



# THE CROSS

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Concerned Christians

## *Jim's Home Going...*

*By Judy Robertson*

God called Jim and me to the ministry of Concerned Christians in the early seventies soon after we left the Mormon religion and committed our lives to Christ. We were a team throughout the whole time that God guided us to teach and write about the differences between Mormonism and Christianity.

Jim always said, "I'm the speaker, you're the writer." Many people have said they still remember what Jim said in his talks. He articulated the differences powerfully. A pastor friend said, "Jim was specially chosen by God because when truth touched his mind and heart, he was uncompromising."

When Jim's job at a financial institution was threatened because he was speaking out about Mormonism, he had to make a choice. It was no contest. Jim chose to leave his job and commit his life to the full time work of carrying on the ministry of Concerned Christians.

When we received a clear call from God to go to the South Pacific Islands and teach, Jim didn't hesitate. I drug my feet but we left the states soon after we completed a Youth With a Mission (YWAM) three month Discipleship Training in Kona, Hawaii.

Our introduction to the Tongan and Samoan Islands was aboard the seventy-five foot *Amazing Grace* yacht with six New Zealanders who were proficient sailors. Jim took his job on this working yacht in stride, climbing the main mast securing its sails during several squalls as though he'd been doing this all his life.

On dangerous night trips to remote islands, Jim would be the only passenger aboard a small narrow outrigger canoe. A Tongan guide deftly negotiated among several islands to take Jim to those who may have never before heard the simple gospel message of Christ alone for salvation.

When we settled on the island of American Samoa we experienced a number of hurricanes. Jim stepped up to the plate trying to save our small dwelling in the first one. As our roof was ripping away Jim, along with a neighbor, secured what was left and then was blown off the ladder breaking three ribs.

In the now infamous Hurricane Val of 1990 Jim's rain-slicker was torn off him by the fierce winds as he climbed up an embankment to check on our neighbors with a six-week old baby. They had lost most of their house but were huddled on a couch in the hall—baby and parents secure.

Hurricanes or people, Jim was always bold, doing what he felt was right no matter the consequences. He wasn't afraid when his life was threatened in Western Samoa by an angry Mormon who later came to know the Lord Jesus. And told Jim, "I love you, man."

Jim never tired of telling the story of how the Lord opened our eyes to the truth. And after many years of steadfastly speaking out on the false claims of Mormonism and the truth of Christianity, counseling untold numbers into the night and securing the CC office property at 525 E. Broadway, Jim was diagnosed in 2010 with Alzheimer's Disease.

Jim stayed in an assisted living facility beginning February 15, 2013 while Judy had hip replacement surgery. He remained there until June 24 when God mercifully released him from the body and mind that could no longer sustain him.

Jim will be sorely missed. But Andy Poland is now in charge of Concerned Christians and is doing an outstanding job of carrying the torch passed onto him by Jim and the CC board.

Though the office property served a

great purpose for so many years, the CC board made the decision that a smaller office space would be sufficient for the ministry needs. Much of the work that was done on a face to face basis is now being done through the internet. And Andy is very proficient in this new era of ministry and has many ideas to bring "Mormons in Transition" into a personal relationship with Christ.

If any of you would like to make a donation to Concerned Christians in honor of Jim I would be so appreciative as this is what Jim said he would like.

And so, as in one of Jesus parables, "His Master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" (Matthew 25:21).

Jim was surrounded by his whole family in his final moments. One of his favorite verses was read to him minutes before he passed, and was very fitting:

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

WE LOVE YOU, JIM!





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## “AMAZING QUOTES” FROM LDS CHURCH LEADERS

“But, behold, I say unto you, that *you must study it out in your mind*; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, *you shall feel that it is right*’ (Doctrine &Covenants 9:7-8; emphasis added).

This may be one of the most important and most misunderstood teachings in all the Doctrine and covenants. The teachings of the Spirit often come as feelings. That fact is of the utmost importance, yet some misunderstand what it means. I know of persons who think they have never had a witness from the Holy Ghost because they have never felt their bosom ‘burn within’ them. The burning of the bosom I suggest, is not a feeling of caloric heat like combustion but a feeling of peace and warmth and serenity and goodness.”

Dallin H. Oaks

*Ensign*, August, 2013, pg. 26.



### Biblical Response:

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world...We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. **By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error**” (1 John 4:1,6).

It is hard to believe that the LDS leadership is still teaching their followers to follow feelings as a way to know what is from God. Unfortunately, that method leaves one open to deceiving spirits without biblically testing those revelations to see if they are from God. We would challenge every Latter-day Saint to heed the counsel of John and throw out any feelings that do not listen to the teachings of the biblical apostles and prophets.



## The Decision to Downsize



As many of you are already aware, Concerned Christians is downsizing as we delve into the cyber age. It was a hard decision to proceed with listing our property at 525 E. Broadway Road for sale. More information is on our web site, but in essence, selling the property and reducing expenses will enable us to minister more effectively, and also to re-start some excellent programs and projects that have unfortunately been placed on hold. As we prepare to move our office, a truck will be needed for hauling away some items. Please give us a call if you can help. And as always, we appreciate your prayers in this new chapter of the ministry.



## Letters from the Mailbag

**FROM TEMPE, AZ:** Thank you for your generosity of time and spirit. You keep us going sometimes! And we appreciate your newsletters more perhaps than you can know. Peace and love.

**FROM VERNAL, UT:** I LOVE your newsletters! The articles are to-the-point and so very helpful. They always give me a boost and confirm my ministry to my family of Mormons. And I can hardly wait to copy the newsletters to give to my friends in Christ. They read it and the result is a new point of view and a whole new way to teach. There are people who have “ideas” about Mormonism which are NOT true. Thank God for your work!

**FROM MESA, AZ:** The Concerned Christians conference on Mormonism the weekend of April 12-13 was awesome! Never did I expect to receive so much valuable and insightful information, to say I was “blown away” is a huge understatement. Every speaker supplied us with mountains of

the best of the best information available. Rest assured that I will be in attendance for the next conference. Thank you for giving of your heart for our Lord Jesus and His saving grace.

**FROM PRESCOTT, AZ:** I was praying about where to give the extra tithes I have this summer. Then I read your note in the newsletter. Thank you for all you do! And for the support you’ve given me and other former Mormons over the years!

**FROM ST PAUL, MN:** I recently read Judy Robertson’s book *Out of Mormonism*. I am now in the process of leaving Mormonism. It is very hard for me. I am so lonely. Your book was a breath of fresh air. Could you please send me literature and a book list? I really need help. I cannot do it alone. I would also appreciate the name of a Bible-based church near me. I feel like I am drowning in darkness and just treading water. Thank you for all you do. Believe me, this is truly an S.O.S. letter.



I continue to be amazed by the lack of conscience of the LDS church leadership. Not one of the leaders seems to hate to offend God by sinning. One of the latest to amaze is Hans Mattsson—a general authority who now holds emeritus status. Elder Mattsson has recently expressed his “doubts” about the origins of Mormonism to the New York Times. Although it appears that Elder Mattsson seemed to have some very difficult questions, none of these “doubts” have moved Elder Mattsson to do the right thing by confessing that Joseph Smith was immoral and that he was not following God. Rather, Elder Mattsson finished his interview by saying, “I don’t want to hurt the church, I just want the truth.”

To seek truth without consequences is like seeking to find a murderer in order to help him to escape justice. I suspect that Elder Mattsson truly does not have “doubts” but rather he is on a quest with the other church leaders to hide the real truth and stem the tide of defectors. Over the past five to ten years, the church has been losing membership in greater and greater numbers. After looking into the “doubts” that Elder Mattson purported to be seeking the truth about, a disturbingly familiar pattern arose.

One of the first “questions” he asked was regarding the translation of the Book of Mormon. He learned that the Book of Mormon was translated by Joseph Smith’s method of placing a stone in a hat, and then placing his face in the hat to exclude all of the light so that Joseph would be able to see the spiritual light from the stone. Although it is disturbing that the LDS church has kept this fact from being taught within Sunday school classes at the local wards, it is not a fact that would cause anyone to “doubt” the veracity of Mormonism. In fact it did not surprise me that Elder Mattsson did not ask the deeper question behind the stone Joseph used to translate. The reason why I was not surprised is because the LDS church leaders have always used misdirection to cover up the bigger problems within Mormonism. With just a little work, it is not so difficult to discover that the reason why no one looked further into the truth is because the truth would connect Joseph Smith to the use of magic and to the occult. Surely his connection to magic would cause anyone with a clear conscience to reject Joseph Smith as a false prophet because of his use of astrology and divination. (See Deuteronomy 18:9-10).

Another “question” talked about was Joseph Smith’s practice of polygamy. Elder Mattsson said he was shocked at the fact that Joseph married other men’s wives and young girls, some as young as 14 years old. However, Elder Mattson did not reveal the depth of the evil perpetrated by Joseph. Joseph would often send men away on missions and then make the claim that God gave him a revelation to ask the missionaries’ wives to be his own wife. Joseph claimed that anyone that had a higher priesthood authority could ask any man’s wife of lower priesthood authority to leave their husbands. This was done so that the woman could gain a greater exaltation in the next life. How different that teaching is from the words of Jesus! “*And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery*” (Matthew 19:9). Even Joseph’s

alleged revelation from God about polygamy did not allow him to seek other men’s wives “...if any man espouse a virgin, and desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent, and if he espouse the second, and they are virgins, **and have vowed to no other man**, then is he justified...” Doctrine & Covenants 132:61 [bold added for emphasis]. Any person of conscience would recognize that Joseph was following a false spirit and should reject him as a true prophet of God.

Elder Mattsson also discussed how the church should answer the question of why blacks were refused the priesthood until 1978. Which I believe is another way to say, “See, we are changing and have put racism behind us” and ignoring the fact that the Book of Mormon still teaches that dark skin is a curse for unrighteousness. Therefore, instilling young Mormon minds with the thought that everyone with darker skin must have some repenting to do, so they can one day have “white and delightful” skin tone. (See 3 Nephi 2:15). The Bible teaches us that God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). Someone who is really trying to follow the truth that leads to God would recognize that Mormonism has strayed from God’s truth.

It appears that the same game is still being played by the LDS leadership today, which is to reveal only partial truth in order to keep you from knowing the full truth. The LDS church can appear to be more forthcoming with its release of the Joseph Smith papers, putting at ease those within the church that may be having questions. Nonetheless, it sounds just like the old tactic the LDS church has used for years to cover up the horrors of Mormon history. Take for example the Mormon war in Missouri in 1838. Often the church historians, when looking at that era, will say something like ‘*there were wrongs perpetrated on both sides*’ or they may spend all their time pointing to the Hans Mill Massacre, where Mormon men, women and children were slaughtered. But nowhere will you find a representative of the LDS church talk about the three hundred Mormon men led by Joseph Smith to pillage farms, raze housing, and kill the “gentiles.” So great were the horrors perpetrated by the Mormons that the Missouri militia had to be called out to quell the Mormon tyranny. The militia rightfully imprisoned Joseph into the Liberty Jail to stand trial for treason, sedition, murder, theft, and the willful destruction of personal property. It was during the imprisonment of Joseph that some of the victims of the despotic villainy of Joseph Smith sought the blood of Mormons and carried out their revenge at Hans Mill. A terribly wrong act of retaliation, but clearly it was not an unprovoked attack.

I pray that one day the leadership of the Mormon church will surrender and begin to follow Jesus. I want them to truly understand the meaning of these words: “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). As long as the leaders reject the simple teachings of Jesus in favor of the false teachings of Joseph, they will never know true freedom. It is the hope of Concerned Christians that God may prick their conscience to do what is right, rather than that which is convenient and accustomed.



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## Letters—From the Mailbag



**FROM MESA, AZ:** I am writing to say thank you! I am a converted Christian of six years now. My boyfriend and now husband for over six years used a lot of your material in helping to teach me the truth. He came in person to talk to Jim and Judy Robertson for some encouragement and help. I am so thankful to your organization, and to our Lord for showing me the truth. And thank you to my husband for sticking by my side through the tough road it was for me to leave Mormonism. We would like to pledge to give a monthly amount to help reach out to those who are lost. May God bless your efforts in spreading his wonderful news.

**FROM TOMBALL, TX:** Thank you for your vital ministry. I enjoy your newsletter, and it's such a reminder to pray for my friends who are in bondage.

**FROM PETERSBURG, IL:** I received your issue of *The Branch* and so glad to read of your successes in reaching out to the Mormons in Manti. You are bearing much fruit for the Lord and your rewards in heaven will be great. I think the Transitions church is an excellent idea! As a former Mormon, I

can see the need to help those coming out of the LDS church in their walk with the Lord. I pray you will be successful in that endeavor, that God will bless your efforts. Use the enclosed donation wherever is needed most.

**FROM MESA, AZ:** Each time Mormon missionaries come to my door, I share the simple message of God's grace through Christ. I also emphasize that God's plan was fully revealed in the Bible. I rest in the assurance I am His. I am grateful for all you do in providing for those questioning their faith and leaving Mormonism. I wish to support your efforts with the enclosed donation.

**FROM PHOENIX, AZ:** Keep up the good work! The newsletter is great. You manage to include a lot of useful info on one sheet. Please keep the "Amazing Quotes" feature. Andy's articles have been encouraging and thought provoking. God bless!

**FROM BOZEMAN, MT:** May God richly bless you for the work that you are doing! From a Christian that loves the Lord Jesus!