

Ex-Mormons for  
**JESUS**

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

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NEWSLETTER - NOV/DEC 2023

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## FROM CHAR'S DESK

There are two holidays that are coming up that are extra special to Christians this time of year - Thanksgiving and Christmas! Thanksgiving, because we are so thankful for all the Lord has done for us and Christmas because it is the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord. He came as a human baby to pay a price He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay.

We pray, at this holy time of the year, we will not forget to worship Him for all He has done for us, because He gave us eternal life which we did not deserve. What a wonderful Savior!

May your Christmas be blessed with His Presence this special and holy time of the year! Merry Christmas!!

## BORN TO DIE

**The soft little hands of Jesus,  
Mary held so tenderly,  
Were made that nails might fasten  
The Savior on a tree!**

**Those baby feet of Jesus,  
Now pink and oh, so small,  
Would one day walk up Calvary's hill  
To pay the sin for all!**

**That infant head of Jesus,  
Now covered with soft new hair,  
Would one day be all bloody,  
And a crown of thorns placed there!**

**His newborn mouth so perfect,  
Would one day say, "It's done!"**

**For He made the perfect sacrifice  
When on the cross He hung!**

**That tender baby's body,  
In a manger now did lie,  
Yet it would rest in a borrowed tomb,  
For Jesus was born to die!**

Pa stor Larry Powers - Christmas 1996

## THE CHALLENGE

Mormons are urged to challenge prospective converts to "honestly" investigate the truth of their church. Under the INTRODUCTION in the Book of Mormon this invitation is given: "*We invite all men everywhere to read the Book of Mormon, to ponder in their hearts the message it contains, and then ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if the book is true..*"

Orson Pratt, an early Mormon apostle, stated the following regarding the Book of Mormon: "*This book must be either true or false. If false, it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep laid impositions ever palmed upon the world...The nature of the Book of Mormon is such that, if true, no one can possibly be saved and reject it; if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it.*" (DIVINE AUTHORITY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON. Introduction) These types of challenges and statements give the appearance of confidence and security in the veracity of Mormonism. However, what if after a rigid examination you find it to be false? Following is a letter from a sincere investigator to his LDS friend after two years of research.

We pray it will encourage you to reach your LDS friends and loved ones who are deceived!

Dear \_\_\_\_: I wanted to take this time to reveal my final decision on a journey and quest that began the moment your mission commenced. Our friendship has been overwhelming, inspiring and a joy in my life. You are an awesome person whom I love and respect and equally your family as well. How blessed you are. Thank you for your kindness and warmth and all you have done to contribute to my humanity. I value you and your family more than you could ever realize.

I investigated the church with an attitude at full throttle after L's baptism. It was an inspiring event that I shall never forget. Your father challenged me to look into the church sincerely after I expressed the joy of that moment, so I did.

As you may be aware I have been extremely dissatisfied with the state of religion in our world today. I shared those thoughts with your dad and the elders. This attitude allowed me the freedom to sincerely look into the church that appeared to me to be very, very family oriented and friendly and kind and pure. I was open as I read and viewed films and attended conferences and services and studies and meetings of all kinds, plays, concerts, home studies and numerous sessions with the elders. I loved it all. I was learning and praying and asking the Lord sincerely regarding the truth of the church. I had visions, dreams and restless nights. Now I know the truth and am ready to reveal to you my findings after the most sincere investigation I have ever embarked upon regarding any religion.

After much fasting and praying and reading and research, without any interference from outside sources, other than the Lord, I have been informed by the Holy Spirit that this is not the true church of our Lord and in fact it is a very dangerous and craftily devised doctrine of deception. I know this sounds harsh, but I cannot delay the inevitable. I know that it is difficult to hear this because you believe it so strongly, but I have to be honest. Truth isn't truth because we believe anything or have testimonies of events. It is true that every religion on the planet has testimonies and experiences that are supernatural, but the devil is a supernatural being so it isn't the supernatural or feelings that verify the truth. It

has to be something deeper than our own personal experience. I have never accepted the Lord based on my experience or feelings, for I realize that my trust is in him and not in my own heart or mind.

I read the book that Barry Bickmore wrote called 'Restoring the Ancient Church': The book was given to me by my friend Elder Livingston. After reading the book it was the single most conclusive vehicle tht Jesus used to speak to me about the church and what it stands for. I was amazed at how easily and rapidly the Lord began to tie the loose ends I had been wrestling with. This book answered all my questions and the unique thing about it is that it was from and authorized by the church. It was the most convincing material I had ever read as to what the church really is and what it believes. This book opened my eyes as to the depth of deception that is woven into the Mormon church.

I am so sorry that you have bought into it, and I am sorry that your church has a form of godliness but denies the true essence of the pure, non-devisive gospel truth. I love you and will pray that one day you will investigate the other churches and their reasons why they are not LDS members, as vigorously as I have laid my pre-conceived beliefs on the table for you. ...I love LDS and will always love them. I now have a mission to help bring the truth to others about LDS and what the true church really represents. It hurts me to know that people I love so deeply are so wrapped up in this, but God will have those responsible answer to him for deceiving innocent lambs like yourself...

Please, my friend, seek Jesus with all your heart and his words, not those of men and prophets who can be misled... It is so freeing to belong to God and not a man-made organization. If you seek the truth, instead of seeking to defend what you believe, as I have, you will come to the same conclusions I have. I know that without a doubt. I love you and Dad and the whole family. Never, ever forget or doubt that. Thanks. Sincerely and prayerfully, Your friend, S.G. "Ye shall seek me and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jer 29:13

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

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

## **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.

