

## How does a Christian do four life sentences?

Those of you who have been reading this newsletter during the past year have followed my excursion into the world of The Church of the Lamb of God, one of the polygamous cults springing up in the shadow of Mormonism.

I remember this group from when I was a Mormon living in California. Let me correct that, the group I remember was The

Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times. I remember going to a stake conference where members of this group were passing out literature to cars entering the stake center parking lot. That would have been about 1964.

The Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times was organized in 1955 by Joel LeBaron. He was the son of Alma Dayer LeBaron, a polygamist Mormon who lived in Mexico. Dayer claimed that he had received a special Priesthood blessing from his grandfather, Benjamin F. Johnson, who had received it from Joseph Smith himself. This priesthood blessing, Dayer said, had to do with reestablishing genuine Mormonism after apostate Mormon leaders had capitulated to political pressure to give up the practice of polygamy.

Dayer's claim is not an unusual one in the realm of Mormonism. In order

to understand his claim, one must examine Mormon history as it relates to the practice of polygamy. Joseph Smith said he received a command from God to establish polygamy as "the new and everlasting covenant." It is the principle of "Celestial Marriage" and those who would not receive it were to be damned.



Heber LeBaron,  
son of Ervil LeBaron

The Mormon Church practiced "the Principle" of polygamy underground for a number of years. Finally, after Brigham Young established the Church in Utah, he made the practice public. As one might expect, the population of the United States was horrified by polygamy. It was considered a "twin evil" with slavery in the Republican Party platform of that day.

For forty years, the United States government attempted to force the Mormon Church to give up the practice. President James Buchanan garrisoned troops in Utah in 1857 and prepared for war with Mormonism. Eventually the Church gave up the practice—*more or less!* Basically the so-called Manifesto of 1890 simply stated that President Wilford Woodruff was not going to conduct any more plural marriages—because they were against the law in the United States. He also said he was going to use his influence to see that no other members of his church conducted polygamous marriages.

What is obviously missing in such a declaration is any statement that Mormonism had reversed its position on "the new

## Wife No. 19— Ready to Ship

Two years and hundreds of hours later, this classic book is ready to ship. Several people labored to bring the project to a conclusion. The book is six-hundred pages in length—more than 200,000 words. My daughters and I typed all of those words onto computer disk. We spell-checked them and edited them (and doubtless missed some corrections). More than 150 illustrations adorn the pages of this book.

But none of that would be important if the material in the book itself were not valuable. In my opinion, this is one of the most revealing books ever written about Mormonism. It certainly is one of the most important books ever written about polygamy—from an insider's viewpoint.



Ann-Eliza Young  
Brigham Young's  
ex-plural wife

Ann-Eliza's story is fresh today, 125 years after she wrote it. It is the story of an insider. Born in Nauvoo as Brigham Young ascended to the leadership of the Mormon Church, and being intimate with the events of early Mormonism, she provides an eyewitness account of early Church history. Her parents were among the earliest devotees of Mormonism and

## Heber LeBaron

and everlasting covenant.” So, polygamy was suspended because it was illegal. It was not done away with, repented of, or changed. In Mexico, one would assume, it was still in full practice. And, of course, it was. As a matter of fact, polygamous marriages were conducted in Utah for years following the Manifesto. In 1903, President Joseph F. Smith testifying in Washington, DC in the Reed Smoot case admitted that his five wives had presented him with eleven children since the 1890 Manifesto and four of the Apostles had entered into polygamous marriages since then. Polygamy was still rampant within the Church.

Alma Dayer LeBaron was not the only Mormon to come forward with the claim to restore polygamy to the Church. Joseph Smith is responsible for some of these pretenders for he penned in Doctrine and Covenants, Section 85, a reference to “one mighty and strong” who would be sent to “set in order the house of God.” These words are commonly interpreted to apply to the reestablishment of polygamy in Mormonism and are the driving force behind many of the polygamous groups in Utah. Some 30,000 people live in polygamous families in Utah.

So Alma Dayer LeBaron’s son, Joel—who claimed to receive the priesthood mandate from his father—established the Church of the Firstborn of the fullness of times. Ervil LeBaron, Joel’s brother, was his right hand man for a number of years, but eventually fell out with him and formed the Church of the Lamb of God. Not only that, but Ervil eventually had his brother murdered. Ervil had at least one of his own children murdered. In all, as many as thirty people would be murdered under the direct influence of Ervil’s teaching.

One of Ervil’s sons, William Heber, is serving four life sentences in a federal prison on crimes related to the murder of four people in Texas in the late 1980’s. Heber probably was involved in many more murders—as many as ten or twelve.

However, today, Heber is a Christian. I believe that with all my heart. After several telephone conversations with him, I believe he has become a true disciple of Jesus Christ and his crimes have been paid for by the blood of Christ.

Heber is doing his time with peace. He has described to me how his entire life was spent in a cult dominated by an insane father. Heber was taught from the cradle that Mormonism was true, that Ervil LeBaron was its savior, and that obedience to the Prophet Ervil was necessary to be saved. Especially obligated to obey the Prophet in *everything* were his own children.

Not only that, but Heber was constantly in the line of fire from other break-away groups of the Church of the Lamb of God. He felt he was in a kill or be killed situation.

No one will ever know all the events which put Heber where he is today. A couple of things are certain. Heber’s murderous ways are a direct result of the Mormon teaching of Blood Atonement. Like, polygamy, Blood Atonement is officially denied by the Mormon Church. However, every juror in a capital crime in Utah is *voir dired* (asked) about his beliefs on the subject of Blood Atonement. And Utah continues to offer its condemned criminals the option of death by firing squad so their blood may be shed to atone for their sins—the only state in the union offering such an option.

Another certainty is that the blood of Christ is able to cleanse from all sin and unrighteousness. So Heber is a free from sin and you and I are. His crimes are covered by the blood of Christ.

And one further thing, Heber—as he experiences life in prison, is able to experience *life* in prison. He told me he is more free in prison that he was outside of prison and inside a cult.

**Wife No. 19  
now available from  
Through the Maze.**

**\$25.00 plus \$2.50 shipping**

## Ann-Eliza Young

remained faithful to Brigham Young for decades.

Eventually Brigham married Ann-Eliza, a girl he had bounced on his knee when she was a child living next door to the Young house in Nauvoo.

Her story intimately details life in polygamy up until she could no longer stand the abuses she saw on every hand in Utah—polygamy, blood atonement, thievery—all under the strong hand and unmitigated gall of Brigham Young.

The story reads very easily, Ann-Eliza has a free and easy writing style that has survived remarkably well for more than a century. The reader of this volume will come away with a new appreciation of what it meant to be a Mormon in Nineteenth Century Utah. In fact, much insight into Mormonism today shines through this account.

Along with our earlier restoration of M. T. Lamb’s *Golden Bible*, I feel this book will continue to speak for another hundred years should the Lord tarry that long.

One of the most poignant parts of Ann-Eliza’s story is her conversion to Christ. She was—as so many Latter-day Saints before and after her—wary of Mormonism and sick of its abuses. However, she felt no way out existed. One day, in God’s timing, she was introduced to a Christian clergyman and his wife. She was struck by the love that the man evidenced for his wife and how he included her so easily into his conversation with Ann-Eliza.

When she decided to escape from Mormonism—to divorce Brigham Young publicly—the clergyman, Mr. Stratton, helped her find a lawyer to represent her. In time, she was moved to travel throughout the country telling her story, touching many Mormons and bringing the truth about polygamy to light.

This book is now available free of charge on the Internet and may be ordered from Through the Maze.