WITNESSING TIP

• Ask: *Where did you learn about the Great Apostasy?*

• The LDS Church? Do you accept anything that your church said is doctrinally true? Including:
  • The Book of Mormon is ancient scripture?
  • Joseph Smith is a prophet of God?
  • Drinking coffee is sinful?
  • Going to a temple is necessary to be with family forever?

For more on the Great Apostasy, see Crash Course Mormonism mrm.org/great-apostasy-doctrine
“BUT I’VE BEEN BURNED BY RELIGION.”

Possible Responses:

• “Christianity is not about a religion (trying to work our way to God) but about a personal relationship with God.”
• “If Mormonism isn’t true, should it mean God does not exist?”
• “Yes, you were burned. And I’m sorry for that. But doesn’t it seem like throwing the baby out with the bathwater?”
• Would you be willing to consider the claims of Christianity?
Hal said they had considered visiting services at a local Christian church, but they were unsure who could be trusted. His next question floored me because of his sincerity.

“We’re not sure what to do at a Christian church service. What do we wear? When do we kneel? Could you help us?”
HAL AND JENNY

• They were concerned about what to wear
• Most Evangelical churches emphasize “come as you are”—shirts/ties and dresses not expected in most churches
• As far as procedures, I explained how there were differences, but that generally most congregations have a leader (pastor) who will provide clear instructions

• One issue: Music (especially bass guitars and drums in contemporary services)
GOING TO CHURCH

• It’s important to direct those leaving the church to a Bible-believing church that can be trusted

• In Utah, we have a website you can suggest: utahchurches.org
GOING TO CHURCH

• If you know someone who is willing to go to church, invite them to go with you to yours.
• If you meet former Mormons in a service, sit with them.
• Invite them to lunch, on your dime!
GOING TO CHURCH

• Priorities in selecting a church:
  • Correct doctrine
  • Stimulating preaching
  • Near-by location
GOING TO CHURCH

• Emphasis on children/youth (families)
• Wise stewards of finances
• Clear discipline standards
• Emotionally healthy
HOME BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Highly recommended: Find a study in a smaller setting—home or church—where a group of people get to know you and invest in your life.
GET DISCIPLED

• Highly recommended is to find someone of same sex who is willing to meet with you regularly and walk with you during this time
• This can be someone from your church
GET DISCIPLED

• On-line resources:
  • Ex-Mormon Christians: www.facebook.com/groups/XMChristians
  • Mormons in Transition: www.facebook.com/groups/139462380423
  • faithaftermormonism.org/
  • eric@mrm.org

• I would be happy to get you set up with someone, hopefully in the area you live
“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

• There will be hard times
• Trials and temptations
• James 1:5: “Consider it pure joy whenever…”
• In response to temptations, Jesus cited Old Testament three times in Matthew 4:1-11
STUDYING THE BIBLE—REGULARLY

• Many methods
  • Bible in a year
  • One book at a time
  • Wonderful gift from a Christian: Modern version of the Bible (contemporary language, including ESV, NIV, etc.)
  • Just don’t make this a check-off list
• Prayer
  • Formal, stylized prayers are OK—yet God accepts prayers of all types
  • Best from the heart
  • Luke 18:9-14 (Pharisee and the Tax Collector)
WHERE ARE HAL AND JENNY TODAY?

• Today Hal is 86, still sharp and in great shape—a Christian believer!
• Jenny, 86 (a few months older than Hal) has not yet surrendered her life
• Regular attenders of my weekly home Bible study since 2015!
SHOULD YOU TELL THE GROWN CHILDREN?

• Hal and Jenny’s assigned ward in Utah in a different part of town than the children
• They have kept their departure from Mormonism quiet to their children
• Difficult!
SHOULD YOU TELL THE GROWN CHILDREN?

• Hal thinks the children know now but it appears they are not interested in discussing this topic either
• A real risk of losing family (grandchildren/great grands)
• Hal and Jenny have great guilt they raised their family in Mormonism
SHOULD YOU TELL THE GROWN CHILDREN?

• Easy for others to say, “Come on, tell them.”
• In their 80s, they do not believe this is the best thing
• My recommendation: They must make that decision
• Even if you would do it differently, this is not something to be forced
SHOULD YOU TELL THE GROWN CHILDREN?

• This is their personal choice—not a right/wrong moral issue
• Jenny’s hesitation (family)
• Lots of discussions in home fellowship—Trinity, hell, etc.
• The Gospel has been presented clearly (Romans)
ONE FINAL THING: DEALING WITH ANGER

• Ecclesiastes 3:1: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”

• For Mormons, there is a time to be angry
  • Imagine the frustration of being lied to for so many years, like Hal and Jenny

• Ecclesiastes 3:7a: “a time to tear and a time to mend”
ONE FINAL THING: DEALING WITH ANGER

• A time to move ahead and mend
• Loss must be acknowledged
  • But anger cannot control your world
• It took 80 years, but Hal is a Christian today despite longshot odds
• Jenny, I believe, is not far away…
CONCLUSION

• It is possible to transition from Mormonism to Christianity
• The local Christian church is NEEDED! (You)
• Former Mormons make the best Christians! (once lost)
• For ex-Mos, despite the hardships, rejoice!
• Philippians 1:6: ”being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”
Q&A

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Consider our books as well...