



*It is not a normal procedure to reprint articles that have been written in previous newsletters, until this last month. We were critically attacked on our website and our hacker specifically focused on deleting this article. Fortunately for us our software protected our site from his malicious attack. Upon reviewing the article it became apparent why he wanted to delete the article. The LDS church is facing some huge hurdles about the topic of racism recently. They want to keep people from speaking on that topic. With that in mind, as you read this article, please take the time to mention these topics to your Mormon friends and get the discussion going. Let's keep up the defense of the truth in order that our Mormon friends may find the truth about Jesus. Please enjoy my article from August, 2009, entitled...*

## Pretending to Know God

By Andy Poland

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, He was a man like me. In fact there were three gods who 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 who existed before me who was trapped in his physical body. He could only be in one place at one time and was dependent 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.



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# “AMAZING MORMON QUOTES”

BY ANDY POLAND



“And the skins of the Lamanites were dark, according to the mark which was set upon their fathers, which was a curse upon them because of their transgression and their rebellion against their brethren...”

*Book of Mormon, Alma 3:6*

“And it came to pass that those Lamanites who had united with the Nephites were numbered among the Nephites. And their curse was taken from them, and their skin became white like unto the Nephites;”

*Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 2:14-15*

## Biblical Response:

It is the above quotes from the *Book of Mormon*, along with other LDS scriptures, that caused me to believe that I had more righteousness than others because of the color of my skin. I am so grateful to know today that God does not view dark skin as a curse. And in fact, the truth is—God does not make decisions based on skin color. As stated by the Apostle Paul, “*for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus*” (Galatians 3:27-28). Amen!



### Meet-Up Group in July—SLC, UT

Andy has been invited to speak in July to a group of mostly former Mormon Christians in SLC. The four-day event starts with a concert Thursday evening of the Steve Miller Band at the USANA Amphitheater. The cost for concert tickets is \$37. To purchase tickets, contact Amy Cutler, 815 Sunset Mountain Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37421. Or call our office for details.

## What is Happening at Concerned Christians... by Gary Keating

We would like to give you a summary update regarding what is happening lately at Concerned Christians...

**Property:** We have had two legitimate offers on the property. Each of these offers have had contingencies that were not in the Concerned Christians' best interest. We are praying for God to supply the right buyer. In the meantime, operations are going as normal.

**Property upkeep:** We are considering yard upkeep. We could use a new riding lawnmower with a volunteer dependable operator. Otherwise we will employ a landscape service. If this is an area where you might serve, give Andy a call soon.

**Weekly Prayer:** Every Monday evening at 7 pm, we have a group of prayer warriors who meet at our building. The group is open to whomever comes. If you care to participate, just come and join us.

**Tuesday Bible Study:** Every Tuesday evening at 7– 8 pm, Bible study is offered. This group is also open to whomever comes. Come join us for study.

**Thursday Training:** Every Thursday from 7:00 – 8:00 Andy hosts a training class for witnessing to your Mormon friends. The Mormon Scrapbook is used as a study guide. Why not sharpen your witnessing skills?

Now, for the **BIG HAPPENING** at Concerned Christians. Our ministry had confirmation that we are effective. What I mean is (and many of you are already aware of this news but just to update everyone), over a year ago we had a sharp, cyber-smart Mormon attack our website and successfully disable it. We responded by reestablishing the site and adding very high security. Well, guess what?.. The attacker, or one of his friends, came back and attempted another shutdown. He was unsuccessful. We wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his efforts because it confirmed two things. First, that we are being successful with our ministry efforts because there is concern about what we provide on our website. Secondly, our in-place security is indeed successfully doing its job.

**Prayer request time:** Remember to pray for the Mormon church's leadership to search for REAL truth. Give God a chance to reveal Himself to our Mormon friends.



In the December, 2013 issue of *The CROSS* (Vol. 5 No. 4), Part One of Judy Robertson's article, "History of Concerned Christians" was published. If you missed Part One, it can be read on our website, or call our office to receive a copy.

## History of Concerned Christians (Part Two) By Judy Robertson

As our living rooms could no longer hold the people who came for the support group on Thursday nights, Jim and I began to search for property close to the Mesa LDS temple. We found a nice building only two blocks from the Mesa Temple and looked inside. The layout was perfect for our needs. We met the lady who ran a ministry on the premises for abused women. When we told her this was way out of our price range, she said, "Just pray about it." We did and others prayed with us.

God supplies all our needs, we know this for sure. We not only moved into this building but within short order a man—whose daughter was successfully counseled by Jim not to marry the Mormon man she was dating—paid off the entire mortgage. God knows his name, and we will be eternally grateful for his generosity.

God continued to nudge us to boldly proclaim the truth we'd come to know. *Witness to Mormons*, "the yellow book," as others called it, had opened so many eyes that we decided a small paid ad in the Mesa Tribune would alert even more to the deception of Mormonism.

Each small weekly ad began with: DID YOU KNOW?, followed by one belief of Mormonism compared to its counterpart in historical Christianity. The first ad read, "Mormons teach that there is more than one God," with LDS references, then "Historical Christianity teaches there is only one God," with biblical references. We ended each bullet with, "Watch this space each week for more messages," and gave our Concerned Christians address. Our only goal was to unwrap the hidden doctrines of Mormonism, hoping those who had believed deceitful messages would have evidence to make rational choices.

We were able to run these ads for one year and then on September 29, 1982, the door was slammed shut. The newspaper's publisher, Max Jennings, wrote an inflammatory editorial about Concerned Christians and from that point on we were denied our First Amendment rights.

The donor for *Witness to Mormons* had said, "You have entered the battleground...Enter this struggle as though your life depended on it...for the lives of many others do!!!" And the struggle was just beginning.

Though the newspaper barbs, stung we saw a far different news coming from Concerned Christians: An 83-year-old LDS man reported that all in *The God-makers* film was true and what Jim taught was true. He wanted to know how to write his letter of resignation. A 30-year-old woman renounced Mormonism and accepted Christ. Many came to the

Concerned Christians office to watch the film, and many made decisions for Christ.

Jim and I had discussed the need for someone to carry on the ministry full-time. Every week-end for months in advance was filled with teaching sessions at churches. Counseling was done at night and on week-ends. The ministry kept growing. Jim had been warned by his boss that his teaching about Mormonism was causing problems for his employer. Mormons were complaining. But Jim told his boss he could not stop teaching about Mormonism no matter what.

The "no matter what" finally came to pass. Jim was told he had to make a decision: either stop teaching about Mormonism or he would no longer have a job. The choice for Jim was easy. He left his good-paying job.

I believe this is what God had planned all along. With regular speaking engagements and a number of churches and individuals supporting Concerned Christians, the board decided to give Jim a salary.

A steady stream of searching people came for information; some came for counsel. Young adults came to find ways to witness to their Mormon friends and relatives. Jim found completeness in his new job. He said, "All my experience in my job with the bank prepared me for this. Besides, there's great reward in my Concerned Christians work. It replaces everything I enjoyed as a personnel director."

For me, an inner joy sprang up as each person found hope in Christ and accepted His death on the cross as payment for their sins rather than trying to earn salvation by good works. For 38-plus years we were blessed that God chose us for this ministry.

Today, Concerned Christians is headed by Andy Poland who is doing a great job of spreading the "Good News" and helping many see that they have believed a lie. For Andy was raised Mormon and believed that lie himself until he saw the error of Mormonism. His testimony is captivating. It's on page 149 of *Out of Mormonism*, along with four other testimonies of ex-Mormon Christians.

Concerned Christians, because of Andy's ability in cyber technology, has come a long way and is in tune with today's culture. As many things have changed to keep up with this new culture, this ministry will continue to flourish. As always, we would not exist today without the prayers of the body of Christ. This is the most important way those who appreciate Concerned Christians can honor God and prepare laborers for this field, white for harvesting.





## Concerned Christians of Mesa

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### Letters— From the Mailbag

**FROM CAMARILLO, CA:** As an ex-Mormon, I appreciate what you do so much. All of my six kids still are Mormons. Three of them in Boise, ID. I am contacting some Christian groups in that area for additional help. God Bless!

**FROM PEACHTREE CITY, GA:** Thank you for your perseverance to getting the true gospel to Mormons. I pray that the light of the true Jesus opens the eyes of my family members who converted to Mormonism. They have been so brainwashed into thinking that their works will make them gods. I wish this contribution to your ministry could be more, but I am experiencing some financial hardships right now.

**FROM SOUTH WHITLEY, IN:** Several years ago, the owner of a company I worked for in Indiana began giving me his left-over copies of *The CROSS*. Later, I asked to be put on your mailing list. I love to read each newsletter and hear what God is using you to do in this ministry. I want to give the enclosed donation in memory of my wife, who when to heaven last year. My dad used to quote the verse that says, "We are called out of darkness into His marvelous light." That is what you do, and may God bless you.

**FROM MESA, AZ:** I got the letter from the LDS Church and I am now off of the membership records – Thank you so much for your help.

**FROM PHOENIX, AZ:** I received a monetary gift from my older son this month, so I'm sending a little extra gift with my regular donation. Please pray for my son. He and his family moved to Glendale, Utah a few years ago and they have a desire to be witnesses for Christ in reaching out to the Mormons. We belonged to the Mormon Church years ago when I was married to their father, but all three of my children and I came to Christ and are born again, as are my grandchildren. We all have burdens in our hearts for the Mormons and many family members remain in the LDS church. God bless you all at Concerned Christians.

**FROM PHOENIX, AZ:** As a former Mormon for 7 years, ages 13 to 19 (I am now 69), I value your ministry and truth. I attended LDS Seminary for 3 years in high school, and quit when they said in Church History – Joseph Smith walked on water. The deception and lies are truly a tool of Satan. I was saved at age 20, and married into a Christian family. All praise to Jesus' name. Bless you.

**FROM RIVERSIDE, CA:** The two articles in *The CROSS* entitled, "How to Know if you are a Christian," and, "A Former Mormon's Story," were very informative and well-written. I have learned a great deal from both articles. Thank you for publishing them. [Editor's Note: These articles can be read on our website, or call our office to receive copies.]