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NEWSLETTER ~ May/June 2016

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

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## FROM CHAR'S DESK

For the past few months, EMFJ has been very low on funds. Our dear friends, Sheila and Jim Garrigus, wrote a beautiful donation letter for us for which we were extremely grateful. Due to the faithful ones that receive our newsletter, funds have started to come in, for which we thank the Lord. He has always been faithful!

We are also so thankful for all of you that have come forward to help us. Christians always seem to be there when you need them, just like in Bible times. What a joy it is to share together the wonderful blessings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. How I yearn to see Mormons understand what it means to be redeemed, not with corruptible things, such as silver and gold...but with the precious blood of Christ. We all need silver and gold to function in this carnal world but how grateful we are that we don't need those things to be redeemed! With tears in my eyes, may we never cease to praise Him for this wonderful gift!

### Jenell's Jots & Tittles

## WHY GETHSEMANE?

Mormons usually point to the Garden of Gethsemane as the place where Jesus bore our sins as the following article illustrates: *"To possess a testimony of Jesus is to know that He voluntarily took upon Himself the sins of all mankind in the Garden of Gethsemane, which caused Him to suffer in both body and spirit and to bleed from every pore. All this He did so that we would not have to suffer if we would*

*repent.*" (President Ezra Taft Benson, "The Ensign", Feb.1987, p.2).

Another example comes from the current LDS President Thomas S. Monson: *"...I believe that none of us can conceive the full import of what Christ did for us in Gethsemane, but I am grateful every day of my life for his atoning sacrifice in our behalf."* ("The Ensign", May 2011, p.114). In Mormonism, when speaking of the atonement, the cross is occasionally mentioned, but it is rarely ever mentioned without it being in conjunction with Gethsemane while the Garden of Gethsemane is often mentioned without any reference to the cross, as in the above two quotes.

There are several reasons why Christians must reject the idea that Christ's work of atonement had anything to do with His agony in the Garden. One of them relates to the numerous verses from the Old Testament which speaks directly of Christ's suffering on the cross (e.g. Ps.22:1,14-18; Isa.53) with no mention of the atonement taking place via perspiration. Another one is that scriptures say that it was Christ's death that brought about the atonement (e.g. 1 Cor.15:3) and Jesus did not die in the Garden of Gethsemane.

No crosses are ever seen on an LDS edifice nor would a Mormon ever have one in their homes. The title of this article is "why Gethsemane" (and not the cross is implied)? Well, who above all hates the cross? Satan of course as this is where Jesus won the victory over him – *"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."* (Col.2:14-15).

Our Bibles speak loud and clear regarding what took place at the cross. Just a few scriptures relating to this are as follows – Jesus paid for our sins on the cross (Col.2:13-14; 1 Peter 2:24), believers were reconciled to the Father through the cross (Col.1:20-22, Eph 2:13-16, Rom.5:10), believers are sanctified at the cross (Heb.10:10), they are justified (Rom5:8-9), they are redeemed (Eph.1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19). Yes, Mormons downplay the cross, however, scripture says that those who do so are perishing: *“For the word (preaching) of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness.”* (1Cor.1:18, 23)

The cross is the most recognized symbol in all of the world, and those who truly understand its importance will join in with the Apostle Paul in saying – *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”* (Gal.6:14).

### CITATIONS OF CONCERN (FROM LDS LEADERS)

*“One who rationalizes that he or she has a testimony of Jesus Christ but cannot accept direction and counsel from the leadership of His church is in a fundamentally unsound position and in jeopardy of losing exaltation”* (President Ezra Taft Benson as reported in “The Ensign”, July 1994, p.28)

*“If you do not yet have a firmly rooted testimony and conviction that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the kingdom of God on the earth, now is the time to do what it takes to gain that conviction. To delay making the effort required to earn that kind of conviction can be dangerous to your soul.”* (Bonnie Oscarson, Young Women General President, “The Ensign”, Nov.2013, p.76)

*“...But I cannot help wondering if members of the Church do not place themselves in some spiritual peril when publicly disparaging the prophetic calling of*

*Joseph Smith, his successors, or any of the fundamental, settled doctrines of the Church. Those who express private doubts or unbelief as a public chastisement of the leadership or the doctrine of the Church or as a confrontation with those also seeking eternal light have entered upon sacred ground...”* (President James Faust, “The Ensign”, July 2000, p.2)

### JESUS IS ENOUGH

Every once in a while, we come across an article from another ministry that is so good we feel we must share it. That is the case with this one, written by Steve Dealy, “Mission to Mormons” in Nauvoo, Illinois –

*“LDS members say that they believe as ‘other Christians’ regarding Jesus being the Messiah and the Savior of the world. Yet it is interesting that the prime target audience of the Mormon missionaries are the Christians! If Mormons and Christians believed the same things why would they need to convert us? One difference is they believe they alone possess the proper authority of God, through their priesthood, to govern the kingdom of God. They believe that all sincere believers in Christ will in time come into Mormonism. If you never convert you were not sincere! The issue of authority is just the beginning of the divide between us. There is something (Someone) else that is a real deal breaker in regards to Mormon/Christian unity...”*

*On a daily basis the young LDS elders or sisters arrive at the front doors of those who have faith in Jesus Christ and who express that faith before the Mormons. Instead of rejoicing and moving on to find a household of pagans to teach, the missionaries still want to start their lessons **with the Believers**. In Mormonism Jesus is not enough!*

*The fact that the Mormons require all of their converts to be re-baptized indicates that it is a conversion into a different faith. They are not at your house to encourage your walk with Christ, but to convert you to a faith in Joseph Smith Jr. as a prophet of God. Brigham Young explains, ‘...no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith...Every man and woman must*

*have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance...I cannot go there without his consent...He reigns there as supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling, as God does...’ (Journal of Discourses, vol.7, p.289). For Mormons, faith in Jesus is not enough—even though the Bible states plainly that ‘there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved’ (Acts 4:12).*

*LDS missionaries cannot rest until everyone is converted to Smith and have joined his ‘true church.’ They believe that faith in Joseph Smith and keeping the commandments of the LDS Church are essential for ‘personal salvation’ (life in the Celestial Kingdom where God the Father and Christ dwell). LDS refer to Jesus as the Savior but the Jesus of Mormonism only provides humanity with a future resurrection from the grave or ‘general salvation.’ In contrast, the real Jesus said that He was **the way** to the Father, period (John 14:6).!*

*As I was writing this letter, a song on the radio caught my attention. ‘What Love is This’, by Kari Jobe, was just concluding with this declaration: ‘What love is this, that You gave your life for me. And made a way for me to know You. And I confess, You’re always enough for me. Always enough for me. Always enough for me.’*

*Evangelist Ray Comfort has pointed out that we wouldn’t dare add even one stroke to a great artistic masterpiece. It would be a great insult if someone attempted to add something. The atonement of Jesus is certainly a masterpiece and as such has need of nothing we could add ‘For by grace you have been saved through faith...not of works, lest anyone should boast’ (Eph.2:8-9). Jesus is enough. Always enough for me. Always enough for me.”*

To this we can add our amen – Let us always keep our eyes focused on Him!

## FEAR TACTICS & BRAIN WASHING

**A** couple of newsletters ago, we shared some quotes from LDS leaders that gave an inside look as to

how they keep their people in line. Following are a few more:

*“...I caution you not to view filthy images or give your attention to the false accusers of Christ and the Prophet Joseph Smith. Both actions create the same effect; **the loss of the Holy Ghost and His protecting, sustaining power...**” (“The Ensign”, Nov.2013, p.102, my emphasis)*

*“...WAKE UP, YE ELDERS OF ISRAEL, AND LIVE TO GOD and none else; and learn to do as you are told, both old and young...**But if you are told by your leader to do a thing, do it. None of your business whether it is right or wrong...**” (Journal of Discourses, Vol.6, p.32, my emphasis)*

*“I feel a sacred honor and privilege to have joined with members of the Church around the world in sustaining the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators. We humbly declare that they are ‘special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world’ (D&C 107:23). We testify that they speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost. And **whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation...**” (“The Ensign”, May 2004, p.36, my emphasis)*

*“...God made Aaron to be the mouthpiece for the children of Israel, and He will make me [Joseph Smith] be god to you in His stead, and the Elders to be mouth for me; and if you don’t like it, you must lump it...” (“Teachings Of The Prophet Joseph Smith”, p.363)*

*“Through Joseph Smith have been restored all the powers, keys, teachings, and ordinances **necessary for salvation and exaltation**. You cannot go anywhere else in the world and get that. It is not to be found in an any other church...**Salvation is to be found in one place alone, as so designated by the Lord Himself when He said that this is “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth”.**” (“The Ensign”, Nov.2009, p.37, my emphasis)*

Christians, how many of you would stay in a church that used this type of scare tactics in order to keep you as a member and under their control? 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.**” We pray for our Mormon friends to come to know this.

## RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

“Pray for my daughter R\_\_\_\_\_ and I. We decided this week we will no longer be going to the Mormon church. We need guidance on what church to attend now and know that Jesus is real. J\_\_\_\_\_”

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“I just want to be more informed...I have 2 Mormon friends that I want to witness to.”

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“After over 50 years as an active member of the LDS (Mormon) church I went through a process of learning that it is not the true church that I was taught as well, that it was never Christian, and that I, not to mention my family, was/is in many ways in spiritual danger within this belief system. I won't go into my entire experience nor story. I do have need of advice...”

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“Used to receive your mailing; teaching Bible Class Wed. Evenings now; people are asking about Mormons and why they are not in our Christian history. Pray for us that God's Word may always flourish among us, and that we honor Jesus Christ as our dear Savior...”

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“I was on the RfM ex-Mormons in Recovery site, where I was targeted by some hateful ex-Mormon Atheists because of my beliefs as a Christian ex-Mormon did not mesh with the Atheists on the board. It would be nice to see what you have in the way of resources, as I try to learn more what's out there in the ex-Mormon community. Thank you \_\_\_\_\_”

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“I am questioning the LDS faith. Please send me information to help me know the truth.”

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“Please send me (2) tracts “The Jesus of Mormonism” Do you have a tract or pamphlet on prophecies Joseph Smith made that did not come true...”

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“Hi! God bless you Thank you for all you are doing to bring Mormons to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ! Because He lives J\_\_\_\_\_ & T\_\_\_\_\_”

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## SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, we are pleased to have Brian Romberg as our guest speaker. He ministers to a variety of cults and will be sharing information on Mitt Romney.

After Brian speaks, there will be a question and answer time, as well as refreshments. 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. The NEW ADDRESS is 671 N. Poplar St, in Orange, please call our Center (714-997-3498) if you need directions. We look forward to seeing you there.

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





