

<p>LIVE! From the “Mecca of Mormonism” This is Heart of the Matter.</p>	<p>Show 50 Gunfight at Carthage December 18th 2007</p> <p>And I’m your host, Shawn McCraney.</p>
<p>Streaming Video Announcement</p>	
<p>In-The-House</p>	
<p>Shout-Outs</p> <p>Mary H. in Bingham Canyon.</p> <p>Teresa C.</p> <p>Zan for sharing her heart through prose and poetry.</p> <p>Patricia T for her fine writing skills.</p> <p>Steven and Natalie F.</p> <p>Kathy, the former non-Christian known as Maggie who has turned her life over to the Lord!</p> <p>Mark U.</p>	
<p>I Was a Born-Again Mormon</p> <p>Available at:</p> <p>Christian Gift and Bible Utah Lighthouse Ministry CCSLC Christ EV in Orem Gift of Grace in Springville Sam Weller’s downtown</p>	<p>* Lost Benchmark books as a carrier of Born-Again Mormon, which is sad to me because the people who own and run the store are very nice people who I really love and enjoy.</p>

<p>Amazon.com www.bornagainmormon.com</p>	
<p>Traveling Pastor January SALT LAKE CITY!</p> <p>When: Monday, January 7th from 6 to 8pm. Where: Denny's on 5th South</p> <p>For those of you unable to come to Pastor in the Pub in Tuesday nights - or anyone else - we invite you to attend.</p> <p>Afterward, we will retire to a local collection of warm water to baptize people who desire to publicly commit their lives to Jesus. Again, all are welcome.</p>	
<p>Last Wednesday evening I attended a private screening of an up and coming documentary titled:</p> <p>A Mormon President.</p> <p>There is so much that could be said regarding this but I want to say one thing for certain:</p> <p>Mormonism is fighting back.</p> <p>In the film, Richard Bushman's wife boldly made a statement of something to the effect of:</p> <p>"Why do the Christians get to decide what is Christian? I think maybe we (meaning the LDS) ought to start saying we are Christian and they're not!"</p> <p>If you care even the least little bit about sound biblical Christianity, you have to take</p>	

<p>exception to this growing attitude.</p> <p>But it doesn't stop there.</p> <p>On December 16th of this year, in the Deseret Morning News, reporter Leigh Dethman reported on a speech Elder M. Russell Ballard gave at BYU Hawaii.</p> <p>Here are some quotes:</p> <p>(READ FROM ARTICLE and COMMENT)</p> <p>Let me tell you, this rolling, shifting, politically minded institution will not stop its spin until they have control.</p> <p>They are attempting to dominate media profiling, public opinion and the dissemination of information.</p> <p>And they've the means to do it.</p> <p>They will long and loud cry like babies that they are being persecuted - and they'll bring up being driven from Missouri, and Haun's Mill, and anti-Mormon literature, but they will never, ever look in the mirror.</p> <p>How about a few reflective statements from the leading brethren of the Church, huh?</p>	
<p>Finally, we received a number of emails and newspaper clippings from people regarding the recent Deseret News faux pas.</p> <p>It seems the paper ran a "Christmas I Remember Best" contest and a seventh grade teacher submitted her students work for consideration.</p>	

One Michelle Bliss didn't win, but the subsidiary paper - Church News - which is delivered with the Deseret News to Mormon and Non-Mormon homes alike on Saturdays, thought Michelle's essay was worthy of publication.

That was until the editor learned the young writer "wasn't a Mormon!"

It seems that when the LDS Church News editor, Gerry Avant, called Michelle's home to tell her they wanted to print her recitation, she asked, "Are you LDS?"

Michelle said no.

And Gerry Avant told her that the Christmas Michelle Remembered Best would not be published.

No Mormon, no print your heart-felt story. You see, being a member would make the story valid, but not being a member automatically makes it, well, inferior.

Now, I understand this. I understand that if there is a church owned paper, with a Church owned supplement called The Church News that is sent out free to people the writers quoted may be required - if its THAT kind of Church - to be a member of the Church publication.

What I don't understand is why ANYONE - ANYONE - who is not LDS would pay one cent to a newspaper that is owned by a the LDS religion, especially when it will sends you its religious paper free every Saturday, but has the audacity to refuse to publish the work of a seventh grade girl who is not one of them!

<p>What the heck is wrong with you people?</p> <p>Boycott that freaking rag. Cancel your subscription. Read the Trib (if you've got to read a newspaper) but show them that they can't rule you in this way too.</p> <p>Holy insanity.</p>	
<p>Three more quick things - before we pray.</p> <p>First, we've got a new website format and design. Please visit www.bornagainmormon.com</p> <p>As a result, I've lost the last 400 emails that have been sent to me.</p> <p>Please forgive me, and resent them, if they were important.</p> <p>Second, I have received a few emails from people complaining that I cut the last caller off last week who had a pressing question about whether I've read the Book of Mormon and prayed about it.</p> <p>Some have even suggested that I cut him off because I was intimidated by the depth of his inquiry.</p> <p>Actually, I had only 20 seconds to get my daughter Cassidy on the air - and that was far more important to me than the question.</p> <p>Nevertheless, I invite the caller to please call back tonight so we can continue to discuss it.</p> <p>Finally, the white Horse prophecy.</p>	

<p>From what I can tell, we have no exact evidence of when or where Joseph Smith made the actual prophecy, but we do have a number of LDS church leaders refer to it over the years.</p> <p>As I said last week, the White Horse prophecy refers to a time when the US constitution will hang by a thread and Mormonism - its priesthood leaders - are said to rush in and save it.</p> <p>Now I also mentioned that I have heard this idea bantered about since I was knee high to a Bishop.</p> <p>LDS leaders tend to pooh-pooh the notion today (they know the world will find terror in the idea).</p> <p>But here - from the ever trustworthy archives of Utah Lighthouse Ministry - UTLM.ORG we have some verifiable references - just to show you that I am not making this stuff up.</p> <p>(READ QUOTES)</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>Well, here we are.</p> <p>At the end of the year. We've spent the majority of our time discussing Joseph Smith, Jr. and his history.</p> <p>We've discussed his parental influences. His upbringing. His treasure seeking and magic practices. We talked about the first vision at length. We examined the Book of Mormon over a</p>	

seven week period.

We talked about the claims to priesthood,
The establishment of the church,
migrations, and the Pearl of Great Price.

We discussed convenient revelations, then
spent a three weeks on polygamy, which
concluded with guests Sandra Tanner and
Doris Hansen.

We talked about LDS missionary work, then
spent five weeks on the topic of temples
ancient, Masonic, and Mormon.

We took respites – discussing all sorts of fun
stuff – and then we asked an important
question on one show –

“Are they Christian?”

We then spent some time discussing the
blacks and the priesthood issue – two
weeks, if memory serves, and have
essentially been in Nauvoo for the last four
or five weeks- excepting last where we
covered a current event in the
Mormon/Christian saga – the US
Presidency.

Everything we have discussed helped lay
the path that lead Joseph and Hyrum Smith
to Carthage Jail.

His charisma.

His political ambitions.

His uninhibited lust for power.

His dozens of secret wives – young and old.

His magical thinking.

His mystical pronouncements.

His toying with tyranny.

His ability to weave a tall tale.

Where his families magic practices gave him function, Nauvoo gave him form.

His story began with enchantment; it ended in myth.

Tonight, we conclude with the final hours and acts of Joseph Smith, Junior, founder, prophet, and visionary who created through synthesis this thing called Mormonism - this thing that has affected most people in this state in one form or another.

Interestingly enough, where Joseph cut his teeth on freedom of speech and the idea that tyranny and anarchy are simply anathema to God and America, it was an act of anarchy which smacked of tyranny that brought the man down from the second floor window of a jail cell to the earth below - dead.

You see, some of Joseph's most trusted friends - William Law especially - decided they had had enough of "Joseph Unrestrained."

Joseph's secret proposal to Law's wife appears to be what drove Law to expose him.

And, being America, the land of the free that it is, they decided to publish a newspaper which would detail all the evils they had witnessed from the hand of whom they believed was a fallen prophet.

LOOOONG story short, Joseph ordered this printing press destroyed. The paper was called - in this single and only edition - the Nauvoo Expositor.

That is an act of anarchy – to destroy the property of another.

And it was an act of tyranny to destroy a printing press – especially in a country founded in the blood and suffering to protect free speech.

So, again, long story short, Joseph Smith, his brother Hyrum, John Taylor, and Willard Richards were taken to Carthage jail.

Prior to being arrested, Joseph, as he had so many times before, escaped capture, and was in the process of fleeing Nauvoo with his brother Hyrum when a letter was rushed to him by his old friend Porter Rockwell from Emma.

A man named Reynolds Calhoon who accompanied Rockwell from Nauvoo across the Mississippi, said to Joseph:

“When the Shepherd deserts his flock, who is to keep the wolves from devouring them.”

After reading Emma’s letter asking him to return, Joseph said:

“If my life is no value to my friends, it is of none to myself.”

And Hyrum convinced the men to return and face the music – though Joseph replied:

“If you go back, I will go with you, but we will be butchered.”

The whole chronology is readily available of Joseph’s last hours in jail, and because of time, I am going to let you read them yourself. (Go to UTLM.org)

The unspoken history usually omits that fact that Joseph and the men drank wine in their last hours – not that I care – I would too, but Mormon leadership cares, and are reticent to given such details to Joseph’s true believers.

Let me rehearse the few last moments of Joseph Smith’s life and then examine three additional facts relative to his death that are worth examination.

By the way, the Times and Seasons newspaper, in describing the events at Carthage jail, refers to Joseph as “General Joseph.” In the cell with General Joseph was Hyrum his brother, Willard Richards, and John Taylor – who later became a president of the Church.

First of all, Joseph Smith was murdered. We can say this because he was in the supposed protective custody of a jail when a mob broke in and killed him.

This is murder. It is NOT justified, right, or with excuse.

While the four men were drinking their wine, they heard a noise, a shout to surrender, and bullets flying.

The mob rushed up the stairs, burst open the door and started firing.

We do not know if this mob were believing Christians, as some anti-Christian Mormons have tried to say, or if they were Masons, or angry men whose wives had been seduced. They could have even been some Mormons in the mob.

But they were an unlawful mob with black face and guns.

The four men inside charged to bar the door
While the gunmen stuck their hands
through the opened crack and fired.

The mob outside also shot from the ground.

Hyrum, hit in the face, cried out, "I am a dead man." When he fell to the floor three more bullets entered his body.

Joseph, who has a gun smuggled into his person, stuck it in through the door and fired. Reports are three struck true - killing two men, and three rounds misfired.

John Taylor was struck in the leg, with two more balls entering his left wrist and leg above the knee. He rolled under the bed for cover.

Willard Richards, a rotund man, was not hit.

After seeing his brother was hit, Joseph is said to have dropped his empty six shooter and moved to the window where he was struck in the chest by two bullets, and he fell to the ground - dead.

Regarding Josephs death, which the LDS incessantly call a martyrdom, consider the following:

It was reported that Joseph Smith, on the way to Carthage Jail, made the comment:

"I am going like a lamb to the slaughter."

This was simply another unconscionable parallel Joseph - and Mormonism - make to

the Lord Jesus.

It must be noted that lambs do not fire six shooters.

The Lamb of God did not retaliate nor condoned retaliation, when suffering for the cause of Christ.

Joseph was no lamb.

In the recent LDS film played at the Joseph Smith memorial building downtown, the emotionally driven cinematic retelling of the Carthage gun battle conveniently omits Joseph having or shooting a gun.

Understand, Joseph killed two men in his supposed martyrdom.

John Taylor, who was in the room reported:

(QUOTE HERE)

The second aspect to consider was Joseph's moving toward the window. LDS defenders of the faith maintain that Joseph fled to the window in order to heroically and selflessly draw the attention from his

fallen brethren, and sacrifice himself – like unto Jesus.

I believe that if I were concerned with my brethrens safety, I would have pushed them out of the way and screamed “Here I am, Here I am,” and RUSHED the door, not ran from it!

Third, William Morgan, the Mason who was murdered for revealing the secrets of the Masonic order (and whose widow became one of Joseph’s first secret polygamous wives) wrote what a Mason was to do in times of distress.

“The sign is given by raising both hands and arms to the elbows, perpendicularly, one on each side of the head, the elbows forming a square. The words accompanying the this sign – in the case of distress, are:

O Lord, My God! Is there no help for the widows son!”

Well guess what all the reports said Joseph yelled when he went to that window?

“Oh Lord, my God!”

Sound like he was trying to sacrifice himself, or escape death just one more time?

John D Lee wrote:

And in the History of the Church we can read:

About a month after Joseph and Hyrum were killed, the Mormon newspaper Times and Seasons wrote:

READ THE REST

Joseph Smith died on June 27th of 1844 from gunshot wounds and possibly a fall from a second story window.

Today, 163 years later, his spirit continues to thrive in the hearts and minds of Latter-day Saints today.

Whether it be by seeing spirits, questionable business practices, practices like lying for the Lord, or maintaining a charismatic and charming relationship with the world, it all started with Joseph.

In this valley and valleys beyond, people have had their throats slit for failing to obey the commands of the priesthood leaders of their home, young teenage girls have been secretly wed under the auspices of it being God's will, and duplicitous forgeries have led to lies, financial ruin, and death.

Where Latter-day Saints see Joseph's legacy in terms of growing numbers worldwide, I see Joseph alive and well in the hidden corners of Mormonism, in those areas that speak to us explosively, repulsively, and horrifically.

Where the question has been

"How did people ever believe this guy?"

<p>A more important question to me is "How can people believe in this guy today?"</p> <p>Let's go to the phones.</p> <p>(801) 973-8820 (801) 973-TV20</p> <p>EMAILS</p>	
LORDSWORD	
NEXT WEEK _YES We will be on the air live - so gathers all those	
Pastor in the Pub	