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NEWSLETTER ~ JAN/FEB 2017

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

It's the beginning of another beautiful year, a gift from our Lord! I always wonder what God has in store for the ministry He has called us to in the year 2017. I am praying it will be special.

The Lord has already sent us a new ex-Mormon that found us on our Website. He attended our January Support Group Meeting for the first time and is on fire for the Lord! No matter what religion you have been raised in, when Jesus becomes your Master and Lord, you are a brand new creature in Christ Jesus. What a joy!

I look forward this year to seeing God bring many more Mormons to a saving knowledge of Himself. Won't you please join me in prayer for this to happen? Thank you and a Happy New Year to you all!

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

POLYGAMY

AN "EVERLASTING" COVENANT

More than 100 years ago, Utah banned their practice of polygamy in order to obtain statehood. Since that time, the Mormon Church has worked hard to remove this ugly stain from its past. Many Mormons today do not even think about it. In a 1989 interview on "60 Minutes", the then LDS President, Gordon B. Hinkley responded to a question on plural marriage with the dismissive statement of "that was then, this is now". Again on CNN's "Larry King Live"

(Sept.8, 1998), president Hinkley said: *"It's behind us, I condemn it as a practice. It is not doctrinal. It is not legal."*

We agree with President Hinkley in regards to the legality of polygamy, but are quite puzzled as to how he can "condemn it as a practice" and say it is not doctrinal. In Section 132 of "Doctrine And Covenants" (which is LDS scripture), it is very clear that the principle of having a plurality of wives is to be an everlasting covenant and a person is damned if they try and reject it (one may wonder where that puts Hinkley)? Verse 4 of Section 132 says: *"For behold, I [the Lord] reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory."*

To be clear, the introduction to Section 132 says: *"Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Nauvoo, Illinois, recorded July 12, 1843, relating to the new and everlasting covenant, including the eternity of the marriage covenant, as also plurality of wives. HC 5:501-507..."* (My emphasis). While this "revelation" was recorded in 1843, no LDS prophet or leader has ever rescinded or reversed it.

Brigham Young, Mormonism's second prophet, echoed the importance of the above scripture and also added that the plurality of wives covenant **can not even be denied in one's "feelings"** as follows: *"Now if any of you will deny the plurality of wives, and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned; and I will go still further and say, take this revelation, or any other revelation that the Lord has given, and deny it in your feelings, and I promise that you will be damned."*

(Journal of Discourses, Vol.3, p.266). Both Joseph Smith and Brigham Young were married to many women while still living.

“Mormonism Researched Ministry” (www.mrm.org) has reported on a newly published book, “The Ghost of Eternal Polygamy”. The author of this book, Carol Lynn Pearson, **is a Mormon** and shares some insightful and honest information as follows: *“Polygamy? Says the church. We gave that up long ago. **But on this we do not tell the truth**; we do not even tell it slant. We tell it and hope the story will not be examined closely. Any member of the LDS Church today that enters the practice of polygamy is immediately excommunicated. But **polygamy itself has never been excommunicated**. It is still a member in good standing, waiting on the other side to greet us in heaven and causing large injury here on earth.”* (p.6-7, my emphasis)

The “Mormonism Researched” article also shared that two current LDS apostles, Russell M. Nelson and Dallin Oaks are both “sealed for eternity to two women and fully expect to be united to their wives after death.” In her book, Ms. Pearson shares several heartbreaking stories of Mormon women who are dreading the eternities because of this painful doctrine.

Either polygamy is an acceptable practice, commanded by God, or it is not. Mormon leaders need to decide if it is wrong or merely illegal. If they believe it is not wrong, they should lobby to make it legal. But if they believe it is wrong they should publicly admit that it was never right and that Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and all of the Mormon leaders who practiced it (including those who are currently expecting to practice it) are in error. Oh yes, one more thing – remove D&C 132 from their scriptures!

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

“Plurality of wives is not designed to afflict you nor me, but is purposed for our exaltation (becoming a God) in the kingdoms of God...” (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol.3, p.266)

MORMONISM’S PECULIAR BELIEFS

Mormonism has many things that are peculiar to them alone, such as their doctrine and theology. They even have a language that only those within the organization can understand. In addition, they have some views that the rest of the world would find quite strange to say the least. A few of them are as follows:

JESUS CHRIST AND LUCIFER (SATAN) ARE SPIRIT-BROTHERS: *“The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer,...this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind.”* (“The Gospel Through The Ages”, p.15)

ADAM, NOT MOSES, WAS THE FIRST TO RECEIVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: *“Some people have the idea that the Ten Commandments were first given by Moses when he directed the children of Israel and formulated their code of laws. This is not the case. These great commandments are from the beginning and were understood in righteous communities in the days of Adam. They are, in fact, fundamental parts of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the gospel in its fullness was first given to Adam.”* (“Doctrines of Salvation”, Vol.1, pg.96; also ERA, Vol.44, pg.525)

THE GARDEN OF EDEN IS IN MISSOURI: *“Though there is no uniform belief among Christian scholars as to the geographical location of Eden, the majority claim that it was in Persia. The Latter-day Saints have more exact knowledge on the matter, a revelation having been given through Joseph Smith, at **Spring Hill, Mo.**, May 19, 1838, in which **that place** is named by the Lord ‘Adam-on-di-Ahman, because, said he, it is the place where Adam shall come to visit his people, or the Ancient of Days shall sit, as spoken of by Daniel the prophet’.”* (“The Articles of Faith”, James Talmage, pg.474, my emphasis)

JESUS HAD TO WORK OUT HIS OWN SALVATION & PROGRESS AS ALL MEN DO: *“CHRIST WORKED OUT HIS OWN SALVATION. ..Our Savior was a God before he was born into this world...But as far as this life is concerned it appears*

that he had to start just as all other children do and gain his knowledge line upon line...Without doubt, Jesus came into the world subject to the same condition as was required of each of us – he forgot everything, and he had to grow from grace to grace... (“Doctrines of Salvation”, Vol.1, pg.32-33)

“Jesus Christ is the Son of God...He came to earth to work out his own salvation and to do the will of the Father in making salvation available to all men..”. (“Doctrinal New Testament Commentary”, Vol.3, pg.238)

JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED BECAUSE OF POLYGAMY: *“The grand reason of the burst of public sentiment in anathemas upon Christ and his disciples, causing his crucifixion, was evidently based upon polygamy, according to the testimony of the philosophers who rose in that age. A belief in the doctrine of a plurality of wives caused the persecution of Jesus and his followers. We might almost think they were ‘Mormons’”.* (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.1, pg.346).

JOSEPH SMITH HELPED CREATE THE EARTH: *“Christ, acting under the direction of the Father, was and is the Creator of all things...That he was aided in the creation of this earth by ‘many of the noble and great’ spirit children of the Father is evident from Abraham’s writings...Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Peter, James, and John, **Joseph Smith**, and many other ‘noble and great’ ones played a part in the great creative enterprise.”* (“Mormon Doctrine”, Bruce R. McConkie, pg.169, my emphasis).

CHRISTIANITY IS NONSENSE: *“We talk about Christianity, but it is a perfect pack of nonsense...the devil could not invent a better engine to spread his work than the Christianity of the nineteenth century”* (“Journal of Discourses, Vol.6, p.167)

“With a regard to true theology, a more ignorant people never lived than the present so-called Christian world” (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.8, p.199)

“What does the Christian world know about God? Nothing... Why so far as the things of God are concerned, they are the veriest of fools; they know neither God nor the things of God” (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.13,

p.225)

MORMONISM ALONE REPRESENTS TRUE CHRISTIANITY: *“And who is there that acknowledges [God’s] hand?... You may wander east, west, north, and south, and you cannot find it in any church or government on the earth, except the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints”* (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.6, p.24)

“The only persons among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who have authority from Jesus Christ to administer any gospel ordinance are those called and authorized among the Latter-day Saints” (“The Seer”, p.255)

“Behold there are save two churches only; the one [Mormonism] is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other [Christianity] is the church of the devil...” (Book of Mormon, First Nephi 14:10)

This is just a sampling of the many LDS beliefs that run the gamut from mildly strange to the extreme bazaar. Of course their most ludicrous belief is that God was once a man; that He progressed to “Godhood” by keeping the same laws and regulations that Mormons today are trying to keep so that they, too, can become a god (“Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith”, pp 345-346).

LIFE’S MOST PROFOUND DECISION?

In the introduction to the “Achieving A Celestial Marriage” manual, we read: *“There is probably **no decision in all of life, and perhaps in eternity, that has a more profound effect on our eternal destiny than that concerning marriage.** In the relationships of husband and wife and parent and child we begin to approach **the diving calling of godhood.** Our heavenly Father and mother live in an exalted state **because they achieved a celestial marriage** [referring to a marriage performed in an LDS temple]. **As we achieve a like marriage we shall become as they are and begin the creation of worlds for our own spirit children.**”* (pg.1, my emphasis)

Yet when the Sadducees quizzed Jesus on the subject of marriage in the next life, He informed them: *“...in the*

resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.” (Matt.22:30 NAS, also found in Mark 12:25 & Luke 20:35). I think all Christians would agree that the most important decision in “all of life” (and for sure in eternity) would have nothing to do with marriage and everything to do with Jesus. How sad that they could get it so wrong!

(Note: The “Achieving A Celestial Marriage” manual is published by Corporation of the President of the LDS church which makes it an “official” book)

NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

As we reported in our last newsletter, we have been given a spot at the Orange Village Mall where we can share our ministry to those walking by. This occurs on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Our poster in front of our table asks the question, “WHAT IS TRUTH?” We are able to give away our tracts, DVD’s, and other material to inform people about Mormonism. Following are some of the activity Charlotte and Leslie encountered last month:

“Sue, a Christian, came by and we asked her if she knew anything about Mormonism. She didn’t so I educated her on what Mormons believe and she was shocked! We had such a good visit...”

“A man and his wife came by with their 4 children. I asked them if they knew anything about Mormonism and he said, no, we are Christians. I said so am I, our ministry is Ex-Mormons for Jesus and a big smile came across his face! We has such a good chat. He asked me if I ever heard of Kurt Van Gorden and I told him I knew him well...”

“The next person that came by was a man named Paul. He was also a Christian and he thought what we were doing was wonderful. I gave him a CD of my interview on KWVE and he thanked me.”

“Two gentlemen approached. They were Bible-believing Christians and attend a church near Angel Stadium. I gave them a “Jesus/Joseph” DVD.”

“Joy and Patrick came by, a married couple who attend Friend’s Baptist Church. I gave them a DVD and CD.”

“A 10 year old little Catholic boy, Matthew, came by. He asked for a Bible and I gave him one. He brought it back and said he didn’t deserve it. I told him God loves those who don’t think they deserve it. He took it back and did the sign of the cross. Leslie told him his name was in the Bible and she showed it to him. He said he was going to start reading it and he sat down on his football and started to read it (his mother was in the nail salon). What a precious little boy!

“Kay, our first Mormon, stopped by to talk...She didn’t understand why we do what we do! Leslie encouraged her to prayerfully read the book of Galatians.”

“Spoke with Cam, a Vietnamese Christian who owns the Nail Salon near our table. He immigrated from Vietnam with the boat people and of all places, they located him in Salt Lake City, Utah! He said the Mormons tried to convert him but he never joined. Instead he joined the Military, then converted to Christianity while living in California, P.T.L.!

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our guest speaker on February 14th (Valentine’s Day) will be an ex-Mormon.

There will be a question and answer time followed by 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 address is 671 N. Poplar Street, Orange. We look forward to seeing you there and please bring a friend.

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THANK YOU**

