

A New Name for a New Aim

By Andrew Gibbons

Concerned Christians will be operating under the new ministry name “*Bee Free*” to reflect our renewed vision for bringing the Biblical Jesus to the Latter-day Saints.

Summer here at Concerned Christians has been very exciting, as we have laid the groundwork for several ministries within our organization. We thank you for supporting us with your prayers, volunteering, and/or financial contributions as they are now accumulating to a new work God is doing here! For this very reason we have considered and sought the Lord’s counsel on the best way to go forth in strength with this new start.

That being said, we considered our long standing ministry name, “Concerned Christians,” its stigma within the LDS community, and if it best fit our mission of reaching Mormons. We have decided to retain “Concerned Christians” as our official name for business reasons and to let all of our past and present supporters know that we are still at it!

From here on out however, we will be operating under the name “Bee Free” and doing ministry to those with a Mormon background to communicate we want them to *be free* from religion, and to experience life in Jesus. We’re taking a renewed aim so we have decided to reflect that with a new ministry name.

You might be asking yourself, “*But why the ‘Bee’ in Bee Free?*” If you’ve spent anytime in Utah or living within a densely populated LDS community then you know the symbolism of a worker bee within their religion. Also known as a ‘Deseret’ bee or beehive, this is an image of good religious work in Mormonism that is seen on road signs in Utah, cross stitches of bees in LDS homes, and even some businesses.

While we will continue to partner with churches and Christians who are concerned about their LDS peers, we will be more than just concerned. We will be passionate in our aim to reach those of a Mormon background in the best way possible. In this, we will be blazing new trails to especially reach the disenfranchised ex-Mormons who have left God altogether when they left Mormonism and still feel empty. But we can’t do this



alone; we need to assemble and work together the way Jesus had in mind.

Please be praying for success in our ministry endeavors as we proceed with a new name and a new aim to proclaim freedom in Jesus to those of a Mormon background.

Our new website is BeeFree.Community and there are multiple ways to follow us online: [Facebook.com/BeeFreeAZ](https://www.facebook.com/BeeFreeAZ) [Twitter.com/BeeFreeAZ](https://twitter.com/BeeFreeAZ) [Instagram.com/BeeFreeAZ](https://www.instagram.com/BeeFreeAZ).

And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name (Isaiah 62:2).



A Support Group For LDS, Ex-Mormons... and Everyone Else In Between

Bee Free/Concerned Christians is forming a new support group called, “Deseret Anonymous,” that will help those of a Mormon background on their spiritual journey, instead of giving another guilt trip.

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

The stories are boundless of former Mormons who reflect on the roughest days of their journey out of the religion and their search for any sign of support. Many LDS having doubts about Mormonism, commonly called a “Crisis of Faith,” are left with little-to-no options in who they can go to talk to who will also be able to understand what they’re going through.

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“Amazing Quotes” From LDS Church Leaders

With current events involving U.S. Monuments, our “Amazing Quotes” section for this newsletter is devoted to the remembrance of September 11, 1857, the date in which 120 men, women and children were tricked into believing that the Mormons were friends, and later were slaughtered by the same Mormons at what is known as the *Mountain Meadows Massacre*. A vaguely inscribed monument now stands near the site, about 30 miles NW of St. George, UT. Two years after the 1857 massacre, Brigham Young located a monument built by Company K, 1st Dragoons (a group of federal troops who discovered the unburied bodies some months after the horrible event, scattered in the field where they were killed). On top of the monument of stones built by Company K, they had erected a cross with these words inscribed on it: “Vengeance is mine saith the Lord, I will repay.” When Brigham saw the inscription, he raised his arm to the square and said, “Vengeance is mine saith the Lord, and I have taken a little of it.” The Mormons in Brigham Young’s company immediately tore down the monument without another word spoken. [Refer to **John D. Lee** by **Juanita Brooks** p. 265-268 and **Waiting for the Worlds End, The Diaries of Wilford Woodruff** p 262.] Another monument stands in Harrison, AR, near that town’s courthouse square, commemorating the area from which the ill-fated wagon train had originated.

Although Brigham Young approved of taking vengeance against his enemies, the Apostle Paul taught differently as we read in the book of Romans: “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefor if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in doing so you heap coals of fire on his head” (Romans 12:19-20).



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A Support Group For LDS, Ex-Mormons... and Everyone Else In Between

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They clearly can’t go to their spiritual leaders, such as a bishop, who would start the process of shaming seen in LDS disciplinary councils. Many have said that they can’t go to their closest LDS friends and family because they would get reported to a leader. The next best option is to go to friends with no Mormon background who will listen with sympathy but hopelessly unable to provide the experiential empathy that they need.

Concerned Christians has seen this need in the past and have offered various support groups in the past that have helped so many ex-Mormons that we have lost count. In light of that and the present need, Bee Free is starting a new kind of support group here called, “Deseret Anonymous.”

Deseret Anonymous, or DA for short, meets Thursday nights at 6pm here in Mesa, AZ at 525 E. Broadway Road in our newly redesigned community room. The group is primarily open active LDS members, ex-Mormons, and everyone in between. DA also serves as a place for support of those who have close friends or family that are Mormon but may have never been one themselves. Check us out at [Facebook.com/DeseretAnonymous](https://www.facebook.com/DeseretAnonymous) and spread the word if you are local!

Answered Technology Prayers!



In our previous newsletter, we reached out to individuals and churches to donate specific kinds of technology that would be of great use to our organization. We are happy and grateful to say that many of those items were given! Indeed, we received the items of most priority, because the Lord knew exactly what our needs were, and those who could fill our needs with their donations. *Bee* looking forward to seeing excellent media we produce to reach Mormons—made possible because of these gifts. We didn’t have, so we asked! Thank you to all who helped!

“You do not have because you do not ask” James 4:2b.



Healthy Witnessing Techniques

By Judy Robertson



Four Ways to Witness and Still Remain Friends

Ever want to talk to your Mormon friend, relative, or neighbor but think you will lose a friendship if you do? Well, you're in the same boat with many of us who get cold feet when it comes to discussing religion with another.

When we think about approaching our friend, we think of all the things he or she should know so they don't end up in hell, right? And if we start out with, "Did you know you're condemned for believing the way you do?," the likely response will be, "Who do you think you are telling me that? I never want to see your face again!"

We want to avoid this worse-case scenario. So how do we start? First of all, in witnessing to Mormons, it is imperative to have basic knowledge of the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Please don't even try this unless you have equipped yourself first. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

1. Common ground or shared interests. All of us share life on planet Earth. Try to identify common ground (not doctrinally, but aspirations, needs, desires, problems or frustrations you may share) in order to prevent resistance and defensiveness. This person we want to tell the "Good News" to is as human as we are and has many of the same needs, desires, and goals in life. When we disregard our friend's needs, he will become defensive and your point is lost.

2. Actively listen to his side. In order to understand, listen to the meaning of the thought he is trying to

convey to you. This requires focusing on and empathizing with what is being communicated, rather than just waiting for a turn to respond, find a flaw or counter-argue. If others feel understood and acknowledged, they will more likely listen to you.

3. Use "I" statements when expressing concerns. Saying "you" causes people to tune you out. For example, avoid, "You believe thus and so about ..." Instead say, "I understand your doctrine teaches thus and so. Is this your belief?"

4. Create an open-minded attitude. Be open to being wrong and receptive rather than a determination to be right at all cost. Your discussion will be more productive and has more possibility of a receptive attitude from your friend.

(These four techniques were adapted from Friendship, by Donna and Amber Adkins in Arizona Parenting magazine, November 2004.)

The next time you encounter a Mormon—whether a neighbor or you happen to sit next to one on a plane—try these techniques. We want to have a receptive audience so that we can give them the most important thing we possess, eternal life with the Lord Jesus Christ. And in the process, perhaps you'll make a lasting friend as well.

For in-depth equipping about Mormonism, attend our Thursday evening meetings (reference article on pgs. 1-2 herewith). Deseret Anonymous is our new name for this support group located at our office, 525 E. Broadway Road in Mesa, AZ. Meetings begin at 6:00pm. For more information, call our office at 480-833-2537.



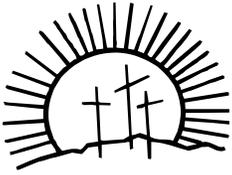
Questionable Missionary Practices



By Andrew Gibbons

In August we helped a young woman who had been talking with two Mormon missionaries and she was almost converted to Mormonism. Warning: What these two particular young men told her will offend some of our readers. Also please note that not all LDS missionaries engage in this type of questionable conversion tactics, but many are willing to lie to a potential convert, with "half-truths." Sarah (not her real name) contacted us because one 'elder' said that her disability was from a battle in her pre-existence (an official LDS teaching). However the other 'elder' said that her autism wasn't real but was maybe just a symptom of having evil spirits (unofficial LDS teaching). She was tempted to convert when it was implied that her symptom (Autism) might end up going away if she joined the Mormon church. We quickly corrected that cruel teaching, and told her about the biblical Jesus. They said what they said because it may have increased their baptism numbers, similar to how commission works in sales. Apostle Peter talks about these false teachers in 2 Peter 2:3a: "And in their greed they will exploit you with false words."

The lesson to learn: False religions produce false teachers who will spread falsehoods!



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Letters From the Mailbag...



FROM PHOENIX, AZ: I read your newsletter and I'm so glad that you got all of that work done. I hope you receive the items you need for your ministry, we'll see if we have anything. I can only send a small [dollar] amount at this time; I'm not working and my husband just had surgery and no work. God bless you.

FROM TEMPE, AZ: I have a Mormon friend that recently had a heart attack and I am so concerned that he will not go to be with Jesus when he passes away. I pray often that he will learn the truth and will be in heaven. Please do pray for him. I am sending a little to help in your work to save those who are caught in the lie of Mormonism. God's blessings.

FROM TEMPE, AZ: Thank you for the work you do; we enjoy learning new ways to witness to our LDS friends!

FROM MESA, AZ: Enjoy your newsletter—hope this helps with whatever needs you have. Yours is a much-needed ministry. May God richly bless your every effort. Love in Christ.

FROM GALLUP, NM: Know that you are always on our hearts and mind. I am reminded of Psalm 5:12, LORD, you bless those who do what is right (the Gibbons), you protect them like a soldier's shield.

FROM LAS VEGAS, NV: My prayer is that God continues to bless and prosper your ministry.

FROM WALDPART, OR: Keep up the good work!! Prayers and blessings.

FROM SUN CITY, AZ: I appreciate the good news about Mormons coming to Jesus Christ. Our church was so blessed when Judy's husband Jim came and taught our Seniors about the false teachings of the religion. I retired in 2000. Keep up the good work you are doing for Christ. Enclosed is \$10 for the ministry. God love you.

FROM GILBERT, AZ: Thanks for your newsletter! I always enjoy reading the information in it. May God bless this awesome ministry!

FROM HEBER, AZ: Judy, our paths have crossed a couple times and it has stuck with me because I am married to a Jim also. I do know your husband has passed and I am so sorry for your great loss. I am glad you are there at Concerned Christians. May the Lord be with you in this ministry. I am sure your heart is in it. We are keeping you in our prayers.

FROM MESA, AZ: Thank you for all you do to help those that are lost. In Christ's love.