple—date them, dunk them, send them on an LDS mission, and then dump them. She would then start all over with a new conquest. My aunt was very good at it. Two out of three she dated joined

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Many of you may have noticed a change we have made at Concerned Christians. It has been four months since our last printing of *The CROSS* newsletter. Each year during the country’s financial crisis has been very difficult for the ministry at Concerned Christians, but none of the last few years have been so bad as this year. As a result we have decided to reduce our printing of *The CROSS* to once a quarter. We are very saddened by this decision because we believe that *The CROSS* provides an important ministry by providing timely insight and guidance for witnessing to your LDS family & friends.

In addition to reducing the number of times we send *The CROSS* newsletter, this year we had to cut nearly all of the radio broadcasting of *Out of Mormonism*. We are currently broadcasting once a week in Salt Lake City on KUTR through a bartering arrangement, but simply do not have the funds necessary to keep broadcasting locally. We are still committed to providing new testimonies online at www.outofmormonism.com and to remain on the air in Utah as long as possible.

Although we have struggled financially this year, we will continue to use the funds as they designated. In May we received a donation for buying and distributing DVDs in Arizona. In September we honored that commitment by distributing over 4000 *Unveiling Grace* DVDs in the Show Low area. It was very encouraging to see the response to this distribution at the Adam’s Road band concert in Show Low the following week. We are grateful for our supporters that made this distribution possible and we pray that God continues to use the testimonies on the DVDs to bring souls to Jesus. If you have the ability and God leads you, would you consider supporting us in our time of need? God bless you and provide for your needs as you support us in God’s work to reach Mormons for Jesus. †



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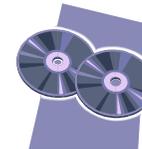
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Resources Available



From our Website



Concerned Christians' website is designed for Christians to have at their fingertips invaluable resources for witnessing to Mormon relative and friends. In just a few clicks at www.concernedchristians.com, you can:

- ⇒ Download radio and podcast programs featuring testimonies of former Mormon Christians
- ⇒ Make a safe, online donation
- ⇒ Browse our store for resources (books, audio, video, and more)
- ⇒ Read our statement of faith and statement of purpose
- ⇒ View our calendar of events
- ⇒ And much more—visit our web site today!



Letters! From the Mailbag...

FROM CENTENNIAL, CO: Bob, Thanks for taking the time to talk to me on the phone months back. My daughter was dating a Mormon boy and I had a lot of questions which you took the time to answer. Although they are no longer together, I still think and pray for him, that the LORD somehow would show him the truth and have the freedom and grace that we have. Through all that, my daughter and I now have a closer walk with the LORD. Good is good! Thank you again.

FROM LAVEEN, AZ: My darling, wonderful husband passed away last May. Our large family will miss him always. We find comfort that he is now with our Lord Jesus Christ. All of his side of the family are still LDS... so we shall need much faith and prayer on their behalf – thank you. P.S. All of our children, and grandchildren too, are OUT of the LDS church!

FROM NAMPA, ID: I praise the LORD for your ministry to our Mormon friends and family. Please keep up the good work! I look forward always to your newsletter and am thrilled when I learn of another Mormon coming to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Please use the enclosed check to help meet your financial needs.

FROM FRANKLIN, TN: Thank you for your ministry, purpose, and passion. We have been on your mailing list and are encouraged by the progress, effort and blessing brought to many. Our daughter and granddaughter have left direct exposure to Mormonism, but it would be helpful if they better understood. Please send me your DVD, *Unveiling Grace* or another resource that would be straightforward for their understanding and acceptance. Enclosed is a donation to cover costs and ministry support. Thank you again.

FROM RIVERSIDE, CA: Thank you for sending *The CROSS* newsletter. The recent articles by Paul Trask and Andy Poland were very informative and eye-opening. My monthly

donation is small, unfortunately, because I lost my job some time ago. But please know that I keep all of you at CC in my prayers. God bless you.

FROM GARDEN VALLEY, CA: Your ministry is helping me in witnessing to my Mormon granddaughter. She is 12 years old and has been raised LDS. I would like for you to send me your book, *Understanding My Mormon Friend's Faith & Mine*. I pray this donation will be of great value to your ministry. I only wish it could be more. Please pray for me as I continue to witness to Mormons.

FROM SPANISH FORK, UT: I do enjoy your newsletter so much, but have little money to help you (today I can help). I often share the newsletter with friends and family who know Mormons. I took it to work to share also, when I had a job. I'm a long time Christian but it seems the LORD keeps giving me Mormon neighbors, whether I'm on Navy bases, in AZ, and now in UT. It's a privilege to share Christ! But I want to be more fruitful. You all have really been a worldwide blessing.

FROM ROSEBURG, OR: It is so important to get the gospel out to a sin-sick world. Thank you for your efforts in this respect. Use these funds where needed most. In Christian love. P.S. I am in my 90's (93) now and not able to be out reaching people, but I do pray.

FROM TOPPENISH, WA: I regularly send an email to a bunch of our Mormon kin. A copy is enclosed. I've had no response, which is odd because usually I receive caustic comments. If you think you can use any of this, please do so. Breaks my heart they are in bondage! My quotes are from *Ensign* – I don't know what they would say if you published them. Blessings to your ministry. [Editor's note: Space constraints do not allow us to publish the aforementioned material at this time.]



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the church and became very good Mormons.

Possible Solutions

If you are a parent of a teen dating a Mormon (or wants to), there are three basic ways to handle the problem: let us equip you to educate your teen, let us educate your teen, or a combination of both.

First, we would like to sit down with you and get a little background as to what has transpired between you, your teen, and the Mormon he/she is dating, so we can assess how everyone concerned can best serve the teen. There is no "one size fits all." Our recommendations will be based upon, and customized to your teen's age, gender, personality, knowledge of Mormonism, their relationship with you and the Mormon. Any books, DVDs, or on-line resources we would recommend would also be determined by the above information.

Since your teen is looking into Mormonism via dating, he/she is what Mormons call an "investigator." Parents may want to consider joining in on their teen's investigation. Make it a joint effort. Instead of you and your teen becoming adversaries over the issue of Mormonism, partner with them in seeking the truth. Tell your teen, "If Mormonism is true, then we should become Mormons as a family. But if Mormonism is *not* true, then you should not be considering it, despite your feelings for your Mormon friend." Offer to take the missionary discussions, on the condition that your teen will also agree to listen to the other side of the story from former Mormons, like Andy.

If the above alternative sounds intolerable or insufferable to you, then let us sit down with her/him in your home, and try to be the voice of reason.

Our advice: any hostilities that you may be expressing and showing to your teen must end. It only makes you look desperate, while your teen's LDS friends look calm, cool and collected. If you are talking down to your teen in a condescending way, trying to make them feel stupid for their thoughts, feelings or actions, stop. If you are using any form of fear, guilt, intimidation or threats, then you are pushing them further away from you and into the arms of the Mormons, faster than you could ever imagine. We raise these issues with parents because we know how it can be in the heat of an argument over the issue of Mormonism, and because we know how it is for parents who feel like they are losing their child to Mormonism, and desperation sets in.

Good News For Parents

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old,

he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). We have witnessed many who have made the mistake of dating and marrying a Mormon, later come to their senses and leave Mormonism. So, it is not the end of the story in these cases. And when they return to the God of their parents, God will likely use them to help others come out of Mormonism, or prevent others from making their mistake. God is not finished with your teen, despite their current bad choices, even dating a Mormon, converting to Mormonism, marrying and having children in Mormonism.

Pray For Your Children and Yourselves

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." (Romans 8:26).

For help and advice with your teenagers, including preventative measures to stop the problem before it starts, contact Concerned Christians and talk to Andy or Bob.



**AMAZING QUOTES
FROM THE LDS CHURCH**



"Hi, I'm Gabe. I am a husband, a father, a former NFL player, and I'm a Mormon."

(Gabe commercial, Professional Ad Campaign, LDS Church)

Although the Mormon Church is using a multi-million dollar ad campaign to improve their public image, it does not change the underlying problem of unbiblical beliefs. A belief in a false Christ will not allow one to find forgiveness from the true Jesus of the Bible.

BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out many demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me evildoers!' (Matthew 7:21-23).

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or another angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!" (Galatians 1:6-8).



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Updated—

Out of Mormonism



Here is just some of what people are saying about the newly released & updated book, *Out of Mormonism*:

“If you or someone you love is involved in Mormonism, this book is a MUST-read! Judy Robertson’s story will open eyes that have never before seen the truth.”

- Karen Kingsbury, author of inspirational novels

“Having known the Robertsons for years, it was a blessing to read about their spiritual journey out of Mormonism to the freedom found in Christ. This book will be a great encouragement to those struggling with LDS claims.”

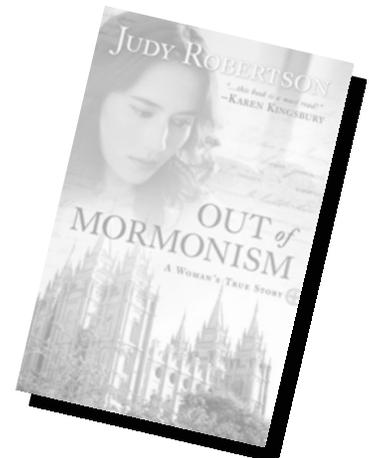
- Sandra Tanner, Utah Lighthouse Ministry

Updated—
Out of Mormonism

New Testimonies Included!!!

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