

REALITY QUEST

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TEACH A MAN TO FISH, AND SOMETIMES HE'LL STEAL YOUR POLE!

I mentioned in my last newsletter that I was involved in a service project which took up a lot of my time, not allowing me to write much. Well, the project is over; and because of my involvement once again in something which most people think is "crazy", I have learned an invaluable lesson.

Judy Davis and her children came into my life quite unexpectedly and unplanned. Ms. Davis is a Mormon whose church wishes, though they never would publicly admit it, that she would find another line of belief. She has emotional problems, as well as all of her six children. The state of Utah has given her welfare and a lot of help from *Valley Mental Health****, in Salt Lake City, Utah. (The reason why I mentioned this institution will be discussed later.)

Shortly after meeting Ms. Davis, I wrote the following letter to her Bishop (her Mormon leader) which describes how I got involved and what I was doing to help:

re: Judy, Danielle, Patrick, Dominique, Eric, Garth, & Zachary Davis
Bishop,

On April 29, 1994, a member of your ward contacted me in hopes that I would be able to locate the residence of the above named individuals. This transpired because I was working outside in my yard, and your member couldn't find the right address. This indicated to me that whoever Judy Davis and her children were, these men from your church had no idea what her situation was, or could they have known much about it, because they didn't even know where she lived, thus showing that she hadn't been visited much.

Your church was going to move her meager personal belongings to a storage unit and then transport Ms. Davis and her children to a downtown motel, where her odyssey first began when she first came in contact with your ward. Yes, you were shipping her to a different ward- presumably that she and her problems would now be handled by another jurisdiction of your church.

This transfer of the problem occurred when her Bishop back East sent her out to "Zion" to find succor from the "Saints". I ask, "How many times is this poor woman and her family going to be passed around from ward to ward every time she and her children become too much to take care of?"

Well, the buck stops with me. As a concerned human being, I will not allow this problem family, created by the society we have perpetuated, to be passed around like a toy that doesn't work and is no fun to play with. Either your church puts up, or gets out of this lady's life.

You well know that I am a former member of your church. Contrary to what you and others might think, I did not leave the Church for any transgression. I left the Church after finding out what goes on behind the closed doors of Church Administration. And what got me investigating and questioning my church leaders? NOTHING LESS THAN THE WAY THE CHURCH TREATS THE POOR AND NEEDY.

Here's a portion of a book I have written, which, as of yet, I have not decided to publish. However, the facts of the Judy Davis situation, make for a great addition to my book which I am sure will grab some attention. (However, I hope your church shows more integrity than it has thus far in the Davis case, and will not give me more ammunition to establish a premise for my book):

REALITY QUEST

...I worked as a security officer for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for two years. During this time I initiated an investigation that changed my life dramatically. The investigation was

mostly done during the graveyard shift when no others were around except other security officers. With the help of many of them, and my own ingenuity, here is what I found out:

It is important that the reader understand why I initiated my investigation in the first place.

I was a very active Mormon who many thought would be a great leader in the Church someday. I studied my scriptures, attended church every Sunday, and paid my tithing in full every month. I felt that the greatest thing I could accomplish in my life was to serve the Lord with "all my heart, might, mind, and strength." I was taught that this is what "righteousness" is. Working for the church of the Lord full-time was just another step in the process of dedicating my life and means to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, something I covenanted to do when I went to the temple and received the most sacred ordinance available to the membership of the Church- the endowment.

I was taught to practically worship the leaders of the Church; that these men were chosen by God himself; that they communicated with him and ran his only true church on earth.

The first thing I found out as a security officer was that the men who are called the General Authorities of the Church are some of the most successful and well to do individuals in the Church. After I had initiated my investigation, I searched many of their personal files and found out the cost of their homes, their cars, how much was in their bank accounts, and I even saw the loan application one of them filled out to obtain a loan.

Being a staunch member of the Church, I was astounded by the actions and lifestyles of the men who had been taught to me as being, (and in whom I trusted and would have done anything they commanded), the Apostles and Prophets of the Lord Jesus Christ.

No matter what kind of justification these leaders might attempt, none of them live a life like the humble life of the man called Jesus who they supposedly represent. And beyond the sight and knowledge of the orthodox Mormon, these men emulate arrogance, hypocrisy, and pride like no other beings I had ever seen.

The first incident of this blatant hypocrisy occurred shortly after I was hired as a "greeny" security officer. Richard G. Scott, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, was assigned to be the host to some Chinese diplomats and gymnasts who were visiting Salt Lake City. A luncheon was planned to be attended by the Chinese and other General Authorities of the Church. At the time, I was assigned to the Genealogy Library adjacent to Temple Square.

The Food Services Department sent over some employees who set up the luncheon on the upper floor of the Library. They laid out, what I thought, was an extravagant luncheon which consisted of a royal cuisine. The Food Service workers finished their labors and admired what they had done. Their admiration turned to despair when Apostle Scott saw the table settings and told the workers that the dinnerware they were using was not what he wanted. He told them to take away the dinnerware, which was something of such elegance that I have never had the privilege to eat with the same, and go get the china and sterling silverware which the Church owned. These workers were devastated, and hustled, as they tried desperately to fulfill Scott's ego by removing all the utensils and retrieving the more opulent eatery before the luncheon started in 45 minutes!

"Would Christ have done this?" I wondered to myself. "Or were these the actions of a successfully rich businessman who had received his calling as an Apostle from other successfully rich businessmen."

However, this fact of apostolic hypocrisy alone did not destroy my testimony of Mormonism, or will it affect the testimony of most of the members of this sect. Most members will claim, "The members and leaders are not perfect, or are they true at times, but the Church will always be true."

How naive; how closed-minded and ignorant of a statement. The leaders and the members are the Church; without members, religious institutions would fail. The Church, its doctrines, its ordinances, and beliefs change as fast as the members change themselves. Saying that the Church is something different than the members is like saying the home is different than the family that makes it a home. An evil family can inhabit a rich mansion, and a good family can inhabit a poor shack. The home is made by those who inhabit it, not the structure itself, and since the doctrine, ordinances, ect... of the Church change from year to year according to the desires of its leaders and members, it is very clear that the Church and all it entails is the people that make it what it is.

Ironically, the members of the Church justify their "wickedness", i.e., their fancy dress, big homes, and large bank accounts by the examples of their leaders. They do not give heed to the scriptures which they claim, and I assumed to be "the words of God":

"For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant; They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon, the great which shall fall."

(D&C 1:15-16)

"They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, they have all gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err because they are taught the precepts of men."

(II Nephi 28:14)

"And I know that ye do walk in the pride of your hearts; and there are none save a few only who do not lift themselves up in the pride of their hearts, unto the wearing of very fine apparel, unto envying, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and all manner of iniquities; and your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted because of the pride of your hearts."

For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted."

O ye wicked and perverse and stiffnecked people, why have ye built up churches unto yourselves to get gain? (The Mormon church is the most affluent and successful church, per capita, in the world for making a profit; the Mormon church is worth billions and takes in 1.5 to 3.5 million dollars per day in tithing receipts.) Why have ye transfigured the holy word of God, that ye might bring damnation upon your souls? [ver. 33] Your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted because of the pride of your hearts. For behold, ye do love money, and your substance and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted. O ye pollutions, ye hypocrites, ye teachers, who sell yourselves for that which will canker, why have ye polluted the holy church of God? (The Lord must have been referring to the Mormon church, because the Mormons believe that they are the only true church of God on earth.) Why are ye ashamed to take upon you the holy name of Christ? Why do ye not think that greater is the value of an endless happiness than that misery which never dies—because of the praise of the world. (There is no human alive who can deny the beautiful sanctuaries the Mormons build as church buildings and more especially, temples. Truly, Mormons have received the praise of the world because of the "adorning of their churches.") Why do ye adorn yourselves with that which hath no life, and yet suffer the hungry, and the needy, and the naked, and the sick and the afflicted to pass by you, and notice them not? Yea, why do ye build up your secret abominations to get gain, (There are few groups of individuals more secretive than the General Authorities of the LDS Church. I speak from first hand knowledge having witnessed their actions behind the scenes. And about getting gain by this "secret combination", the average net worth of each General Authority is well above the norms of society. Most of the higher authorities sit as directors of boards and companies which the Church owns. They don't sit for nothing!), and cause that the widows should mourn before the Lord, and also the orphans to mourn before the Lord..."

(The Book of Mormon, Mormon, chapter 8, verses 28 - 41)

As I personally viewed the fulfilling of these scriptures, I was sickened and ashamed that I was a member of such a hypocritical church. What was I to do but investigate this church and its leaders and find out for myself what was going on behind closed doors...

/end/

Is it not true that your church has more concern about the image it presents to the world, (the pride of the world), than it does caring for the poor and the needy? Why couldn't your church take some of its millions and buy Ms. Davis a house where she might live? Over 45 million dollars was put into the old Hotel Utah to make it "pleasing to the world", when the 600 plus rooms could have housed the poor and needy; and church volunteers could have staffed some rehabilitation and educational programs in the many auxiliary rooms the building provides.

There is no doubt that Judy Davis and her children are not, according to the "praise of the world", praiseworthy members. They are burdensome to your church. At this time they are residing with a non-member who opened up her home to the Davis family so that they would not have to live in a Motel where the Government would have surely split up the family and placed the children in foster care. The interesting problem I see, is that the lady that opened up her home, has four children of her own and lives in a 800

square foot apartment. That means that there are 10 Children and two adults living in these cramped quarters.

Now, you might question what this has to do with your church. Well, I ask, "Isn't there someone in your ward with no children and a much bigger domicile where Judy and her kids might have more comfort?" Obviously, there is, but no one wanted to play with this "broken toy".

I want to be fair, so I will mention that your church gave Ms. Davis, some clothes, some food, a washer and dryer from Deseret Industries, and a pat on the back to say, "You can do it Judy." You claim you want to help your members help themselves. How can Ms. Davis possibly help herself take care of six "problem" children, deal with her own personal emotional problems, and possibly find a place to live in a housing market, that you well know is saturated?

Since your church wouldn't find her a place to live, I have. I have arranged for her to lease Unit #5 of the Elm Tree Condominiums. The year lease will assure her and her children a place to live. However, the owner wants first and last months rent, and a \$700 deposit, because of the many children that will occupy the unit. The rent is \$565 per month. Therefore, the Davis family needs \$1,850 to move into this unit. Will you please arrange for the church to pay this for her? If you cannot, or, I believe it is more correct to say, will not, make arrangements to help her in this way, I will help her find another way to get into this unit. However, I want a written statement from your church indicating why you will not pay the necessary move-in costs for the Davis family.

I request this letter, because I want documented proof of the policy of the church regarding the treatment of their "poor and needy".

It is obvious from this correspondence that I am upset with how "one of your own" is being treated. However, I know that there is good in your church and in the hearts of many of its members, but sometimes the orthodox member has no idea what his or her church really believes, or how they operate. Their dedication to their religion is strictly emotional. (You might say spiritual.) Therefore, If no help can be secured for the Davis family through the leadership of the Church, I will petition the members thereof myself to help this needy member of your family. I will do so by sending a request for help, along with a copy of this letter, to each member of your ward in hopes that various will be touched enough to help out.

Please let me know what your church is willing to do to help Judy out. If you do not want "to play" with this broken toy any longer, I am sure that I can find many caring non-members who will not only share the toy, but aid me in fixing it.

Sincerely,
Chris M. Nemelka

Well, as one might imagine, the LDS Church was not too happy about my involvement in the Davis family situation. They sent out the Bishop and his superior, the Stake President, to my house to assure me that they would do anything they could to help Judy and her kids.

This is what they did:

They convinced Ms. Davis that I was a "devil", and was only interested in her and her daughter, who is 13 years old, as potential wives. Yes, they told her I was a polygamist, and that she should avoid me. (Judy Davis weighs about 300 lbs, and her daughter is not much better to look at. So, I ask: Why in the world would I give up a relationship with two other woman (Marcee and Vicky) who would take me as a polygamist husband, and who are rather beautiful, and pursue one with an emotionally distraught woman and her more emotionally distraught daughter?)

Ms. Davis listened to her *inspired* leaders, called the cops on me, reported me for trying to come on to her and her daughter, took possession of the condominium which I was responsible for and helped her get into, took about \$1000 in personal items I had given them to help them out, took a car I had signed over to Judy only because I carried no insurance on the vehicle, and if she got into a wreck, she would have to be responsible, and to top it off, accused me of stealing her food stamps and welfare check.

Now the Davis family is back in possession of their church and their problems; and I am 10 years wiser, and much more cautious who I help and for what reason.

Did something good come out of this situation and what I did? You bet! In June of 1994, the LDS Church donated \$250,000.00 for low-income housing to a Utah State institution whose name is none other than **Valley Mental Health*****.

They couldn't be outdone by the devil, now could they?

