

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—aneurysm
- ◆ Jim Ward—surgery recovery

Others in Need

- ◆ Charles Compton—cancer
- ◆ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ◆ Michael Hudson—health problems
- ◆ Carol Kitzan—health problems
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ◆ Taylor Mashburn—pregnancy complications
- ◆ Paul Mayo—chemotherapy
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Audrey Murdock—broke 2 ribs
- ◆ Peggy Preece's daughter, Angel—blood clot
- ◆ Patty Ryan—at Vanderbilt hospital

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Ronnie Wells—health problems
- ◆ Christians overseas, Ukraine
- ◆ Government leaders, military, 1st responders, travelers, the lost, and our enemies.

To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Events



- Aug. 7**
Fellowship Meal after Morning Worship
- Aug. 14**
Men's Meeting

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Leo Derrick
Song Leading—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Justin Derrick
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Mark Howze; Helpers: Justin Derrick, Josh Lawson, Johnny Moss
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Leo Derrick
 Helper: Justin Derrick
Scripture Reading—Braden Hilburn

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

August 7, 2022

Meeting Times

Sundays:

- 10AM Bible Class
- 11AM Worship
- 6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

- 7PM Bible Class

A Few Words from Jason

It's great that many who have been very sick are beginning to recover. We appreciate the prayers for our family members and others who were sick. Thankfully, I did not get sick and was able to preach at Union Hill last week. We thank God for answered prayers, and in any situation Christians can find something for which they can be thankful. *"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

The meeting at Union Hill was based on Christian Evidences, a theme they specifically requested. The topics were: 1) Fossils as Evidence for the Global Flood; 2) Dinosaurs and the Bible, 3) Memories of the Flood, 4) The Chinese Language Confirms the Book of Genesis, 5) The Most Amazing Thing God Created is You, 6) Our Incredible Universe. The sessions were all livestreamed on the Union Hill church of Christ Facebook page, although there was a problem with the recordings skipping some of my words sometimes, and in the first three lessons it may have been difficult to read the PowerPoint slides. Jared improved that on Monday by moving the camera, and now better quality recordings are on Union Hill's YouTube and Rumble pages. The recordings on YouTube and Rumble should not have any skips, because they were uploaded from the memory card that was inside the camera. If you want to watch the videos, just go to YouTube and search for Jason Hilburn or Union Hill church of Christ. Of course, you can skip the announcements and other things that come first in the videos if you so desire.

I'm thankful for those who taught at Baker in my absence, and it's always nice to know everything will be fine if I have to be gone for some reason.

Other Information

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Radio Program:

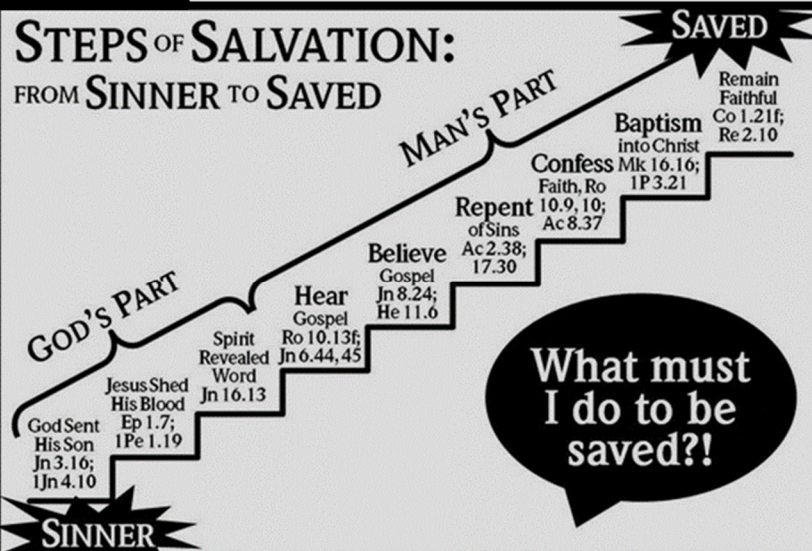
104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM
 WAAZ1047.com livestream

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STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
 (Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

THE BLIND FAITH OF MORMONISM: Practicing a Religion that is Not Believed

Jon Gary Williams

For those who have had in-depth studies with Mormons, it is understood that many live under a canopy of blind faith. When challenged with problems found in the Book of Mormon, often they will put aside common sense and turn to a blind faith, a faith overseen and controlled by the Mormon Church. Seldom, if ever, will they seek investigation. For fear of excommunication they dare not openly question the teachings of their Church.

There are, however, instances when Mormons have observed the errors of the Book of Mormon, yet, because of the ridged, manipulating structure of this religion they are compelled to simply overlook them.

Among this number there are some who are honest enough to admit the flaws in the Book of Mormon are real and that the book is fraudulent. Yet, they will remain with the Mormon Church, but for a different reason -- they do not want to lose their long-held relationships in the Church. Hence, they stay on, but keep their doubtful opinions quiet. Below is an example of such hypocritical reasoning.

The following excerpts are from a letter written years ago by a highly regarded Mormon, Thomas Stuart Ferguson, to a couple who were questioning their faith in Mormonism. For many years Ferguson was a strong believer in Mormonism and in Joseph Smith as a prophet. He was responsible for founding the New World Archaeological Foundation at Brigham Young University. For several decades he sought to locate archaeological evidence supporting things found in the Book of Mormon -- places, objects, animals. Failing to discover such things, he finally concluded that the Book of Mormon was nothing more than fiction. However, in order to maintain good relationships with family and friends, he superficially remained a Mormon.

In this letter, he revealed his hypocritical approach to Mormon belief as well as his growing disregard for belief of any kind -- he became an agnostic. His advice to this couple is both shocking and extremely revealing. While he clearly exclaimed his disbelief in Mormonism, he encouraged them to, like him, just stay the course and overlook their doubts about the Mormon Church. As he indicated, such hypocritical regard to religious faith is common among members of the Mormon Church.

Mr. Ferguson asked the couple to keep his words private -- however, those who years later obtained possession of the letter chose to make its contents known. It appeared in a recent issue of the *Ex-Mormons For Jesus* publication.

"Dear Mr. And Mrs. --

This is in reply to your letter of.... In the December issue of Reader's Digest is an article on the importance of myths to the human family. People must believe in something (otherwise we face the abyss of death and extinction). Mormonism is probably the best conceived myth-fraternity to which one can belong... Joseph Smith tried so hard to put himself out on a limb with the Book of Abraham, and also with the Book of Mormon. He can be refuted -- but why, bother, when all religion is based on myth....

Why not just say the right things and keep your membership in the great fraternity,

enjoying the good things you like and discarding the ones you can't swallow (and keeping your mouth shut)? Hypocritical? Maybe. But perhaps a realistic way of dealing with a very difficult problem. There is lots left in the Church to enjoy -- and thousands of members have done, and are doing, what I suggest you consider doing. Silence is golden... Precious few believers will you change -- no matter how the evidence mounts. They believe because they want to believe... So why try to be heroic and fight the myths -- the Mormon one, or any other, that does more good than ill.

Perhaps you and I have been spoofed by Joseph Smith. Now that we have the inside dope -- why not spoof a little back and stay aboard? Please consider this letter confidential -- for obvious reasons. I want to stay aboard the good ship... Belonging with my eyes wide open is actually fun... and no strain at all... I never get up and bear testimony -- but I don't mind listening to others who do....

You might give my suggestions a trial run -- and if you find you have to burn all the bridges between yourselves and the Church, then go ahead and ask for excommunication. The day will probably come -- but it is far off -- when the leadership of the Church will change the excommunication rules and delete as grounds, non-belief in the two books mentioned and in Joseph Smith as a prophet, etc.

I have tried to help you the best I can. Kind regards. Thomas Stuart Ferguson."

Mr. Ferguson, in essence, told this couple that faith in any religion, including Mormonism, is nothing more than myth. So, his advice was -- just remain in the Church and play the game, disregarding any negative concerns about Mormonism. Though it would be denied, this describes precisely the practice of untold numbers of Mormons.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF MORMON BLIND FAITH

Several years ago while discussing the Book of Mormon with a long time Mormon, I showed him a passage from the Book of Mormon (III Nephi 15:21) which was, word for word, the same as a passage found in the King James Translation (John 10:16).

Since the Book of Mormon was supposedly written on gold plates in about 421 A.D., and since the King James version did not appear until 1611 A.D., I asked him to explain how this could be. It was obvious that he was unaware of this problem.

His first reaction was to say that this was just coincidence. However, I then pointed out that in the King James Translation this passage contains an italicized word "and" which was supplied by the translators for clarity. This, of course, ruled out any possibility of coincidence; the passage in the Book of Mormon was obviously plagiarized from the 1611 King James Translation.

I politely encouraged him to give some serious thought to this. Later, when mentioning the problem to him again, his only response was simply, "Isn't it amazing how God can work things." He then broke off our discussion.

We would think that such a glaring example of fraud would cause one to back away from the Book of Mormon and take note. However, this man, like many others, had been conditioned to follow the path of blind faith in Mormonism.

When attempting to teach adherents of the Mormon religion, it is important to keep in mind how deep-rooted they may be in their rationale. To have any success in studying with a Mormon, penetrating this barrier is essential.

Contact brother Williams at jongaryw@aol.com. His free book, *The Book of Mormon -- A Book of Error and Fraud*, may be ordered from his website: www.jongarywilliams.com