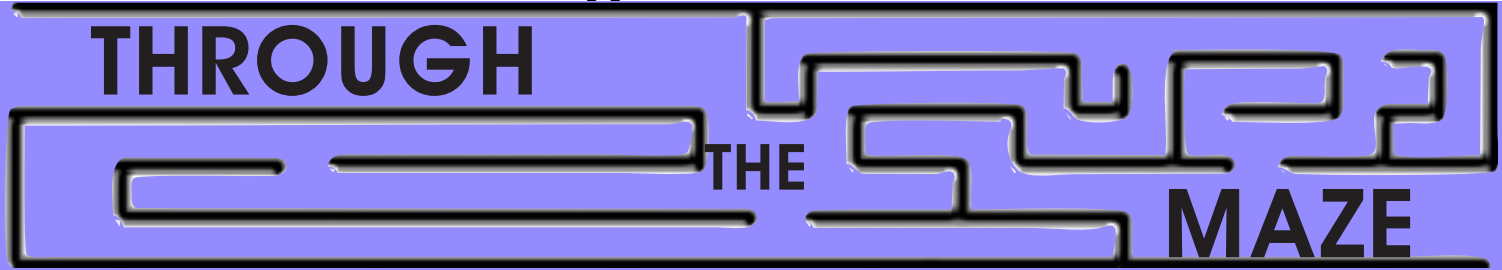


"Truth without Love is too hard; Love without Truth is too soft"

Living Faith Church



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Utah Continues to Smolder...

Arizona and Utah struggle to find a way to put a lid on polygamy...

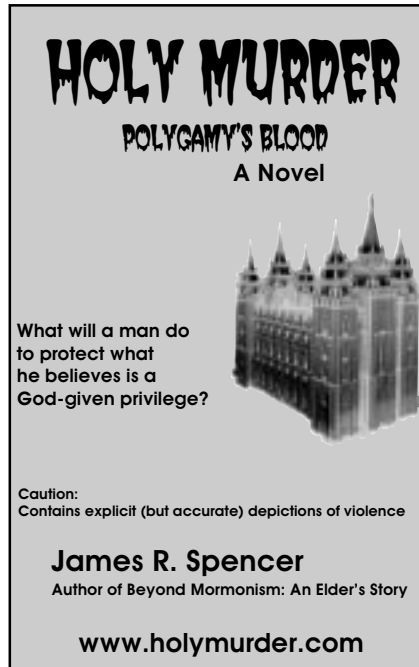
While nationwide, gay and lesbian attacks on marriage add to the confusion.

The culture war rages. Who would have dreamed, thirty years ago, that we would see thousands of gays and lesbians defying California law (aided by the mayor of San Francisco) by illegally marrying on the steps of the courthouse? And Tom Green, convicted of marrying five women, is appealing his conviction, saying that if gay and lesbian marriages are OK, then polygamy should be, too.

Meanwhile, the towns of Hildale, Utah/Colorado City, Arizona, are seething as the leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, sends his top leaders packing—telling them to leave their property, and their wives and kids behind.

A few young women have escaped Colorado City, but what is their fate? (See story on pages one and two). Lawmakers and sociologists are at a loss. No one

(Continued on back page)



New Book nears completion.

I hope to have the new book in hand within a few short weeks, and I hope you will help me get it to thousands of people who need to hear about the plight of the "child brides." Pray that this book will open eyes and expose the pain and suffering the Mormon Church has brought upon thousands and thousands of young women. If we all do a little, we can accomplish a lot.

Letters: Latter-day Saints continue to escape Mormonism

Jim,

Please send me your free information packet. I am a Mormon, but I have strayed from the church and haven't attended for about year and half. I was about to return to the church, in fact, in just 2 days. A friend told me about this site and he had no idea that I had been a Mormon or that I was about to return. I consider this a blessing.

Doris

Doris,

Wow. So glad you found us!

I am sending you a packet of information that will help.

First, let me say that there *is* life after Mormonism. I will be praying for you and I am praying God will lead you to some Christian friends who can help you get plugged into a good, Bible-believing church.

Jim

(More letters on back page)

Fawns, escape to freedom, then flee, fearing they will be returned to Polygamy



Flora Jessop and the two Fawns

East Valley Tribune —January 15, 2004

Flora Jessop was 16 when she fled a forced marriage to her cousin in the community of Colorado City in northern Arizona nearly 18 years ago. On Sunday, she helped two other 16-year-old girls escape life under the area's polygamous stronghold and the forced marriages she said were sure to come.

"I knew at 13 that I didn't want to live like that," said Fawn Louise Broadbent, 16, who is staying at a safe house in Phoenix. "I want to be able to choose who I'm going to marry, and I want to go to a real school, not a church school. And I want to be a clothing designer, not somebody's 15th wife."

"How can you be happy if you don't have a choice?" asked her friend Fawn Holm, 16.

The girls spoke to the *Tribune* this week even as state officials were scrambling to address their situation. At least one state senator called on state officials to intervene to protect the girls, who fled just as a controversy flared up in the polygamist community this week.

There are an estimated 55,000 polygamists living in Arizona and Utah, the majority of them in the area known as the Arizona Strip, to the north of the Grand Canyon and along the border with Utah.

Broadbent's and Holm's families belong to the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Colorado City, which is not aligned with the mainstream Mormon Church. The polygamists were excommunicated from the Mormons more than 100 years ago. Mod-

ern Mormons do not condone polygamy.

Monday morning Dan Barlow, the mayor of Colorado City, was forced to resign because of a revelation by the community's prophet, Warren Jeffs. Over the weekend, Jeffs ordered Barlow and approximately 20 other polygamists from

be given to a new 'daddy,' " Jessop said. "Think what that means to a child. You are raised your entire life calling one man your father, then overnight, you are told to forget him, that he is dead to you, that you have a new father. And in these polygamy compounds, the new 'daddy' tends to turn into 'husband.' That's the fate I'm trying to avoid for Fawn."

Jessop's efforts to help the girls, aided by a group of expolygamist wives who call themselves Tapestry Against Polygamy, comes at considerable risk. She could face charges

of kidnapping, or at least custodial interference.

Late last year, Jessop joined other runaway wives in a class action lawsuit seeking \$110 million in damages from the polygamy commune.

She said Utah officials are aware of her latest action with the girls.

"Before I picked these girls up, I called the Utah attorney general and told him what I was going to do, and he said, 'If you need anything, just let me know.' But when I called the Arizona attorney general and told him the same thing, I was told that DPS would pick up the girls and put them in a detention center. I'm not about to let that happen. These girls have been terrorized enough," she said.

Utah Attorney General Paul Murphy confirmed the conversation with Jessop but added that he called her on Wednesday and urged her to cooperate with the Arizona attorney general.

"Flora is very tied into that community and can provide us with information," Murphy said. "We have several investi-

We need to ask ourselves if freedom of religion in America means that a church can brainwash little girls, turning them into love slaves for old men.

their homes, wives and children.

A woman who answered the phone at Barlow's home said, "I don't want to talk to you," when contacted by the *Tribune*.

According to Jessop, who was getting



Holm and Broadbent out of the community when the event occurred, the women and children from those homes will be parceled out to men who remain in good standing with Jeffs.

Efforts to reach Jeffs for comment were unsuccessful Wednesday.

Holm's father is one of the men believed to have been ousted by Jeffs.

"If she's forced to go back there, she'll

gations under way concerning crimes in those communities. But I also have to say that the Arizona attorney general seems to have taken up the fight. (Attorney General) Terry Goddard is very concerned about these young women. The problem is that to prosecute, you need evidence, and evidence has proven hard to come by.”

Arizona Sen. Linda Binder, R-Lake Havasu City, an antipolygamy activist, says that she spoke to Goddard on Wednesday morning, and that she believes the girls should be turned over to Child Protective Services.

“Terry told me that Arizona needs to run a complete forensic investigation, because one of the brothers is driving down from Utah and he wants to take them back up there,” Binder said. “Terry’s afraid he’ll lose his witnesses. I’m so concerned for these girls that I even thought about throwing them in my car and taking them back to Lake Havasu with me, but I realize we have to do this the attorney general’s way. The girls need a ring of safety around them because we’re afraid that the prophet will start threatening blood atonement against the girls and any others who try to run away.

“This is such a horrible mess. It’s like we have the Taliban in our own back yard.”

Goddard’s office did not return calls seeking comment.

Jeffs’ attempt at solidifying his power base in Colorado City may backfire, says Mohave County Supervisor Buster D. Johnson of Lake Havasu City.

“I hear a lot of the guys up there are now having ‘visions’ that tell them they’re the new prophet,” Johnson said. “They’re all grabbing for power now. The sad thing is, it’s the girls that get caught in the middle. But it could be that this will be the final storm in a very stormy community.”

Johnson said that abused girls have been hesitant to come forth because they do not trust law enforcement officials to treat them fairly.

“Most of the time the girls are just turned back over to the very people who abused them,” he said. “I’m hoping that with all the media attention that’s going on, at least about the community’s financial affairs, that something might happen,

Girls who fled polygamy on run again

The Arizona Republic Feb. 17, 2004

Two girls placed in state foster care last month after fleeing from the polygamous community of Colorado City are on the run again.

The 16-year-olds bolted Sunday while on a weekend camping trip in west Phoenix, said Flora Jessop of Phoenix, a former Colorado City resident who left as a teenager in 1986.

She said the girls were scared that they would be returned to their parents. In letters they left behind, Jessop said the girls wrote that they feared being locked up or forced to marry much older men if they were sent home.

Child Protective Services spokeswoman Liz Barker said Tuesday that police have been notified and law enforcement statewide have orders to hold the girls if they run across them. Barker also said CPS had no plans to return the teenagers to their parents.

Earlier this month, another girl, 17, who also ran away from Colorado City, was returned to her parents. An investigation determined that that child was not in danger.

Jessop said the other two girls knew the 17-year-old: “They were very, very afraid that that’s what was going to happen to them.”

This is the first time children fleeing polygamist families have been placed in state protective custody. Typically, the children have been treated like any other teenage runaways and returned home.

With the Fundamentalist Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the isolated communities of Colorado City and Hildale, Utah, under scrutiny by law enforcement, child welfare officials are handling these cases carefully.

Barker said CPS is mandated by federal law to make reasonable efforts to engage families in services that could remedy the reasons the child was placed in foster care. The girls’ parents are cooperating.

But CPS also is allowed to conduct what they call “concurrent case planning,” pursuing two case plans simultaneously. In cases like these, CPS could consider reunification while also planning to remove children if reunification proves not to be in their best interests.

A judge has final approval.

At a hearing on Thursday, a judge ordered Jessop not to have any more contact with the children at the request of one of the girl’s fathers. Barker said he was concerned about Jessop’s continued involvement with the children. Jessop helped bring the girls to Phoenix after they ran away from home. She has been an outspoken critic of polygamy.

The girls are with an 18-year-old niece, the daughter of one of the girl’s older brother, Jessop said. The girls contacted family members to let them know they were safe but refused to say where they were. The girls likely have only \$50 between them.

“I am so angry at the state of Arizona because they put them in the position that they felt they had to run again and now no one knows where they are,” Jessop said. “I feel like we have let them down.” ■

and that the girls will see that the polygamy leaders like Jeffs are not invulnerable.”

Broadbent and Holm are trying to ignore the legal storm about to break over their heads. “I’m happy for the first time in my life,” Holm said.

“I’m out, and I feel free,” Broadbent added. ■

Please fill out the purple card and send it in once a year, or you will be dropped from the Through the Maze mailing list!

Utah Smolders. . .

has easy answers. Only time will tell how this evil remnant of Mormonism will play itself out. It's overwhelming.

One thing we know for sure, thousands of true-believer fundamentalist Mormons are not going to suddenly see the light. They are not going to say that Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism and initiator of polygamy, was a false prophet. Neither will they deny the prophets who succeeded Smith; prophets who continued the practice in the deserts of Utah, Arizona, and Mexico long after the mainline Mormon Church put polygamy on hold.

Do not fall for the rhetoric of modern Salt Lake City Mormonism when they say they, "repudiated" polygamy in 1890. No such thing happened. It is true the mainline Mormon Church eventually stopped sealing temple marriages, but the theology of polygamy is still intact. All of the scripture and preaching that supported the practice of plural marriage in Utah still stands. It is, after all, "the new and everlasting covenant."

Mormon Scripture, The Doctrine and Covenants, states:

IN the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees; And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage]; And if he does not, he cannot obtain it. (Section 131:1-3)

Likewise, in the next revelation in that book, Smith told his followers they would be damned if they did not follow polygamy:

For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory. (Section 132:4)

When Mormons tell us (as current President Gordon B. Hinkely has done) that they "repudiated" polygamy, they are being disingenuous. The fact is that the Mormon leadership has never once stated that polygamy was a bad idea, or that it was not given to them as a commandment from God—never.

All the Mormon Church ever did was

suspend polygamy. In the decades following the official suspension in 1890, Church leadership continued to practice plural wifery. Eventually, for all practical purposes, the mainline church *did* cease its practice. But no Mormon leader has ever suggested the polygamy was wrong or stated that the church would never resume its practice.

All the fundamentalist Mormon cults that practice polygamy do so because they think God ordered the Church to do so and that only pressure from the United States government forced Salt Lake to send it underground. The reason Utah has never zealously prosecuted polygamy is because Utah Mormonism thinks it is godly and will be reinstated one day.

As recently as April 18, 2003, Utah Senator Orrin Hatch refused to speak definitively against the practice of polygamy. In St. George, Utah Hatch responded, in a press conference, to a woman who expressed frustration that polygamists continued to abuse children in Hildale: "I wouldn't throw accusations around unless you know they're true," Hatch said. He continued, "I'm not here to justify polygamy, [but] all I can say is, I know people in Hildale who are polygamists who are very fine people."

That isn't the point. They may be fine people, but if they raise little girls in baby factories for the sole purpose of espousing them to old men, they need a slap in the face, not a Senatorial backslap.

Utah can *never* effectively deal with this problem until the religious power there—the Mormon Church—admits that polygamy was *never* an idea from God, and that it was simply a product of sexual lust. Repentance is the only cure in Utah. Even sincere repentance will not easily solve the massive problem of polygamy. Thousands—yes *thousands*—of people are trapped in this religious sophistry. It will take years—decades—to undo this mess. But that process cannot even begin until the repentance begins.

I call upon everyone who reads these words to determine in their hearts that they will speak out against this crime. And to determine, that no matter how much they love Mormons, they will not leave them unconforted, nor unchallenged on this issue. ■

Letters

I wish every Mormon could read your book

Mr. Spencer,

I know you probably receive hundreds of letters a day. But I just read *Beyond Mormonism* online. I was just going to skim it, but ended up reading every word. All the feelings you had are exactly the feelings I had when I joined the church. I never got as far in the church as you did, and only went to the temple for baptisms, but I was amazed at how your feelings mirrored mine.

I do not "subscribe" to any church or religion right now, though I consider myself spiritual. But I wanted you to know that your story was amazingly written—so honest and down-to-earth. It brought back a lot of feelings and thoughts I had pushed out of my mind, and I'm grateful to have a chance to mull them over again.

Thank you for sharing your story with everyone. I only wish every Mormon could read it and understand it with the "open hearts" they want everyone to have when hearing about the "truth" of the church. I remember; I used to deny anyone who told me everything was a mess... It's amazing that you've been able to get through to so many people.

Thank you again for your story.

Sincerely,

Kelly

Thank you for the tapes and books

Jim,

Sending me tapes and or books could never waste my time. I have to thank you for all of you generosity. I'll take all you can send! I read your book and it moved me, I listened to the Trinity tapes and most of the Hard Case Witnessing tapes.

I would love to read the polygamy book and would enjoy more tapes. The more I hear the more I can understand.

It's like When I told God I was confused he said here's Jim!

Overdose me with what you can!

God bless,

Laura