

EXIT LETTER FROM WILL AND KORRIN GRIGG

President -----
532 Emerson
Neenah, WI 54956

Bishop -----
712 E. Greenfield
Appleton, WI 54913

February 10, 2003

Dear Friends:

This letter is a formal request from our family that our names be removed from the records of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). This decision was not prompted by a personal slight or some other petty offense, but rather by a shared conclusion that we no longer believe in the doctrines or practices of the LDS Church. Our faith in Jesus Christ and desire to follow Him remain unchanged, as does our commitment to abide by the standards of conduct He prescribed. We simply believe it impossible to follow Him within the constraints of Mormonism.

Our family has been the beneficiary of many acts of kindness and generosity by members of the Appleton Stake, and for this we will always be grateful. It is our hope that the friendships we have made with members of the LDS Church will endure, and we will do all we can to ensure that they do.

It is appropriate to provide a very brief outline of the reasons behind our decision to leave the LDS Church. They can be organized into four categories: Doctrinal, organizational, historical, and political.

Doctrinal

*We believe the biblical testimony that Jesus Christ, our Creator and Redeemer, is and always has been God. We do not believe that He is our "Elder Brother," an individual like us who is (in the words of a comment made during one of Will's Gospel Doctrine classes) "just a little further along in the program" than we are.

*We believe that salvation is a gift of grace; that good works are a reflection of God's redemptive power operating through His people; and that "exaltation" consists of being redeemed from our sinful nature through God's intervention, rather than ascending, through our purported righteousness, to a status akin to His.

*We accept the Bible's teaching that the "law and the prophets were until John [the Baptist]" and that through His atonement, Jesus fulfilled the law and the prophets. Accordingly, believers need not go through a mortal intermediary (such as an LDS "priesthood leader") in order to have access to God.

Organizational

By design, LDS Church interposes an elaborate bureaucracy between God and those who wish to follow Him. The operative principle in Mormonism is that one supposedly can only follow God by offering unconditional obedience to *men*. In politics, this pernicious concept is called the "Leader Principle," a doctrine that has underwritten history's bloodiest crimes. Its spiritual consequences can be no less tragic.

The mechanisms of indoctrination and conformity within Mormonism are uncomfortably similar to those we have studied in totalitarian societies. There is little practical difference between North Korean children singing hymns to the glory of "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-II, and Mormon Primary children reciting the mantra "Follow the Prophet, follow the Prophet, follow the Prophet, don't go astray...." In either case, the children are being conditioned to place their conscience in escrow, impute a God-like status to a man, and surrender their moral agency to a human organization.

Perhaps the most effective – and certainly the most invasive – of these mechanisms of social control is the temple recommend interview, a practice with roots in the “Reformation” period of Mormonism (about which more below). Responsible, sober adults committed to living a Christian life should not be subjected to the annual indignity of a lengthy, detailed inquiry regarding their beliefs, associations, and private lives. We certainly wouldn’t abide such treatment by agents of the government, and there is no scriptural warrant for enduring such scrutiny as a condition of religious fellowship.

Historical

As active Mormons seeking to invite others into the Church, we often recited the scriptural principle that a tree is judged by its fruits. When that standard is applied to the Church’s history, the results aren’t particularly “faith-promoting.” What follows is not pleasant, but such candor is necessary in order to give clear expression to our views.

*During his lifetime, Joseph Smith gave equivocal and, sometimes, flatly self-contradictory accounts of the “First Vision”. Furthermore, many early leaders of the Church (Brigham Young and John Taylor among them) seemed not to know about the “First Vision” at all.

*The document called the “Book of Abraham” has been definitively debunked as an artifact of Joseph Smith’s malicious imagination.

*Reliable documentation (including unimpeachably pro-Mormon accounts) proves that Joseph Smith’s practice of “polygamy” began years before he claimed to receive the “sealing power”. The same sources also document that Joseph took as “plural wives” women who were married to living spouses; that he contracted polygamous “marriages” without his wife’s knowledge or consent; and that his actions were illegal and cloaked in secrecy and lies; the same is true of Brigham Young, John Taylor, and other Mormon leaders, including those who continued to practice polygamy following the 1890 “Manifesto”.

*That the Mormon temple ritual is largely derived from Freemasonry is beyond dispute. That its original function was to protect the criminal secrecy in which polygamy was practiced in Nauvoo is a reasonable and compelling surmise. How the pre-1990 version of that ritual could be squared with the Book of Mormon’s unambiguous condemnation of secret, oath-bound societies was a question that long tormented Will (Korin didn’t undergo the ceremony until after 1990). He later realized that while the temple ceremony served no *celestial* purpose, its *terrestrial* purpose – binding Mormons to the Church and their leaders at all hazards – was obvious, and dreadful.

*The doctrinal centerpiece of the above-mentioned Utah “Reformation” was the hideous concept of “Blood Atonement.” The sermons of Brigham Young and Jedediah Grant on this subject are of a piece with the hateful outpourings of the Ayatollah Khomeini, and utterly repellent to anyone whose soul harbors a particle of Christian decency. While some responsible people are unconvinced that the principles enunciated by Young and Grant were actually put into practice, the fact that those principles were publicly taught provides more than adequate grounds for rejecting them as men of God.

*It was in the context of the Utah “Reformation” that the atrocity called the “Mountain Meadows Massacre” took place, an act of premeditated mass murder that was, until the Oklahoma City bombing, the single bloodiest act of terrorism committed on American soil. Recent scholarship proves that the massacre was organized through priesthood channels, committed by Mormons convinced that they acted with official approval, and precipitated by the actions of Brigham Young. At the very least, Brigham had guilty foreknowledge of the initial assault on the Fancher Wagon Train, connived with local Indian leaders to arrange it, and was an accessory after the fact to the final massacre; at worst, he was as deeply involved in that September 11, 1857 crime as Osama bin Laden was in the attacks of September 11, 2001.

To this day, the Church has never admitted these facts, preferring instead to engage in Clintonian evasions, lawyerly dissimulation, and special pleading. The Church cannot admit the truth about Mountain Meadows, because that incident illustrates the lethal consequences of the Mormon “Leader Principle” carried to its logical conclusion.

Political

The butchers of Mountain Meadows acted on the principle “When our leaders speak, the thinking has been done.” As Gordon B. Hinckley and his associates cautiously but unmistakably lead the LDS Church into the bosom of the New World Order, this variety of docile subservience is being asked of honest, honorable, and patriotic Latter-day Saints who would otherwise work to preserve our liberty and national independence.

Will and Korrin vividly remember a conversation several years ago during which a thoroughly decent, politically conservative Mormon friend declared: “If we have a living Prophet, then whatever he tells us to do must be right. So if President Hinckley told me to take the Mark of the Beast, I’d do it, because we’ve been told that our leaders can’t lead us astray – and even if they were to do so, we’d be blessed for our righteousness.”

The scenario described by our friend is becoming less hypothetical every day. Since 1993, when the Church sent Elder Nelson as its delegate to the UN-connected “Parliament of World Religions,” the Church has drawn increasingly close to the worst elements of the emerging global superstate.

- In 1995, the Tabernacle hosted the closing session of a UN conference on the (effective abolition of the) family.
- During the 2002 Winter Olympics, President Hinckley conspicuously endorsed UN Secretary General Kofi Annan – who has the blood of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Christians on his hands -- as a “good ... wonderful man working to bring peace and goodness to the world.”
- During the same Olympic Games, the Conference Center was lent for use in a UN conference that featured Annan and other dubious notables (such as pro-terrorist cleric Desmond Tutu of South Africa).
- On February 9th of this year, the Tabernacle is to host the second annual “Interfaith Roundtable Musical Tribute to the Human Spirit,” an outgrowth of the UN-connected “interfaith” movement. The event would bring together various Christian denominations as well as Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu clerics for music, prayer, and worship. Former Tabernacle Choir Director Jerald Ottley explained: “Music is a way for people of different faiths and beliefs to worship together.” To worship *what*, exactly? The whole point of Christian fellowship is to be separate from the world and the various types of idolatry that pollute it: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). On that note --
- During the late 1990s, the LDS Foundation (operated by the Office of the Presiding Bishopric) gave a sizeable donation to Hare Krishnas in central Utah to build a Hindu temple. Among the diabolical doctrines that hijack souls and engender human tragedy, Hinduism is quite possibly the worst. It is also the polluted fountain from which flows the “New Age” movement that is central to the UN’s religious agenda. (It’s worth mentioning in this connection that the 1993 Parliament of World Religions, to which the Church sent Elder Nelson, began as a celebration mounted by Hindus to celebrate the centennial of their missionary outreach to the United States.)
- President Hinckley has repeatedly addressed meetings of the World Affairs Council of Southern California, emphasizing the fact that he leads a large contingent of honest, hardworking, self-effacing people who gladly do as they are told by their religious leaders. This message was certainly a welcome one to the power brokers who attend such elite gatherings.
- With the active support of the Church leadership, BYU has organized a large and well-funded network of UN-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to lobby the UN on behalf of “pro-family” policies. This approach actually fortifies the UN’s claim to be a legislative body with a global mandate. It’s entirely possible that the one thing that could save the UN from well-deserved oblivion will be the misdirected efforts of Mormons and other decent people to “reform” the body and make it “work.” These well-intentioned people are effectively rebuilding the Tower of Babel, convinced that by doing so they are engaged in God’s work.

The foregoing list of reasons for our decision to withdraw from the LDS Church is sufficient, but not exhaustive. We ask that our decision be honored and that our names be removed from the Church's records immediately. To expedite this matter, we provide the following names and biographical information:

William Norman Grigg

b. February 4, 1963 in Burley, Cassia County, Idaho

Korrin Weeks Grigg

b. September 15, 1970 in Ft. Worth, Arlington County, Texas

William Wallace Grigg

b. November 28, 1997 in Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Isaiah Athanasius Grigg

b. July 1, 1999 in Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Jefferson Leonidas Grigg

b. March 6, 2001 in Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Katrina Antigone Grigg

b. January 20, 2003 in Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Respectfully,

William Norman Grigg

Korrin Weeks Grigg

(On behalf of our entire family)