

Ex-Mormons for  
**JESUS**

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

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NEWSLETTER ~ JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

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### FROM CHAR'S DESK

Can you believe it is already 2020? I remember when I was called by God to the Mormons like it was yesterday! Actually, it was back in 1971, 49 years ago! At the end of this year, I will be celebrating my 50<sup>th</sup> year ministering to Mormons. I will be 91 years old!

I recall the very first Mormon I led to the Lord in my Good News Club, a little 10 year old girl names Lisa. Today she is a Grandmother and is still walking with the Lord, Praise His Holy Name. He is so faithful! Then the first Mormon adult I led to the Lord was her mother, Barbara, that I wrote about in our Sept/Oct newsletter. She is now with the Lord worshipping Him in heaven.

I pray this year many more Mormons will be ready to meet their Maker as we continue sharing Jesus with them. Thank you, Lord, for the love you have for the Latter-day Saints and the privilege of allowing Ex-Mormons For Jesus to minister to them all of these years. We thank you! Happy New Year everyone!

### ~ JENELL'S JOTS & TITTLES ~

#### JOSEPH SMITH'S PERSONAL FINGER PRINT

Many people have a pet word or phrase that they use repeatedly. My grandson (and his mom) often use the phrase "or what not" for et cetera. Our director said her husband, Bill, loved to use the word "essentially". In her book, "Mormons, How God Loves Them", our director,

Charlotte Pardee, shared her discovery of Joseph Smith's pet phrase "or in other words" (pp 11-12).

While there is nothing wrong with repeatedly using a favorite phrase, it becomes very suspicious when we see Smith's, "in other words" show up in all of their Standard Works (except, of course, the KJV of the Bible). Some examples are as follows:

Book of Mormon: "*And it came to pass that while my father tarried in the wilderness he spake unto us, saying: Behold, I have dreamed a dream; **or, in other words**, I have seen a vision.*" (1 Nephi 8:2).

Doctrine and Covenants: "...*let them come not again upon the waters, save it be upon the canal, while journeying unto their homes; **or in other words** they shall not come upon the waters to journey, save upon the canal.*" (D&C 61:23).

Doctrine and Covenants: "*Let my servant Newel K. Whitney retain his store, **or in other words**, the store, yet for a little season.*" (D&C 63:42).

Doctrine and Covenants: "*Verily, I say unto my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., **or in other words**, I will call you friends, for you are my friends...*"

Pearl Of Great Price: "*Fig. 5 Is called in Egyptian Enish-go-on-dosh; this is one of the governing planets also, and is said by the Egyptians to be the Sun, and to borrow its light from Kolob through the medium of Kae-e-vanrash, which is the grand Key, **or, in other words**, the governing power, which governs fifteen other planets or stars...*" (No.2 Facsimile from the Book of Abraham).

And we even find it in Joseph Smith's "Inspired Version" of the Bible: "*And this Melchizedek, having thus established righteousness, was called the king of heaven by his people or, in other words, the King of peace.*" (Genesis 14:36, all above emphasis' mine).

It doesn't take much of a detective to deduce that Joseph Smith's favorite phrase becomes a "personal finger print" that identifies him as the author of Mormonism's main works, or at least had a hand in writing them. If someone wanted to take the time, I am sure many more "in other words" could be found in Mormon writings. Numbers 32:23 fits well here: "...*you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.*" (NAS)

## MISUSED TITHE MONEY?

One of Mormonism's *requirements*, in order to get a "temple recommend" (which allows them access into their temples), is to pay a full tithe, that is donate 10% of their income. On November 21, 2019, a complaint was filed with the IRS by David A. Nielsen, a former church employee. Accompanying the complaint is a 74 page narrative by Nielsen, who alleges Ensign stockpiled \$100 billion in charitable donations and deceived church members by doing so.

According to Nielsen, the LDS church has improperly built a \$100 billion investment portfolio using member donations that are supposed to go to charitable causes. An article from the "Las Vegas Review Journal" shares the following:

*"...The IRS complaint from a former church investment manager alleges that the church has misled members and possibly broken federal tax rules for religious organizations by using an affiliated investment arm to set aside about \$1 billion a year from the \$7 billion it receives annually in member donations, The Washington Post reported Monday...The allegations bring new attention to the church's finances, which its leaders have long declined to discuss publicly, fueling widespread intrigue and speculation..."* (p.7A)

As mentioned above, tithing is a very important topic for Mormons (see last month's newsletter on this

subject). However, if it turns out that the Mormon Church is guilty of this, maybe paying more attention to their to their own scriptures would have been in order –

*For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted.*" (Book of Mormon, Mormon 8:37)

## CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

*"In the Heaven where our spirits were born, there are many Gods, each one of whom has his own wife or wives which were given to him previous to his redemption, while yet in his mortal state. Each God, through his wife or wives, raises up a numerous family of sons and daughters; indeed, there will be no end to the increase of his own children; for each father and mother will be in a condition to multiply forever and ever...Thus each God forms a world for the accommodation of his own sons and daughters who are sent forth in their times and seasons, and generations to be born into the same. The inhabitants of each world are required to reverence, adore, and worship their own personal father who dwells in the Heaven which they formerly inhabited."* ("The Seer", p.37, by Mormon Apostle, Orson Pratt)

## PRE-PROGRAMMED

In the dictionary, one of the definitions for "programmed" is: "*a plan of action to accomplish a specified end.*" (Random House Webster's College Dictionary). Well, there is an often-used Book of Mormon scripture that tries to do just that. It is found in Moroni 10:4-5 as follows:

*"And when ye shall receive these things (referring to the BOM, see the introduction to chapter 10), I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things."*

## THE 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE “FIRST VISION”

Almost all Mormons know this verse and have obediently done what it says in order to get a “testimony” of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. Prospective converts are also challenged to read this verse and act upon it. However, I wonder if any realize that they have been set-up regarding this supposed test?

For instance, what does their leaders tell them is supposed to happen to them when they pray according to Moroni 10:4-5 and ask God if the Book of Mormon is true? They are told that they will receive some kind of super-natural manifestation (like a burning in the bosom) and that it came from the Holy Ghost!

What kind of heart are they supposed to pray with? A sincere heart! What happens if they get a NO answer from God? Then they didn’t pray with a sincere heart. Of course, the person doesn’t want to be accused of not praying correctly, so they have already been set up! They have to keep trying until they get some kind of witness.

Therefore, if the answer from God is “*no, the Book of Mormon is not true*”, they must reject that answer or they will be accused of having an insincere heart, or not praying with real intent, or not having faith in Christ! In other words, God is not allowed to give a NO answer to that prayer!

Sadly, many Mormons do get some kind of super-natural manifestation that, without a miracle of God, no amount of truth would be able to undo. Yet if they knew their Bibles, they would have been able to heed the warnings about deceitful spirits (1 Tim.4:1) and Satan who can perform signs and lying wonders (2Thess.2:9). The Bible even warns about the deceptive nature of our own hearts (Deut.11:16).

Our true and tried Bibles *alone* must be the standard for hearing from God. And there is no scripture in the Bible that asks us to pray about its truthfulness, for unlike the Book of Mormon, the Bible has been *proven* true archeologically, historically, scientifically and by every other test given among mankind. Thank you Lord that “*All scripture is inspired by God [God breathed] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*” (2 Tim.3:16 NAS)

In April of 2020, the LDS General Conference will commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Joseph Smith’s alleged “First Vision” (the Father and Jesus Christ appearing to him in visible form). The “official account” is found in “Pearl of Great Price”, Joseph Smith – History. So important is this event that the 15<sup>th</sup> LDS President, Gordon B. Hinckley said:

*“Every claim that we make concerning divine authority, every truth that we offer concerning the validity of this work, all finds its roots in the First Vision of the boy prophet.”* (“Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley”, p.226)

Again President Gordon B. Hinckley stated: “*Our whole strength rests on the validity of that vision. It either occurred or it did not occur. If it did not, then this work is a fraud.*” (The “Ensign”, November 2002, p.80)

Every member is being told to prepare for this special conference which, they are told, will be different from any other. For those of you who are trying to witness to a friend or loved one in Mormonism, that last line, “then this work is a fraud”, might become a timely opportunity to share some important facts with them.

We do not have room in this newsletter to show the full extent of the fraudulent nature of Joseph Smith story, but I will share a few facts from a couple of tracts we have here at the EMFJ Center. By the way, if interested, you can contact us and we will be happy to send you these tracts (if possible, any donation would be appreciated).

*“An Ever-Changing Story – In about 1832, Joseph Smith, began an account of the origin of the Mormon Church (the only one written in his own hand) that is considerably different from the official First Vision story he dictated some six years later. This 1832 account, which has been referred to as Joseph’s strange account, was never finished and for many years remained inaccessible to the -public. It was published in BYU Studies, Spring 1969. pp.,278ff, and is now cited on the official LDS website: [www.JosephSmith.net](http://www.JosephSmith.net).*

*In this version Joseph presented himself as a boy who, between the ages of twelve and fifteen, was a committed and perceptive reader of the Bible. He claimed that it was his study of the Scriptures which led him to understand that all the denominations were wrong...Six years later, when Joseph set forth his official First Vision account, he changed his story and no longer claimed his personal Bible study led him to the conclusion that all churches were wrong. Instead, he said that the Father and the Son told him that he must join none of them...*

*Contradictions – In the 1832 account it is Joseph’s Bible reading that stirs him to seek God, while in the 1838 story it is a (non-existent 1820) Palmyra-area revival that motivates him. In the 1832 version Joseph only mentions the appearance of Christ, while in the 1838 rendition he claims both the Father and the Son appeared. In the 1832 account he already knows all the churches are wrong, while in the 18348 story he says it never occurred to him that all were wrong until the two deities informed him of this fact.*

*Yet Another Account – Still another version of the First Vision was published in 1834-35 in the periodical, Latter-day Saints Messenger and Advocate (Vol.1, pp.42,78). This account was written by LDS leader Oliver Cowdery with the help of Joseph Smith. It tells how a revival in 1823 caused 17-year-old Joseph Smith to be stirred up on the subject of religion. According to Cowdery, Joseph desired to know for himself of the certainty and reality of pure and holy religion (p.78). He also prayed if a Supreme being did exist, to have an assurance that he was accepted of him and a manifestation in some way that his sins were forgiven...According to this account, an angel (not a deity) appeared in Joseph’s bedroom to tell him his sins were forgiven.*

As mention above, you can contact us and request the tracts, “New Light on Joseph Smith’s First vision” and “Documented History of Joseph Smith’s First Vision”. These tracts share an enormous amount of revealing information on the event that Mormons consider marked the onset of the “Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ”. Nothing is more important to them!

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Our future newsletters will be sharing excerpts from some of the ex-Mormon resignation letters that we have

received over the years, they are very telling!

*Dear President M.*

*I wish to express my deep affection and sincere love for the members of the Mormon Church. Having ancestral Mormon roots, I will always feel very close to my people. However, for the following reasons I request my membership in the church be terminated.*

1. *Heber J. Grant, a President of the Utah LDS Church, once said, “If he (Joseph Smith) did not have the interview with God and Jesus Christ, the whole Mormon fabric is a failure, is a fraud, it isn’t worth anything on earth.” Joseph Smith did not have that interview and made many changes in his First Vision story over an 18-year period. The changes so contradict each other you know his story is a fabrication...*

2. *The three standard works on which the church is founded are either fiction, copied from other sources, changed many times, added to or parts deleted in such proportions (with no editorial explanation) as to render totally impotent any claim they were ever scripture or ever came from God as his “unalterable word.” The Book of Mormon has had 3,912 changes and the Doctrine and Covenants, 400 changes from the first publication (originally the Book of Commandments) to the last edition of the Doctrine and Covenants...*

*The members of the Church have been fooled for 150 years but they will not be fooled much longer. Your doctrinal house is falling down around your ears. Do not pretend it is not...*

*I want you to know this letter is not to destroy anything or anyone. It is to save the Church and make it truly the Church of Jesus Christ... O. M.*

## **SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS**

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. They include a guest speaker and end with 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. We meet at Plaza Bible Church, 1026 S. East St. Anaheim 92805.



