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NEWSLETTER ~ JULY/AUGUST 2013

WEB www.exmormonsforjesus.org

OUR FAITH WILL WORK BY LOVE OR IT WILL NOT WORK AT ALL



FROM CHAR'S DESK

Many ex-Mormons find it extremely difficult coming out of Mormonism as it is not always easy to find someone who understands their plight. We, at Ex-Mormons For Jesus, are so happy we are here as we do understand and find it a privilege to lend them an ear in which to listen and a heart of love in which to understand. Sometimes it takes a long time to heal and we thank the good Lord for his long-suffering patience and love as He walks through this path with them. He is always there, encouraging and sustaining them until the victory is won...to Him be the glory! If you happen to know of a Mormon going through this transition, please send them our way.

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

HOW MORMONS ARE ROBBED

Mormonism's beliefs are sad and disheartening for many reasons. One is that they are placed under a heavy yoke that the Lord never meant for His people to carry. Like cattle, they are always being prodded to do better, prodded to keep laws and rituals that will **earn** them salvation, prodded to obey their leaders, etc. However, Jesus said: *"Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."* (Matt.11:29-30 NAS)

Active Mormons may tell us how much they love jumping through all the hoops in their striving for perfection; however, the ones we talk to who have come out and have come to know the real Jesus

always speak of a refreshing and glorious freedom they now have and one they never even knew existed. Galatians 5:1 tells us, *"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."* Of course this freedom in Christ always leads true believers to acts of righteousness and away from sin.

Another disheartening point is that Mormons are taught to follow a false god, which robs them from coming to know the only True God. Some characteristics of this false God are as follows: He was *"once as we are now, and is an exalted man..."* ("Teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith", p.345). He is not omnipresent, as shared by Brigham Young: *"Some would have us believe that God is present everywhere. It is not so. He is no more everywhere present in person than the Father and Son are one in person..."* ("Journal of Discourses", Vol.6, p.345, compare 2 Chron.6:18, Ps.139:7-10, Jer.23:24). Their God is married, ("Mormon Doctrine", p.516), and he is a polygamist ("The Seer", p.172), to name a few.

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ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EMFJ ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY



THINGS THEY NEVER TOLD ME

But a third, and most grievous of all reasons, is that they are being robbed of salvation. By trying to **earn** their salvation, they miss the glorious truth of it being a free gift of God's grace – *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”* (Eph.2:8-9 NAS). The Apostle Paul wrote the following scripture to the Jews, but I have always maintained that it could just as easily be directed to Mormons:

*“Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God but not in accordance with knowledge. For **not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**”* (Rom.10:1-4 NAS). To this we say AMEN and add our prayer for them to have the strength and wisdom to break free from this bondage.

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When you replace the invisible God with a visible one, you have replaced Him with an “idol” –

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F.Y.I.

Mormonism's First Presidency has given the following statistical report for their church as of December 31, 2012:

Total Membership.....	14,782,473
New Children of record.....	122,273
Converts Baptized in 2012.....	272,330
Full-Time Missionaries.....	58,990
Temples in Operation.....	140

(May 2013 “Ensign”, p.28)

It is interesting to note that even though the full-time missionaries were increased by 6,765, the “new converts” were, once again, slightly down from the previous year which was reported as 272,814. Hopefully, this means the body of Christ is doing its job of **contending** “...earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

In her book, “Loved into the Light” (see book review in this newsletter), La Vonne Earl shared her experience of being deceived into Mormonism:

“In much the same way as Satan did with Eve, the Mormon Church hid many of their beliefs and rituals from me. Had they revealed them to me in the beginning, I would have run! They never told me that they believed in polygamy, that they thought God was once a man like us, that human blood atonement was practiced, that we could become gods ourselves. Had they, I would not have been baptized into the church created by Joseph Smith.

You see, I wanted Jesus Christ in my life, but I did not know true Christianity in order to make an informed decision. This is why it was so easy for me to embrace the Mormon Church. They told me the things I wanted to hear, and not knowing that it was only a small, distorted portion of their whole belief system, I jumped on in!...” (p.210).

Mrs. Earl's story is not an exception, but rather the rule of all new converts to Mormonism. People join for various reasons, but the bottom line is that it is always out of a lack of knowledge as shared above. And when one starts to hear and ask questions regarding some of these bazaar beliefs, we were told that we should partake of milk before we try to digest “strong meat” (Heb.5:12). This usually led to just putting things on the shelf and trusting our leaders like we were taught to do.

One of the beliefs mentioned above was “blood atonement” and for me, this was a deal breaker when I studied what was taught on this subject. Before I do, however, I will tell you that this is no longer preached from their pulpits. It is one of those hidden things that they would like to keep hidden so they don't have to face the fact that their leaders preached (and practiced) false doctrines for many years. Following is a sampling of what was taught:

*“There are sins that men commit for which they cannot receive forgiveness in this world, or in that which is to come, and if they had their eyes open to see their true condition, they would be perfectly willing to have **their***

*blood spilt upon the ground, that the smoke thereof might ascend to heaven as **an offering for their sins**; and the smoking incense would **atone for their sins**, whereas, if such is not the case, they will stick to them and remain upon them in the spirit world.*

*...And furthermore, I know that there are transgressors, who, if they knew themselves, and the **only condition upon which they can obtain forgiveness**, would beg of their brethren to **shed their blood**, that the smoke thereof might **ascend to God as an offering to appease the wrath** that is kindled against them, and that the law might have its course. I will say further, **I have had men come to me and offer their lives to atone for their sins**” (Brigham Young, “Journal of Discourses”, Vol.4, pp 53-54; also published in the “Deseret News”, 1856, p.235, my emphasis).*

And what were some of the transgressions that demanded man to have his own blood shed? Well, one was adultery (Brigham Young, “Journal of Discourses”, Vol.3, p.247), another was murder (Joseph Smith, “History of the Church”, Vol.5, p.296), and another was marriage to an African (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.10, p.110). There were other “crimes”, but just a couple more I will briefly mention were stealing (“History of the Church”, Vol.7, p.597), covenant breaking (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.4, pp 49-50), and apostasy (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.4, p.220).

Friends of Christ, we can not be silent regarding these Mormon teachings (whether they be past, present or future) lest more innocent people get taken in by these “wolves in sheep’s clothing”. Our Biblical mandate is clear – “*preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort**, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.*” (2 Tim.4:2-3 NAS)

CITATION OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

“The Spirit that is on me this morning is the Spirit of

*the Lord; it is the Holy Ghost, although some of you may not think that the Holy Ghost is ever cheerful. Well, let me tell you, **the Holy Ghost is a man; he is one of the sons of our Father and our God**; and he is that man that stood next to Jesus Christ, just as I stand by brother Brigham...”* (President Herber C. Kimball - “Journal of Discourses”, Vol.5, p.179, my emphasis)

BOOK REVIEW

(“Loved Into The Light” by La Vonne Earl)

This book is about freedom in God and deliverance from the bondage of man. Written from the personal experiences of an ex-Mormon family, it exposes the emotional, mental, and physical damage that is done as a result of laboring under teachings and leadership that contradicts and conflicts with the Bible.

La Vonne Earl converted to Mormonism at the age of 20 and left the Mormon Church at 40. She has been involved in her Christian Church for 9 years. She is fascinated with the mind and it’s ability to easily accept what is taught, inadvertently, whether truth or lies. It covers topics such as Temple Ordinances, Mormon Garments, rules, the validity of the Bible versus the Book of Mormon and racism within the Mormon Church, to name a few. We have these books at the EMFJ Center for a donation of \$10.00. For further information or to receive newsletters, her web site is - www.YourKingdomInheritance.com

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE

From M.B.: “*My son, a Christian, has fallen in love with a Mormon girl and I fear the talk of marriage will be forthcoming. He is relatively open but I can’t seem to get across to him the importance of not being unequally yoked...Can you offer some guidance and of course, we covet your prayers. The young lady was raised in the Mormon church, so I’m sure you know better than I the difficult there. Thanx!*”

Our reply: *Your son has a big problem because of the culture of the Mormon Church and also their many unbiblical doctrines. It is very difficult to leave the*

church because all of your family and friends are there. Also they have a testimony that the church is true and they believe they received this from the Holy Ghost. If they should deny this testimony, they are told it is the same as denying the Holy Ghost and there is no forgiveness in this world or the next if they don't repent and come back to the church. Does your son realize that any children they should have would be place under this same bondage?

We have led many Mormons out of Mormonism but you have to do it with love and compassion. We also use only LDS books to show them what their leaders have taught over these many years that many Mormons are not even aware of. We can also send you copies of them, all out of their own books. The Mormons are shocked when they discover these things that their church kept hidden from them, carefully swept under the rug. It is very sad but true. Let us know if you would be interested in any of these suggestions and we'll be praying for your son and this Mormon girl. In His Service, Charlotte Pardee

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"I want to thank you for your Truth Letter! Sometimes I find myself thinking, 'Well maybe LDS theology has changed over the years since I left the church'" (which was in 1978)...Since coming to a saving knowledge of Christ in 1980 I've studied LDS doctrine more in depth than when I was "in". In recent years Mormon rhetoric has become more Christian sounding. Your newsletter helps me to realize that only makes it more dangerous.

I want all of you to know I pray for your strength in the Holy Spirit. At least once a week I do a prayer walk around the LDS Temple here in Billings pleading for the salvation of Mormons. Thank you for your work! In Christ, C.O."

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**"UNVEILING GRACE"
(A VERY SPECIAL
SUPPORT GROUP MEETING)**

On the second Tuesday of every month, we hold support group meetings. In September, however, we have a very special surprise. Six ex-Mormons (former

missionaries) will be sharing their incredible testimonies of how they came to know the Lord. They have formed a band called "Adam's Road" and will also be performing for us at this meeting. Their DVD, "Unveiling Grace", telling of their faith promoting transitions out of Mormonism, will also be available.

All are welcome - those who have a burden to reach the Mormons, those who want to learn more, those who need support and the Mormons themselves. Because this special meeting is being advertised, we expect a large crowd so it will be held in Plaza Bible Church's sanctuary, 240 W. Chapman Avenue, in Orange, 92866. The concert is from 7:00 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. This is one meeting you will not want to miss, so mark your calendars and bring a friend, we look forward to seeing you there!

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PURGING THE MAILING LIST

Ex-Mormons For Jesus is a faith ministry. Simply put, this means we have no source of income to keep this ministry in operation other than the prayerful generosity from the body of Christ. In order to be good stewards, we occasionally need to purge our mailing list as the monthly newsletters becomes very costly. We would **greatly** appreciate your taking the time to let us know if you want to continue receiving these mailings. Please circle "yes" or "no" and return the response in the enclosed envelope, thank you.

IF YOU HAVE RESPONDED BEFORE, YOU DO NOT NEED TO AGAIN. Please mark your choice.

YES, KEEP THE NEWSLETTERS COMING

NO, PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME

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