

August 27, 2005

Bishop Jay Brown
500 Sagebrush Drive
Worland, WY, 82401

Dear Bishop Brown:

This letter is being sent to inform you that I am officially requesting that my name be removed from the records of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This request is being made after many years of soul searching and studying on my part. I did not easily come to this decision. It's THE most difficult decision of my life.

I have a deep admiration for many members of the church and hope they will understand and accept my decision. I am not leaving because of hurt feelings. I base my decision on my faith in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and my intellect. This decision is being made freely on my part and with a full knowledge of what the LDS church teaches about the consequences of making a decision like this.

I insist that my records and the letter notifying me that my name has been removed from the church records show that the ONLY reason why my name has been removed is that I requested this action be taken. I also insist that the word "excommunication" not be used in the church records or in the letter notifying me of this action. The church judged me and condemned me once before when only God has the right to judge. I would not hesitate to take legal action against the church if anything is done to slander my name or if members of this Stake or any other are given the impression that I left because of immorality.

Please understand that I am taking this action because it has been proven to me that Mormonism is false and does not teach correct doctrine according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of the doctrinal problems I have investigated are:

1. I do not believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God or that he received direct revelation from God. I also believe that we all will be judged some day according to our faith in the Savior, not Joseph Smith. I believe that he taught false doctrine and that he has led many good people astray and away from the true teachings of Jesus Christ that are taught in the Gospel.
2. I am convinced that the Book of Mormon is not of divine origin except for the verses that are plagiarized from the Bible. I do not believe Joseph Smith "translated" any part of the Book of Mormon and that it is nothing more than a contrived document.
3. I am convinced that the Pearl of Great Price (particularly the Book of Abraham) is a pure work of deceit and fraud. It became apparent to leaders of the church that the papyrus that Joseph Smith translated in the Book of Abraham was nothing more than Egyptian funeral documents, yet they continue to claim that the book was of divine origin. This fact has been hidden from members of the church for many years.
4. I am certain that the Doctrine and Covenants is also false and has been changed and rewritten so many times that saints today have no clue what some of the false doctrines that Joseph Smith taught really were.

5. I am convinced that polygamy is a wicked principle that's taught by the church and that it is demeaning and devastating to women. I am also convinced that it was an excuse for Joseph Smith to commit adultery since he practiced it for at least 10 years prior to the 1843 "revelation."
6. I am convinced that on the whole, the LDS church has made serious and substantial changes to all of its scriptures and most of church history. I believe that this has been done to satisfy and convince its members to hide doctrinal errors and to protect some of the leaders from exposure to their moral failures.
7. I am convinced that men and women are not treated equally in the LDS church, that women's issues are ignored, and that women are truly made to feel like second-class members of the church. Unmarried women like myself are especially treated as lower-class members. We are only recognized when we can be of use in a station of the church. LDS doctrine is completely offensive to women and could not possibly be pleasing in God's eyes. I am also convinced that depression among women in the LDS church is rampant and always ignored by church leaders. The impression is given that any LDS woman who is depressed must not be living the gospel.
8. I believe that the often quoted statement, "the glory of God is intelligence" is completely contradictory to what the church truly teaches about members increasing their intellect. Free thought is discouraged, and members are told what to read ("Read the Book of Mormon this year."), when to pray, how to pray, and what to think.
9. I do not believe that God was once a man or that he lived on a planet similar to Earth. I do not believe that he became a God through obeying laws. Furthermore I do not believe that men on this earth can someday become gods. According to the Bible, God has always been God and is "from everlasting to everlasting."
10. I find it extremely offensive that men, particularly in this Stake and another Ward, were put in positions of authority while at the same time they treat others with disdain. Although in the end, this has been the major factor in "tipping the scales" and causing me to question the validity and authenticity of the church and its beliefs. On the contrary, they are to be commended for making me seek the truth and getting me on the right path.

These are just a few of the major issues I have with the doctrine of the LDS church.

This is by no means a sudden decision. It's a culmination of years of doubt, being deceived, questioning things that have been changed even though it was doctrine, and seeing the hypocritical lives being led by those in leadership positions.

I DO NOT WISH TO REMAIN A MEMBER OF A CHURCH THAT'S BASED ON FRAUD AND LYING.

I am leaving the church to get out from under the burden of guilt the church inflicts on all members on a daily basis, especially the women.

I ask that you please respect my request to have my name removed immediately.

I would not welcome visits from missionaries, home teachers (most of whom never took the job seriously anyway), visiting teachers, bishop or stake presidency members. In this male-dominated church, I do not see my resignation as a blip on the Mormon radar.

My decision is final. Any attempts to contact me to try to change my mind will be considered an invasion of my privacy.

With respect,

Jeanette Phyllis Johnson
1907 Cardinal Street
Worland, WY, 82401
DOB: July 19, 1942

Copies to: Stake President Mike Snyder,
President Gordon B. Hinckley @ LDS Membership Division
Self for documentation