

Ex-Mormons for
JESUS

*Our faith will work by love,
or it will not work at all.*

INFORMATION & VISITORS CENTER
1107 E. Chapman Ave., #206
Orange, CA 92866

Phone: (714) 997-3498
Email: bill@exmormonsforjesus.org
Website: www.exmormonsforjesus.org

NEWSLETTER ~ JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

*****HAPPY NEW YEAR*****



FROM CHAR'S DESK

As the New Year begins, I always like to reminisce on all the wonderful things God has done this past year through the ministry of Ex-Mormons for Jesus. It causes me to kneel before the Lord in deep gratitude for His desire to set the Mormons free from their bondage into a relationship with Himself.

We received a Christmas card from one of the Mormons who is now an "ex," telling us of all the marvelous things she is thankful for that God has done for her since she came to know Him. I would like to share them with you.

- * He loves me
- * He died for me
- * He has shown me His word is trustworthy
- * He saves those who have faith and believe
- * His grace is sufficient
- * He alone is my hope and peace
- * He called me into His fellowship
- * He gives me rest
- * He is my light
- * He is my only authority
- * He set me free
- * He has put precious friends in my path who bless me and I love them dearly

What a joy it is to receive messages like this to know our labors are not in vain! We pray all of you will have a wonderful and fruitful New Year in 2019. God bless you!!

~ JENELL'S JOTS & TITLES ~

ARE MORMONS POLYTHEISTS?

If you asked a Mormon this question, they would probably respond with a resounding NO! They do not like to consider themselves such because polytheism is diametrically opposed to Christianity (which they are currently trying to portray themselves as). Yet anyone who is familiar with Mormonism knows that their theology embraces a belief in a multitude of gods, in fact they believe they can become a god themselves. The answer to this paradox lies with THEIR interpretation of polytheism verses its TRUE meaning. Webster's New World Dictionary gives this definition of polytheism: "*belief in or worship of many gods, or more than one god: opposed to monotheism; (poly - many, plus theos - god)*"

Mormonism, on the other hand, tries to narrow the meaning down to only those who **worship** pagan deities, not just to those who believe more than one god exists, as follows: "*It should be remembered that polytheism has reference to pagan deities to whom reverence, devotion, and worship are given. It is not to be confused with the gospel truth that there are 'gods many, and lords many, But to us there is but one God, the Father...and one Lord Jesus Christ.'* (1 Cor.8:4-7). *The saints are not polytheists.*" (MORMON DOCTRINE, Second edition, by LDS Apostle, Bruce R. McConkie, p.579).

So here McConkie says that "the gospel truth" is yes, many gods and many lords do exist but no problem, we

only worship the God of this planet so we are not polytheists. Yet any Bible commentary or knowledgeable Christian would tell us that 1Cor.8:4-7 is not affirming the existence of many (a plurality of) Gods, but is merely a reference to pagan deities or idols.

McConkie gets his misinterpretation of this scripture from Joseph Smith, who said: *“Paul says there are Gods, many and Lords many. I want to set it forth in a plain and simple manner; but to us there is but one God – that is pertaining to us; and he is in all and through all. But if Joseph Smith says there are Gods many and Lords many, they cry, ‘Away with him! Crucify him! Crucify him!...Some say I do not interpret the Scripture the same as they do. They say it means the heathen’s gods. Paul says there are Gods many and Lords many; and that makes a plurality of Gods, in spite of the whims of all men...You know and I testify that Paul had no allusion to the heathen gods. I have it from God, and get over it if you can.”* (TEACHING OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH, pp.370-371).

Many areas of Mormonism’s theology separates it from Christianity and puts it into the category of a heretical cult. However, almost none is more serious or dangerous than their polytheistic teaching in general, and that of man trying to obtain Godhood in particular. In Isaiah 14:12-15 we can read the account of Lucifer wanting to become like God but was given the sentence of hell instead.

Christianity is monotheistic in the strictest sense of the term, for the scriptures leave no room for anything else: *“Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he; before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.”* (Isa.43:10, also see Deut.4:35; 1 Sam.2:2; 1Kings 8:60; Isa.44:5, 6, 21; Mark 12:29-32; James 2:19).

It is our prayer that Mormons would come to understand and embrace the only True God of the Bible (John 17:3).

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

“Here, then, is eternal life—to know the only wise and

true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you, namely by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one; from grace to grace, from exaltation to exaltation, until you attain to the resurrection of the dead, and are able to dwell in everlasting burnings, and to sit in glory, as do those who sit enthroned in everlasting power...” (TEACHINGS OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH, pp.346-347)

HISTORY OF EX-MORMONS FOR JESUS

Many people have asked us how the ministry of “Ex-Mormons for Jesus” got started so we decided to share the story with those who receive our newsletter.

In 1975, Bob Witte, a former Mormon, had received Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior and left Mormonism. He thought he was the ONLY Mormon that had left the Mormon Church and had been born again and it was a very lonely feeling! Then one day he met Melaine Layton, who also thought she was the only ex-Mormon that knew the Lord. As they visited, they started wondering if there were other former Mormons out there that were in the same boat. Consequently, they decided to put an ad in a Christian paper asking if there were any other Mormons out there that had left the Mormon Church and had found Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. They received many letters back and banded together to form what they decided to call “EX-MORMONS FOR JESUS.”

In 1983, Jim Garrigus used ex-Mormons, Clodette Woodhouse and Jenell McGregor to open the first Ex-Mormons for Jesus Information and Visitors Center in Santa Fe Springs, CA and in 1987, Charlotte Pardee opened the second one in the city of Orange, CA. (which is the only one operating today).

This history spans nearly 44 years of God doing miraculous miracles in the lives of Mormons that now know they are not the ONLY ones that have been saved. Today, because of the many ministries like ours, along with Christian Churches speaking the truth in love, and

things like the internet, thousand of Mormons have come to know the truth, to the glory of God! Praise His Holy Name!

MORMON ENCOUNTERS CONTINUED

We shared some encounters our ministry has had with Mormons in our last newsletter. Hopefully, you will find them interesting as we continue sharing God's miracles –

Kathy was another LDS girl that came in during the Street Fair. Granny Geer (who wrote the book, "Mormonism, Mamma and Me") witnessed with us that year and she was the one who led her to the Lord. Kathy told me later that when she was a Mormon, she and her friend would stand on their front porch and when people would go by they would shout, WE ARE MORMONS, WE ARE THE GREATEST! WE ARE MORMONS, WE ARE THE GREATEST! I (Charlotte) thought that was just two young girls being silly and having fun until a few years later during another Labor Day weekend at the Street Fair. A woman told me her daughter wanted to go with one of her friends to a Mormon Ski Camp and when she returned home she said, "Mom, Mormons are weird." Her mom asked what she meant by that and she said before they could go out on the ski slopes, their leader would get them all together and tell them not to forget who they were. Above all else, they were Mormons. Then they all yelled together, WE ARE MORMONS, WE ARE THE GREATEST! WE ARE MORMONS, WE ARE THE GREATEST!

So I found out Kathy and her friend weren't just being silly, after all. I guess this is something Mormon kids are taught to believe, that they are the greatest! I know when I was a teenager and went to the Presbyterian Church, we were never taught to think we were the greatest. In the Bible, Jesus said, "*But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant, and whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted*" (Matt.23:11-12).

Jason is another one who came into our Center and shared his story with us. He was Korean and while he was on his Mormon mission, he converted his future

wife to Mormonism from the Presbyterian Church. But one day, after going to the LDS Church for a while, she told Jason (who by then was her husband) that she wasn't going to the Mormon Church anymore as it teaches a different god than the one which is revealed in the Holy Bible. This started all kinds of trouble between them and finally he decided to divorce her, even though he loved her very much, because his faith in the Church came first.

However, before he did this, he decided to go up into the mountains alone and seek God. He took the Bible (the one book they both claimed to believe in) with him to "Prayer Mountain" where they have little shelters. He said, "I left the Mormon Church behind, my wife's Presbyterian Church behind and told God He has to speak to me or else I would die." While there, he had an amazing experience. God took him through the Bible supernaturally and led him out of Mormonism! The first scripture He led him to was Luke 16:16, "*The law and the prophets were until John.*" The next scripture was Acts 7:48, "*Howbeit, the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands*" and on and on through 16 scriptures that refuted what he had been taught as a Mormon. Jason was born again and is now serving the Lord, along with his grateful wife. What a mighty miracle! (To be continued in our next newsletter)

MORMONISM & CHRISTIANITY

What are the biggest differences? Ask any Latter-day Saint if the LDS Church is a "restoration" from biblical times and you will certainly receive a positive response. The problem is that there are many more differences than similarities when the activities/purposes of the LDS temples are compared with the biblical temple. Following are just some of the differences:

NUMBER

ANCIENT BIBLICAL –

Only one temple (Jerusalem) was recognized

MODERN LDS –

More than 150 temples scattered around the world

PURPOSE

ANCIENT BIBLICAL –

Primary activity: Sacrifice of animals by the law

MODERN LDS –
Primary activity: “Ordinances” for the living and the dead

WORSHIP

ANCIENT BIBLICAL –
Worshippers went to the temple with an attitude of unworthiness before an all-holy God

MODERN LDS –
Worshippers attend their temple with a “recommend” which proves their worthiness

PRIESTS

ANCIENT BIBLICAL –
Priests serving in the temple had to come from the tribe of Levi (Num.3:6-10)

MODERN LDS
Allows “temple worthy” members with no pedigree to participate in rites

WEDDINGS

ANCIENT BIBLICAL –
Absolutely no evidence that weddings ceremonies ever took place in the temple

MODERN LDS –
Marriages for both “time and eternity” regularly take place in Mormon temple

SEALINGS

ANCIENT BIBLICAL –
No place for “sealings” of families for time and eternity

MODERN LDS –
Families are “sealed” together forever in special rooms

HOLY OF HOLIES

ANCIENT BIBLICAL –
Holy of Holies was entered just one day a year, the Day of Atonement, by only the high priest

MODERN LDS –
The Salt Lake temple has a “Holy of Holies” but with an entirely different purpose

FAMILIAR SPIRITS

ANCIENT BIBLICAL –

Seeking familiar spirits is expressly prohibited (Lev.19:31 KJV, Deut.18:10-12 KJV, 1Sam.28:3 KJV)

MODERN LDS –
Seeking familiar spirits is encouraged and is often experienced

(The above was taken from “Mormonism Researched” www.mrm.org Temple Guide Newspaper with some minor changes)

I think most people would find the above information confusing as to how Mormons could think that their temples were a restoration of biblical times. Please join us in prayers that the blinders would be removed from their eyes and that they would turn to the truth and to the only One who can save them.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

Our EMFJ Support Group Meetings have not only enjoyed testimonies by Ex-Mormons, but also of many other cults: Bickertonites (a branch of the Mormon Church that followed Bickerton), a Seventh-Day Adventist, Jehovah Witnesses, a Christian Scientist, and a Muslim. On February 12th, at 7:30 p.m., we are going to hear a testimony from a former ungodly Communist from Czechoslovakia, Jiri Novak, and how he came to know the Lord.

A question and answer time as well as refreshment will follow Jiri’s talk. The new address of Plaza Bible Church is 1026 S. East St. Anaheim, CA 92805. 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. You won’t want to miss this meeting, we look forward to seeing you there.

+ * + * + * +

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



Thank You

