

"Truth without Love is too hard; Love without Truth is too soft"

Through the Maze

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The Postcard Project

A Fun & Important Missions Project



On June 26th, 26 teenagers, parents, and juniors applied 1500 stamps and labels to "The Postcard" (see inside). It took less than an hour, but the work was important.

The project was led by Pastor Jim Crumpton of Grace Baptist Church in Emmett, Idaho. The postcards went to one-third of the residents of Emmett. The church is planning to do the other two-thirds of the town as mission funds become available. Through the Maze provided the cards and labels; the church provided the stamps (23 cents each) and labor. Would a group in your church consider such a project for a town in Mormondom?



Reaching Out— Through Mail and Internet

Nearly thirty years have passed since I first began reaching out to win Latter-day Saints to Christ. During that time I have seen thousands come to the Lord. But times have changed and so our methods must change as well.

A few years ago I realized that the method we relied upon during the flowering of the ministry to Mormonism was no longer the best way to reach Latter-day Saints. That method—seminars in local churches—was exciting, fruitful, and challenging; but the key to the campaign was the cooperation of local churches.

The moving force behind the amazing events which took place in ministries to Mormonism was Ed Decker's movie, *The God Makers*. Armed with that movie, young ministries rose up taking the movie to local churches to be screened. Often the crowds were huge. As often as not, within the audience were many Mormons. They came to challenge and were sometimes converted to Christ.

Those were exciting days. The revival peaked during the 1980s with the Capstone Conferences in or near Salt Lake City. What times those were! We had keynote speakers like Walter Martin (in a flack-jacket and under death threat), Bob Larson, John Ankerburg, and Ron Carlson. One of the speeches I delivered was carried in the *Deseret News*, the official Mormon newspaper.

During one of Walter Martin's meetings several people keeled over with apparent heart attacks, which turned out to be simply stress. Dick Baer wheeled a hand truck to the Church Office Building. It was laden with thousands of signatures requesting that the Mormon Church re-

Is
there
Life
out
there?



Box 8656
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beyondmormonism.com

This is the card we sent to Emmett. Those who go to beyondmormonism.com can download the book for free or they can request a free packet of information. We are receiving dozens of requests for material every week from our web sites. If your church would like to sponsor a small community in Utah, contact us. We will supply the cards and the mailing labels. Your church supplies the postage (23 cents per card) and the elbow grease to affix the labels. We will need an official request from your pastor or his designee to proceed.

frain from referring to itself as a Christian organization.

In Eastern Idaho where I pastored, we marched around Ricks College with a huge cross. We also marched around the Idaho Falls Temple seven times with the same cross. Of course, police cars and news camera crews accompanied us. Afterwards, we showed *The God Makers* on the temple lawn.

I remember a meeting in Butte, Montana with nine Mormon missionaries glaring at me from the front row. And I remember a gang of high-school boys threat-

ening me after a meeting in Cody, Wyoming. I was threatened by a police officer after I revealed the Mormon Temple ceremony in Pocatello, Idaho.

We had amazing results. We saw Latter-day Saints born into the Kingdom of God in nearly every meeting. It was the happening thing in Mormondom and I believe, when the history of the fall of Mormonism is written, those days will be highlighted.

But the times, as they say, have changed. I'm not sure why. There are multiple reasons. But those things are not happening anymore. A few years ago I

was asked to be on a panel sponsored by Mormon intellectuals to respond to the question, "Whatever Happened to the Anti-Mormon Movement?"

The bottom line is that those church doors have closed. Nobody is calling me or Ed Decker to do those meetings anymore. I suspect most of the reason for the reluctance to have such meetings lies in the general tone of modern American culture. Today, it is considered wrong, simply wrong, to challenge the beliefs of any group. Don't misunderstand me. We had the same problems then, but the temperature of the times was different. We had not even heard the term "user friendly." The "Church Growth Movement" was unknown. Evangelicals were harder-headed. They were used to being considered "odd." Today, another force preoccupies the Church of Christ—survival! We are beset on every side by secular powers. We are working full time to keep our teenagers off drugs and morally clean, and to keep our marriages from falling apart. Winning nice Latter-day Saints has taken a back seat, as has Evangelism in general.

Please don't misunderstand what I am saying as sour grapes. Not the case. I'm just stating the facts as I see them. Were I pastoring today, I might take the same approach.

What all this means is that as times change, we have to change with them. Don't get me wrong, evangelism hasn't changed. It is still a confrontational game. Well-meaning teachers may try to redefine evangelism. But the bottom line is that the evangelist must step in front of someone going the wrong way and tell him to turn around. You can be as polite as you like, but if you don't stop him and turn him, you are not engaged in evangelism.

The challenge is to figure out how to get in front of people. We are having some real success with the Internet. Last year we mailed a packet of information to every household in Manti, Utah. But that cost \$2.00 per packet. The new "postcard program" costs less than 30 cents per household. Of course, a significant number of people will never go to the web site, but a significant number of the packets we mailed to Utah were thrown directly into the trash.

The bottom line is that we are continually stirring, reaching, pulling, and praying for ways to reach Latter-day

Saints. And we *do* reach them. Pray for us. *Help us!*



Letters

The Kind That Make Me Weep

This came in through my web site from a woman in Texas.

Jim

Maybe you could just point me in the right direction. I have been a member of the church for six years, an endowed member [a temple Mormon] for five years, I am very confused and, of course, I can not talk to anyone in my ward. I think my testimony has been...well it's just gone. Anyway, are there maybe links or sites I can visit where I can maybe get some questions answered or get some kind of support. I have missed the past five sacrament meetings and as you can guess, my home teachers and visiting teachers have started calling everyday.

Thanks

Jeannie

Jeannie,

You need to find a good Bible-believing church and you need to make some Christian friends. Easier said than done—I know. But there is life after Mormonism.

I'm sending you my book *Beyond Mormonism: An Elder's Story*. And I'm praying that Jesus will reveal himself to you.

If you are a person who listens to audio tapes, email me and ask me for the Romans tapes.

Thousands upon thousands have found their way out of this mind-numbing situation into life in Christ.

Jim

Jim,

I received your book, thank you...*I think!* I read it and well, I could not even explain the confusion and the pain I am feeling. Again, the tears begin, How could the last seven years have been a lie? I could scream...I feel I am going insane. I

tried talking to a friend (who is a member) and he became very upset and now I have an appointment with my bishop on Saturday morning. I am not strong enough to do this alone. I do not believe in plural gods, I do not think that one day man will be God, I feel this longing and a void plus a fear that just overwhelms me. I am an educated woman, how did I get here? When I joined the church I was looking to strengthen my relationship with Jesus Christ, where did I go wrong?

Anyway...sorry, I just wanted to tell you that your book was wonderful and scary at the same time. It was YOUR story, and I needed to hear it.

PLEASE PLEASE keep me in your prayers.

Jeannie

Jeannie,

I am praying for you. You really need to be careful here because these people are going to be very sincere, but very articulate and confusing. I am ready to help you in any way I can. Unfortunately, I don't have anyone on my mailing list from Corpus Christie. Nevertheless, don't hesitate to email me. If it would help to talk on the phone, send me your number and tell me when a good time to call would be. I also have some ladies who could talk to you.

Jim

...After not hearing from her for a couple of weeks...

Jeannie,

How are things going for you?

Jim Spencer

Through the Maze Ministries

Jim

Thank you for writing. I'm living in hell. I have decided that for some reason my Heavenly Father has completely forsaken me. I guess I deserve it. Not even

(continued on back page)

you would believe what I have been through since that the meeting with my Bishop. What century is this? I'm at work, I'll write you this evening and tell you more about it. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE continue to keep me in your prayers. For some reason I can't pray anymore...not that I don't believe in the power of prayer. I just don't feel right praying anymore. I know that sounds awful but that is the only way I can describe it.

Jeannie

Jeannie,

You can't believe how often I have to watch people go through the Inquisition of trying to leave the Mormon Church. It really is hell. My heart aches for you. All I can say is that God is real and loving, in spite of the ogre Mormonism projects. You have got to be able to separate the nonsense of Mormonism from the reality of God and His Christ.

Remember, Christianity predates Mormonism by 2,000 years. Mormonism is a 19th century invention based in the mad ramblings of a man (and his successor) who would do anything to satisfy their lust for sex and power. They would even pervert the Gospel of Christ to do so, in direct violation of Galatians 6:4.

Believe me, I *am* praying for you, and I have others praying for you. If you want to talk on the phone either with me or with a lady who helps me talk to people like you, we can sure do that.

Hang in there, kid.

Jim

==== More Letters ====

I love your site!!! The truth someday will be known to all! I am an exMormon and I can relate to everything on your site. Thank you for putting it into print!

Angela—Utah

Jim,

I am impressed! Out of all the different web pages I have searched in my stud-

ies, this is by far the best one yet. I have been receiving your newsletter in the mail and decided to check out the website tonight. Bravo

Dear Jim,

The Golden Bible is a treasure! It should be in every Christian's library.

Neil—Idaho

Hi,

I was recently looking at your website, I have been investigating the LDS church for over a year now, and have continued to meet with the missionaries. I'm not sure yet where I am headed with all of this, its very overwhelming. I have done a lot of research, and am very knowledgable with Mormonism. I was introduced to Mormonism by my boyfriend of almost 3 years. He is LDS, and is planning on serving a mission in Dec. I have so many mixed feeling for both myself, and him as well. I was wondering if you have any advice/insight or even just information you have found helpful. This has been a struggling battle for me for the past year. If you have any extra information it would be helpful. Thank-you

Nicole—California

Jim,

I've read your book "Beyond Mormonism" several times over the years. I found your testimony quite extraordinary. I even looked up the places on the map that you mention in the book. I've been to Wyoming several times so I was able to visualize the setting of the story.

I've decided that if I get to the area, I'm going to look for that "S" curve in the road where the Lord spoke to you

Jim—Wisconsin

With the help of your site and other exMormon web sites, plus books, I've gained considerable knowledge of Mor-

monism over the past three years of study. I wanted you to know that I find *Have you Witnessed to a Mormon Lately* that you sent me last week the best tool in my kit and I am praying for an opportunity to use the information.

My ex wife became a Mormon 1 1/2 years ago. She had my children, who were being raised by me in a Baptist church, baptized as Mormons. My children have become strangers to me...Both of my children have been locked in a mental health facility within the past year and are disrespectful to me and my wife. They make phone calls over and over, trying to get me to sign away parental rights. When I ask their mother about this, she says it was "their idea".

Does the Mormon church approve of a divorced parent trying to remove the other parent from the children's lives? What is their official position on children of divorce who were previously of another faith?

My children are in need of help and I am confused as to why children so caught up in the Mormon church would behave the way they do.

Name withheld—Louisiana

Boise Area Bible Study

I teach a Bible Study in Meridian, Idaho each Wednesday night at Meridian Assembly of God. Meetings are at 1830 North Linder Road. We are currently studying the Book of Colossians. For directions call 888-0063.

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