1. Joseph Musser

Put pressure on the 3 Kuntzsch sisters and insisted there are two things you must have before you join my organization: (1) your citizenship and (2) your endowment.

Later on after many of the people had been excommunicated, Joseph Musser was giving them the endowment in his home in the basement. Aunt Lucy told me that.

They tried to put a lot of pressure on the two Kuntzsch boys (Albert and Leo) but they wouldn’t join.

Grandma & Grandpa Kuntzsch lived with Lucy & Joseph Musser. As they were not polygamists, they did join Joseph’s organization. He convinced Grandma that Welford Woodruff was a fallen prophet.

Grandma & Grandpa were not excommunicated. They became inactive in their church and when they died, the bishop said they were ward members, just not active.

Albert Kuntzsch wrote a scathing letter chastising his parents & sisters for not keeping the faith.
Lucy Knitzsch married Joseph Mussel 27 Jan 1932. She was still attending the Temple until 26 May 1932.

Grandmother died 11 descendants in 1927, this seems to be the last year she attended, probably due to her crippled leg. She was in a wheelchair the last few years of her life.

Lucy & Joseph had only 2 children:

- Anna = she joined Catholic Church (Colby)
- Amos = lives in S.U.E. as a polygamist

Lucy Mussel, Josephine now in the leader of the group Amos belongs to.

Lucy spoke at Uncle Joseph's funeral. In his speech he said:

"Never f. Grand commanded my father to take another wife. Here wherein has she sinned?"

31 Aug 1932 Gable went through Temple for

Magdalena Mussel for the Mussel Family.

Gable continued Temple work until Nov 1932.
Lucy - Continue going to temple with turbine
in 1932. Jan 27. Last 26 May 1932

Jen divorced other wives in person - married Lucy

Lucy died Nov 10 1970

Died Nov 1975

Gouda - Woolsey 2255 2356 2255 2665 2266

When is HBB for other children?

2 children left who were

Died 17 June 1983

Anna - Broadbents

Remains of polygamist

Rulon Jeff married Hugh B. Brown's daughter
(Ed Farmaker is HBB grandson)

Then married Grace Brow 2 kids
B 1911 Goldston
1 June 1934 Rulon Jeff
Amos Mosseri, Joseph's son, was a promiscuous teacher in Brigham.

Daughter of JWM also in PM

JWM insisted on endowment & citizenship

Joseph gave endowment in his basement according to Lucy
Polygamy Unveiled
by Dal Wiscombe
acquired 1-27-06

Dedicated to my Parents and Grandparents whose faith was strong and true, who stayed in the mainstream of the Church, even though all around them relatives were trying to steady the 2 1/2 cubits Ark; while in reality they would not have chosen to board the larger 300 cubits Ark.

St. Luke: 13:32 “…go ye, and tell that fox…”

St. Mark: 13:22-23 “For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.”

On January 19, 1892 Wilhelm Leopold Knetzsch was born in Quadtiz, (near Bautzen) Leipzig Saxony the 7th child of Theodor Karl Knetzsch and Anna Augusta Kuenzel Knetzsch. He was born shortly before the turn of the 20th century. He grew up in the pre-WW1 Germany where with his older brother Albert Carl; they would swap stories, play and run around as brothers do. Then in a way like no other the Knetzsch family life would change forever. With their older sisters Katharina Anna and Doris Clementine, Albert and Leo were baptized the 7th of April 1902, along with their mother Anna into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. They had three younger sisters who were not yet old enough to be baptized. (In the Church the age of accountability for a child is the age of eight.) Years later his younger sisters Lucy (Lucia) Oltolie, Anna Marie and Goulda (Goldie) Nelly were later baptized when they became of age to be accountable. Lucy, in 1909, Anna in 1910 and Goulda in 1912. Their father Theodore ended up getting baptized in 1913 the last of the family to join the church.

The Church in Germany was still flourishing without the ravages of war. It was shortly before the Great War would start and cause much distress in the world and many financial problems for Germany because of the war and an atrocious debt that would be incurred by their country. Albert and Leo were getting older and more independent and in many ways wanted to help bring about a better lifestyle for their family, as well as to head west to were their newfound religion was headquartered. The family circumstances in 1905 were such that it became necessary for the two older boys, who by then were eating them out of house and home would go to America find jobs and be somewhat of an indentured servant for a while. To gain a perspective of the timeframe in the history of their surrounding area, this was the same year that Albert Einstein did work on his theory of relativity, not too far distant geographically from them. Albert and Leo Knetzsch set out on their adventure, obtaining what would have been the equivalent of a loan so to speak from those willing to pay their fare in exchange for hired help on farms, mill work, or other occupational endeavors where hard work was needed. In return they could help support other family members in Germany to live better and in hope for a future time when the parents and younger sisters could come to live in America as well. Albert and Leo would go first, being 16 and 13 years of age, they sailed to America, on the ocean liner in 1905, (Seven years before the Titanic sank to the bottom of the Atlantic.) and became employed for a Mr. Boehme of Montpelier Idaho where they would work for quite some time, as an indentured servant until the time had passed to equal the amount that was put up to sponsor their passage fare over to the United States, and as long as their labors were need for their sponsors.

They were supported by their own industry, but received help from their sponsors who also helped make it possible for them to grow more independent. However, things were not as nice as Leo would have liked them to be as he thought Mr. Boehme was a very mean and cruel man. At one point he was tempted to get a gun and do him in, but one of the other field hands grabbed hold of him and said, “I am not going to let you ruin your life like this”, and he persuaded my grandpa to take his aggression out in other ways. Being the younger of the boys in the family, Leo sometimes didn’t take as much concern in the example of his older brother as he could have, which developed habits that many young men make in their adolescent years. In his later years he also had some issues with tobacco etc., not looked upon with favor for members of the Mormon church. Many years later, he was eventually able to overcome his smoking habit and was able to make himself worthy to go to the temple, a sign that indeed a church member was in good standing and striving to live by the commandments and revelations of the church. Albert had remained steadier in his younger years and was an example to which Leo really did look up to and admire. In time as they grew older and more independent they were able to help support the other family members on their journey over to America. On one occasion Leo applied for a job to become a paperboy. He applied for this job where there was a line of boys also applying for the same job. Of course there was a language barrier that hindered his ability to communicate properly and he might be discriminated against as well. As he proceeded forward to the chair of the interviewer, he noticed a book lying on the floor along the pathway to where the interviewer sat. Boy after boy had passed this book by, not caring to pick it up. By the time Leo was at the book he leaned over and picked it up, dusted it off and carried it with him to the interviewer. He had enough respect for books and thought he had better pick it up, as it did not belong on the floor. As he went forward to the interviewer with the book in his hand he gave it to him. As he talked to the man, the man explained to him that he thought he would be the best candidate for the job, as he was the only one who had enough concern for the book, as this quality would make him a conscientious paperboy who would care enough and respect the papers he would be carrying on his route. He left that day with a big smile and the job. As time went on Leo would encounter such obstacles as the language barrier, he joked about this scenario many years later with a joke he loved telling of a man being in a restaurant, and the waiter asked how many hot cakes he would like and in his stern and loud German voice, he would utter “nine” which in German means none and the waiter proceeds to bring him 9 hot cakes.

In time Albert and Leo would find companions whom they would marry. Leo would attend the bible study groups that the church would sponsor and for him. It was a duel lesson both in the bible and of English. While attending these classes he met a young lady by the name of Gertrude Maria Magdalene Brock, who after landing on American soil from her voyage from Germany had
proclaimed, "So this is Zion." She too would have the language barrier and the ever-constant study of the scriptures to grow and learn in a whole new way. Because of these bible study classes which were held and both were immigrants from Germany, they found a common bond. They were members of a new yet old faith, and new comers in a new yet old land. The circumstances were two irresistible and convenient so as time passed by they decided to get married. Albert had gotten married nine months before Leo, and no that does not mean zero months before him, it is the literal 9 months. (Punt intended.) So here they were both married struggling along striving to do the best that they could. Children would follow as they usually do, and this is where my mother was born. She was the fourth child and second daughter of Leo and Gertrude. The time span between her older siblings and her younger sister was a fairly large gap, placing the latter two closer in age than the span of years between her older sister. They had a boy named Harry who had died when he was five years old, this was a pain that Leo’s parents were all too familiar with as they had seven of fourteen children die all under the age of eight and many after just a few months of living. This type of pioneer living was seen by many of the saints who had crossed the plains to the Salt Lake Valley, only this was seen and done in a distant land by saints in different circumstances.

After a span of nineteen years Leo was finally able to see his parents come to America where they too had the privilege of worshipping in the land of Zion. By this time however, their homeland and country had already been through the First World War. The war had added more stress to an already turbulent start of Theodore and Anna’s life, loosing that many children can depress the soul and sadden the heart. I’m sure that as a result of losing so many early on in their marriage, made them think to search out the meaning of life and the purpose for which we are all born. This in turn had led them right to the beliefs that helped to carry them through the deaths of their children and the subsequent trials that awaited them after the ravages of war in Germany. In Anna’s journals she records meticulously the amounts for every item that she purchased. She noted on one occasion that it cost an upward of 2 million marks for butter and one trillion marks for a piece of worst. (Worst a tiny piece of meat). The circumstances in Germany after the war seemed at times almost unbearable. The conditions, which their country was left in, made many leave and seek for a better life elsewhere. Many stuck it out and many would eventually grab hold of a new order of living that promised a better life for Germany. These events led up to the time when Adolf Hitler began his frothy speeches promising to undo the damages and ravages that had befallen their country. Many had grabbed onto the new order only to be disappointed in the short years later, again by the defeat of costly and bloody war. Not until the family came to America were they able to simplify the financial stress, which they were under as a result of the First World War.

By the time Anna and Theodore had come, Leo’s younger sisters were as new to him as the kid next door, as he had not seen them for so many years. Time and space had separated them in many ways. His oldest sister Katharina and Doris had decided to stay in Germany as they were married and had children of their own. Later Elsa Louisa Meier, Katharina’s daughter would come over to America, and was raised by her grandmother Anna. Families can grow and expand at an astonishing rate, and the family had grown up to the age where they now could do work in the temple. As was previously mentioned the life of a member of the church needs to be such to make them worthy to enter the doors of the Temple. Temples were much more scarce back in those days than they are today especially in a foreign country far removed from the headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ. They came in 1924 and had waited many years to do work in the temple, as they didn’t have one in Germany at that time. It was quite a reunion as the majority of the family was now over in America. The things the heart holds inside only the people who lived them will really know, but to suffer and suffer and suffer and keep a positive outlook on life requires a help above and beyond our own ability. Naturally the family and especially the girls were also seeking friends to help ease the pain of a life left behind; friends, family, neighbors and all. What better friendship and help than from someone who also knows your language. That’s one big step to getting an influential start in the lives of someone who is new to the country, the language, the customs, as well as to how they live their religion.

As is common to all foreigners the family began mingling with others and by reason of their language barrier and cultural differences, naturally the younger girls would feel inclined to be helped as their former friends and life had basically disappeared. They began their new life in America fairly well, they started attending church, listened intently as good as they could, did temple work, read their scriptures out of the German tongue, thanks to Martin Luther for his beautiful rendition of the Bible in their language and for Joseph Smith and his successors who absolutely felt the incredible need to translate the Book of Mormon in as many languages as possible. Then something happened to this family. The oddest, yet most understandable thing happened, especially for the girls, who were really women by this time. They became attached to a group of older men, some of whom knew their language. They were now at the age where marriage if it was not to pass them buy, should be considered quickly. The three youngest sisters of Leo’s family, wanted to get married as they were nearing their thirties. This is a particularly challenging time for a young lady who has not found a proper husband whom they can marry, especially if you have been taught the importance of obtaining an eternal marriage. Now days it has increasingly been taught that the quality of your life as a woman can be measure by God who knows the desires of your heart and your works. The proclamation to the world from the Church leaders very specifically stresses the importance of marriage and gender issues. People who have an opportunity to get married in this life are counseled to do so in a righteous manner, while those who have been by passed as it seems or negated the opportunity in this life are given hope by the prophets of God that their situation in life can be as rewarding as another’s life and that eternal marriage will not pass them by in the eternities if they live faithful and true.

This is were the most critical and pivotal part of their life hung in the balance, the very time that can make or break a person, their very choice of an eternal mate. They were of a rugged era, and made due as best they could, but they got tied up with the wrong crowd. It is of the up most importance; the friends that you choose and the examples you follow, that in many ways shapes the direction your life will take. Now in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the years since they were practicing polygamy were of a short distance. (1890) There really were only a few fractions and rebellious institutions that practiced polygamy which
existed in comparison to the mainstream of the Church which stayed true and faithful to the prophet of the Church Wilford Woodruff and dismissed with the practice as a binding act to be required at their sacrifice. However, the doctrine was still new in the minds of these immigrants who had only been in the United States a few short years. This was a time when either by not paying close attention to what the leaders of the Church were saying, or they felt that marriage indeed would slip out of their hands, being older and of a different country they sought out a rebel faction, or should we say the rebel group sought them out. Maybe, quite possibly it all appeared so natural and right, so slow, so convincing and so subtle, that they were caught unaware of the position they were putting themselves into. But for three sisters and a niece all fairly close in age to come to America and enter into polygamy and not just by any men that were involved in it, but by the very leaders of the polygamist movement after the Church had told everyone to stop, makes these men a danger for four women who are at a very vulnerable stage of their life.

The men that these three sisters and niece would end up marrying were the first presidency of the fundamentalist church, with the exception of the niece, she married one of the apostles. This was the top, highest ranking members of this group. The group that had declared polygamy alive and well, while the mainstream of the church had been instructed to stop the practice. Mother Kmetzsch had written a journal of her missionary experiences in Germany among other various letters and writings to her children, she wrote quotes and other items of importance in her journal. One particular quote in the back of her book although in German was nicely written along with many others. She was quoting some things of Joseph Smith and of particular interest was a very nice quote from Wilford Woodruff. She was indeed a follower of Wilford Woodruff before she came to America. Her own journal attests to this fact as she quoted him and followed his teachings. It was not until she became involved with helping her daughters to get married that she would be influenced by Joseph Musser, Lorin C. Wooley, J. Leslie Broadbent and Alma Kelsch. I would like to iterate how the influence of these older men to whom the Kmetzsch daughters would marry would influence their mother. She was also taken in by the fact that Musser could speak German. And if he can speak German then he could persuade in their native tongue.

In Anna’s subsequent later journal written while in America it contained sections where she would proclaim Wilford Woodruff a fallen prophet. This definitely has to do with the influence of the wrong kind. To sway someone to believe in their way of thinking is an art, it is a skill and many people from the past have been influenced by the orator with a skill to teach, to persuade and to command the interest of others. (Korihor and Nehor of the Book of Mormon are good examples.) The sad part is that now this family has the roots of division written all over its pages. I come through the family members who stayed with the mainstream of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, while those of my distant cousins are now flourishing in another type of environment, and we don’t even know each other exists.

Back in the 1930’s a Life magazine article featured the younger girls as being associated and marrying into the polygamist sect of the so-called fundamentalist church. This article brought embarrassment to our side of the family or so I was told. They wanted to hide it under the rug so as many families do that don’t want to start pulling old bones out of their closets. The three men that Lucy, Anna and Goulda would marry were Joseph Musser, J Leslie Broadbent, and Lorin C. Wooley. These men were the modern crusaders of keeping polygamy alive. Anna’s granddaughter ended up marrying Louis Alma Kelsch also another influential polygamist apostle. What a group to get caught up with, I’m sure at first the mingling of the new immigrants to the people and culture of the religion they thought they belonged to got distorted quite a bit. The United States was appalled by the function of Polygamy within it’s borders and hence scattering of some early practicing polygamists heading to Canada and Mexico to establish communities there. Albert in very strong language later wrote to his parents and severely chastised them for not believing as they once had. Leo also said he was going to stop supporting more relatives from coming over here if all that they are going to do is get caught up in the polygamist group. This was not their intention nor the reason the family got baptized in Germany in the first place. We know that mother Kmetzsch believed in Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff as a true prophet of God as referenced in her pre-American journal.

Her post American journal shows she was influenced otherwise. The story of the finding of these journals is also a matter of great importance, for as Brian Hales mentioned in his book, “The Priesthood of Modern Polygamy”, polygamist groups have now maintained tight control over the documents and articles that have grown to shape the way they believe today. When anything of a controversial nature would crop up, they would want to douse the fire and put it out before it gets to big or the fire, as the documents prove, will leave some serious doubt in the minds of believers. No one wants things like this to pop up who don’t have a sure foundation upon which they are built, or it will cause the structure to crumble and fall in the face of further investigation, hence the reason for all the secrecy and hiding. (The Mormon Church has gone through this many times with one later issue of Mark Hoffman and the documents he forged that caused a big stir in the country over documents. The Egyptian papyrus resurfacing from the Metropolitan Museum in New York once had by Joseph Smith also continues to invite the investigation of the country. Hugh Nibleys final book he was working on before he died will answer most of the questions regarding the latter issue and Mark Hoffman sits at the Utah State Penetentary if anyone needs to discover how he discredited the Church with his document forgeries.) The prophet of our day and age Gordon B Hinckley has declared that this thing called Mormonism was not done in a corner. People of this country if they had any knowledge of Mormonism, would know that indeed polygamy was taught and practiced by many of its members, but that it has since stopped. No Mormons do not have horns, and Mormons really aren’t Mormons in one sense of the word. We are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter – Day Saints. That means that who ever calls you a Mormon really shouldn’t do so without first knowing of the real and true name. We have no pretensions in the name of our Church. The revealed name was given and that is the one we stand by and stick to. We remain ever sure that the name will not change with the whims and tide of the world. If’t’s Moses’ church or John the Baptist Church, Luther or a different Methodist, or a more Pure—ian way of thinking it is named after the name of He who is at it’s head. We don’t need the name first ministry, first Church of Churches in the realm of Churches. It is simply the name of Him who’s church it is. The Church of Jesus Christ. We, as it was revealed, can not simply say we are the continuation of
the former Church, as we believe there was a definite apostacy from Christ's true Church. The Church he set up with twelve Apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists and so forth has changed drastically in the religions that claim his direct heritage and acceptance. He came to Joseph Smith in answer to Joseph's prayer of faith and told him to, "Join none of them for they were all wrong. Drawing near with their lips but their hearts being far from Him." This did it for the rest of us who eventually became members of the Church, you could not claim that you are of the true Church and still maintain an allegiance to another religion that you claim has many good things in it, or you would by your very statement also say that all churches are good and right and true. Any way back to the story about the shift from following the living prophet to following a self made prophet.

Lucy, Anna and Goulia my mothers aunts fit the perfect scenario for being caught up in a movement that has become bigger than they could have imagined, by reason of the birthrate of a polygamious community and the perpetual teaching of the same doctrine to their offspring. This movement called Fundamentalist Polygamy by the 1920's was thirty years dead to those who stayed mainstream and followed the prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The Doctrine and Covenants states that this is the name of the church, so why would you want to be know as a member of a church that has a name other than the one to which it should be named. According to the very scriptures that you profess to believe as a fundamentalist, you should not need to put that title at the first part of the name of your church. You can not have two churches with the same name. Many polygamists today with the exception of a few other groups that are independently functioning with their own doctrines and origins have followed the writings of these early legends. But once a legend has become more than just a story it can give way to the importance of the truth as things really are.

So within less than ten years since coming to America the Kmetzsch family had four of their daughters married off into a polygamist group. The reason why they came in the first place had been distorted. After reading portions of her journals it is hard to fathom why she would have allowed herself to be caught up in the polygamist movement that she did. But without making excuses for Anna or Theodore or their children that left the church, I can see in some of her trials and tribulations a need to hold onto friendship and encouragement in a new country. The fact that she happened upon a fox and wolf in sheep's clothing really did not occur to her as was attested millennia earlier by Jesus that indeed there would be false prophets come and deceive if it were the very elect. Anna and Theodore were persuaded in their original understanding and beliefs of the church, when they would come and visit the grandchildren of Leo, he would tell his children to go hide or make themselves busy elsewhere as Anna and Theodore still somewhat tried to influence them in the polygamist way of life, but Leo would have nothing to do with it and did not want his own children being persuaded. (Think of the strain this type of relationship this would put on grandchildren and grandparents wanting to see their grandchildren.) This running and hiding would make it hard for my mother to grow up with a very good relationship with her grandmother as the difference in beliefs tore them apart from each other. A simple trip to the store in Grandma and Grandpa Kmetzsch's eyes would be unthinkable to Leo and Gertrude, as they did not want their children being influenced by their grandparents in any way shape or form. (Instead of the approach of we can teach our children anything and avoid the outside influence of the world or better yet our own flesh and blood, they opted for the don't bother us too much syndrome.) Grandma and Grandpa Kmetzsch did die members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Their bishop knew they were in the ward boundaries upon their death. Mother Kmetzsch did not practice polygamy herself and why would she; she had fourteen children of her own, with half of them dying at extremely young ages. Theodore took a little bit longer to be convinced of the necessity to be baptized on account that he was the last one in the family to be baptized, certainly he is not going to be interested in taking upon himself another wife in his old age where he would have to endure childbirth over and over again where he had already seen the ravages of the death toll take place in over have of his children from one wife. He wouldn't have been asked to be a candidate of this law and function as it was not part of the Church any more. Obviously his wife was the one perusing a more vigorous course in studying and writing in her journals about the church and the gospel. His work schedule and time were more limited as attested by his late baptismal date. However, one must take into consideration available accounts to get a better story of the whole picture.

In another of Anna's diaries she is recording the temple work that she and her daughters are doing. Theodore and Anna were attending the temple right when they immigrated in 1924 and from then until June of 1932 she has recorded the people whom she and her daughters were performing work for in the temple. Lucy was married to Joseph Musser on January 27th of 1932 and Anna is still recording the temple work her daughters were doing until June of that year. Anna had ceased going to the temple after 1927 as a result of some severe problems with her legs, which eventually put her in a wheel chair. During this period between 1927 and 1932 the Kmetzsch family was indoctrinated by false prophets, the foxes among saints as I like to call them. They took the doctrine to heart - hook line and sinker as a relative of mine once said, and as a result of the ensuing circumstances to which they were surrounded. But now they could no longer perform the ordinances for the souls of the departed dead, as they would soon be excommunicated. This in turn would prohibit them from attending the temple, the very place where work is to be performed for and in behalf of the departed dead of this earth who have not had the ordinances performed for them. The very ordinances that are necessary to allow them back into the presence of God. The two boys as a result of their isolation from the family actually were able to maintain the true and correct belief of the gospel in their hearts, where as the other family members were not as strong in their will to maintain the mentality to stay true to their original convictions. I am not writing in defense of my ancestors nor am I trying to convince myself that what they did or didn't believe was the result of the influence of these men of modern polygamy, what does remain the point of interest to me is that of this family there are now countless numbers of relatives that I have never met, and that this family has been split apart as a result of the differences of beliefs in doctrine, principle and practice. I to one way and they to another, but I feel duty bound as a keeper of the sources and information that have come into my possession, to unfold the information. Yes it is true that history is written by the victors, that a bias is held within every
Lucy had married Joseph Musser, son of A Milton Musser the historian and archivist. The problems that can happen when information is not recorded in a primary record or a story told that has not been watered down through time should have been one of the greatest concerns from the son of a Historian/Archivist, yet we find Joseph pursuing a story from Lorin C. Woolley that was no where existent until where he told it over 20 years after supposed incidents of a meeting with John Taylor occurred. Anyone with a background in history as Joseph was submitted to by reason of his father position, should have known better. With the position his father had in the church, you should wonder why the irony happened, where Joseph would chase after a story that had absolutely no merit as to the way things were supposed to happen concerning polygamy, and instead of following the living prophets, he chose to stick with the words from 1886 only, and disregard any future revelations. Yes this is what the Arabs have done with their Prophet Muhammad. They continue to this day to follow only the words form the 5th century A.D. and none else. None the less, suppose that indeed a story occurred which Woolley said happened, that indeed the prophet John Taylor told someone to live out of harmony with a future prophet. The story of two and two do not go together, it does not equal four. It still sounds like Muhammad who said I am the last prophet you need to listen to, indeed this is what Woolley said John Taylor told him to do, to continue the practice of polygamy no matter what any future leader of the church might say upon the subject. You throw out continuous revelation right there, end of story end of subject end of discussion, lets quit right there pack our bags and go home and live polygamy. But wait a minute if John Taylor is not like Muhammad and does not declare his word to be the final word in the future, then lets heed the prophet that Anna knew had succeeded President Taylor and listen to him and not be swayed in our belief. The Wentworth letter to Josiah Quincy by Joseph Smith stated that as a church we believe all that God has revealed and that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Immigrants from any country will hold onto a friendly smile, a kind gesture or help in any way that makes their stay in a new country more enjoyable and easy. Lucy as the oldest daughter, decided to take stock in the words of Joseph Musser and was convinced by this excommunicated former member of the Church. The red flag should have gone up at this point for this family, but do to the circumstances and their newfound life among someone who knew their language, they became captivated by his persuasions. Becoming members of a cult would only appear to be the natural path for these saints as persuasion by a friendly sincere face can influence and make an impact on a family in a new country. They scarcely recognized because it was so subtle, that they were becoming subjects of the ways and lifestyle of an excommunicated former member. Joseph Musser was excommunicated many years prior to his marrying of Lucy. He was well skilled in his age by now and good with his abilities of persuasion. Sad thing is in his pursuit of truth he like the Jews of old went beyond the mark. That means they didn’t want to follow any present day revelation, only revelation from the past. If their forefathers had revelation to live by why not us in the here and the now. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Why don’t people understand that reasoning?

Going to the temple while you are a polygamist must not have fully occurred to the three ladies as being wrong. You can’t however live a double standard in the church. You either live the standard that the church has or you will be subject to suffer the consequences which will occur when you are found out not living in accordance with it’s prescribed laws. For as soon as it was known that indeed Lucy, Anna, and Goulda were found to be living in polygamy they were excommunicated from the Church. Many former members of the church have made the image of the church appear confusing or uncertain, gray in this area or gray in that. When in fact it is nearly a reflection of their own lifestyle, their habits and personal beliefs. The Church since it’s inception through the faith of Joseph Smith and all subsequent revelations from him on down to the other prophets have always been clear and concise. The Prophets are not the ones that distort the doctrines they have declared. Even today the same thing continues to happen, people flair up and say to the Church, explain the ruins of Meso-America, why don’t you follow the popes after Peter and so forth and so forth. The same answer comes back to them again and again. There was an apostacy that’s why the 267 Popes after Peter are not followed, and by now means is the story over as it relates to Ancient American History. The old world has had mellenia to study their history give us more than the 500 years that we have recently been studying it’s contents ok. There is more there to dig up more to discover it is not done over night, but revelation can come in an instant. Digging up the past can take longer than just a few nights. So please use patience and intelligence concerning the vast and huge project the discovering of the North, Central and South American history’s past can present to all branches of science and religions.

So the Ketnetzch family found themselves in the predicament that many families have, split up over the differences of religious beliefs and ways of life. Just as Abraham our much earlier progenitor, now has three major religions claiming a spiritual and lineage history through him. The Christians, Islamic peoples and Judaism, all claim their family ties and religion stemming from his loins. Family ties that bind us together as brother and sisters, as neighbors and friends, communities and nations, all stem back through time and link us as family. Why then as Joseph Smith had wondered are there so many different churches and which one of them is right. So by the 1930’s my great aunts were swept away into the fold of frustration, the fullness of the gospel as they claim, living a practice that the prophet whom they once revered had said to stop. They were too caught up into the kindness and generosity of friends who for them, made them feel comfortable and easy, as again some knew their language, which was a key to open the door to their hearts. There were not large amounts of German saints in those days and those who did know of it were mostly gathered together into one ward where they could come and worship and mingle together. Language is a big factor in proclaiming the gospel to the world as a new language seems to crop up and leave a boundary that you have to jump or hurdle across to make a connection with the minds of individuals worldwide.

Soon these modern day polygamists would make a sacrifice that looked similar to the one that the earlier saints had made. They
would have their husbands taken from them and put into prison for practicing the belief of polygamy. There are so many resemblences and similarities of suffering and imprisonment at the hands of the political leaders of the nation, that it could to some seem confusing as to whether these people of today are Mormons or not. It needs to be cleared up once and for all that the people practicing polygamy today are not Mormons. They can not because they are breaking laws severely enough to warrant excommunication and severance from the Church, as well as imprisonment from the government. Just as the Gays and Lesbians in the church are excommunicated as well. The Church would like to help these individuals and communities to repent and reform and conform their life to the higher standard that God has set for his children to live. The Church today has reaffirmed again in the Proclamation to the World in 1995 the need to adhere to Gods laws of marriage, fidelity, and uprightness. In our modern day society, modern day polygamists are being imprisoned for their beliefs. The difference between now and then is the time span between when the nation came out with laws against polygamy. Also the laws of God are against such a practice-taking place now. It is not because God does not have the power to make a wrong a right in the nation according to our faith; it is for the simple fact that He values our free agency above making a wrong into a right. He truly does let the rain fall on the just as well as the unjust, the wicked and the righteous alike.

In many states and communities there are laws now being enacted to protect the marriages of same sex couples and are becoming the accepted norm in many countries. There is no difference in my opinion as to why a polygamist is imprisoned for his or her belief and that of the gay or lesbian couple being put in prison for their practices. I am not putting up a defense for modern day practitioners of polygamy because it is against the law. I am for free agency for all, gays, lesbians, polygamists and the like. I only see that the laws of the nation are changing to fit the circumstances of the way the minds and hearts of the people of the country are being swayed. They still punish rape and I hope the time doesn’t come when that will be an accepted norm, like so many other things as abortion and fornication etc., are accepted as a natural way of life for many in the country. The polygamist of today can get frustrated who by reason of their faith claim they are living a more fulfilling and righteous life. A life that is the fullness of the gospel as they claim. They believe they are not upsetting the laws of God. The Gay and Lesbians claim they are not upsetting the laws of God or the land by living their lifestyle.

Now you can see why Leo did not want to bring any more relatives over to get mixed up in the polygamist lifestyle. The communities of today have grown into (hats and bonnets) wearing people, though many don’t to try to blend in with the communities in which they live. They have become capitalist entrepeneuers as any other member of the United States. They have a dress code in some communities and not in others, areas in southern Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Montana and Idaho have become the western corridor for many groups. They live in Saint George, Colorado City; Eskdale, Short Creek, St. John area as well as Springerville and many other towns that could be populated with groups of polygamists. Some don’t mind hiding from the limelight and will allow pictures to be taken as in the 1996 January edition of the National Geographic, or with Tom Greens appearance on National Television talk shows and the national publicity of the Kingstons in Northern Utah with the publicity of their 16 year old running away from the compound and his law trial in Brigham City, Utah. The former governor of Utah has a brother that was the Attorney that prosecuted Tom Green for his infractions of the law with his underage minor as a wife. The untold amount of deaths that have occurred from the LeBaron group, the Singers, Swapps, Laffertys and others have left a trail of blood as it relates to their own personal convictions and revelations concerning polygamy. No wonder my grandfather felt impressed to stop bringing any more people over. Now many are heading to Texas as they feel the end of the times is nearing closer and closer, which is. Some are being left behind in Utah and Arizona with the feeling that they are not as good as the group that left with Warren Jeffs, Rulon Jeffs son and successor to the leadership of the group. It is frustrating for some and discouraging for others.

However, the truth be told, most groups are more civilized than the blood quest polygamists just mentioned. Most are more quiet, more refined. Many go to college to learn and obtain degrees; others don’t separate their religion with their secular studies. The people that work outside of the community who go to school and work will send 2-3 percent back to the community to help it keep flourishing. One thing is for certain if you go snooping around these communities, you had better tell them exactly why you are there, as they are suspicious of your actions and naturally should be as their lifestyle is an infraction of the law. That puts most of them in a certain frame of mind and with a certain stigma about their friendliness to others around them that don’t think or believe the way they do. They are ran by males and the head woman usually the males mother who is in charge. They deal with cash, strive to be self-sufficient etc. When the media gets to close to them they drive them off as quickly as possible to not cause any commotion or disturbances. They will be persistent in knowing why you are there and if they feel you are up to no good then they will more forcibly ask you to leave. Why wouldn’t the majority feel this way look what they did to the earlier real Mormons when they were practicing polygamy. They got imprisoned by the government and were driven from their homes etc. They had to go into hiding, just as the groups today are many of them in hiding as it were. Don’t forget these groups are not Mormon’s but should be classified as ex- or former members which really translates into the religion of their own make, following the orders of leaders who created an offshoot from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

They have gardens and there is supposed to be absolute equality among them as it reflects an earlier doctrine taught by Joseph Smith of a community of saints that were independent and consecrated themselves to living a higher standard. Such a community has been tried and tried without complete success in our day and age, but hope for the future still remains even in a war filled world. Some communities have their own power systems with large electric bills to which they give support. Some of the richer communities are drilling wells and constructing other facilities to support themselves independently from the government either local, state or federal. Many do stocks and don’t deal in credit, they rent to local farmers and were at all possible they do not pay their taxes, another prime target for the government to investigate, hence another reason to remain hidden from the law.
and not discuss to much of your personal life with others. Even some of their marriage customs now resemble that of the Jewish community wherein the parents and ecclesiastical leaders will help them choose a suitable mate for them to marry. It to them is better than the random sex filled lives of the citizens of the other communities of the nation around them. When you are a single person in this community it is strongly if not forcibly in some respects enforced to not remain single as it relates to fourteen or older for the females and eighteen and above for the males. They have their own community with firefighters who have been trained from other communities to help themselves be as sufficient for themselves as any other city in the country. Many hundreds of young boys are ostracized and cast out of these communities as they are now competing for the women of the community and this in some ways upsets the leaders who have their polygamist wives of the future in jeopardy. The only thing those leaders could think up was to ostracize those boys and send them away from their community to start their own way of life. As much what seems to have happened to Ishmael were he felt less loved in his home than did Isaac. His self esteem was such that he felt the need to mock and incurred the displeasure of Sarah, God allowing it to be so and indeed helping Ishmael to find strength in the desert. He married a woman from Egypt. And the nations of the Arabs came of Abraham’s loins. So to the modern day boys cast out from the society of their heritage will now have to make due and find their own path to persue outside the commune.

Tom Green mentioned in a discussion about his polygamous lifestyle stating that a man was designed to have more than one wife, this he based upon the pretence of men having the capacity to populate. The reproductive capacity to have thousands of children. Man is not like a rabbit, where he needs to continually make women pregnant to populate the household to the point where it bursts at the seams. God intends for us to use our wisdom and best judgment consulting with Him daily as to our motives and actions. Whenever people of the nation hear of these stories they misconstrue these groups as being members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (Mormons) As a Mormon I can attest that we do not have horns, we do not have lots of wives, we are not polygamists. Yes it is true that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did, along with some of the early members of the Church since Joseph Smith’s day, but Peter and Paul did not, neither did the Nephites the Book of Mormon people and neither do we practice it today. The time frames are different, but the principle of polygamy is not. We don’t have polygamy today. How much clearer how much plainer can I make this point. We are not, we do not, and we have not been practicing for well over a hundred years now. The church has over 12 million members as the polygamous groups measure close to the hundred thousand range. Joseph Mussers journal form March 11th 1935 stated that “…the Lord must be pleased with our course, else he would set us right; No good father will permit his children who want to do right to go far astray…” . That is the great big question those who want to do right, do you really or are you just saying that, because there is a big difference between actually saying and doing. God wants doers of the word and not hearers only. One of Joseph Smith’s main teachings throughout his life was that men are to be judged by their works. Think on that strongly. Judged by your works. This definitely brings to mind the teachings of the Savior as recorded in Luke 6:44 “For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.” Common sense logic will tell you right away that figs are gathered of a fig tree and grapes of a grape vine.

To make it completely plain and clear the churches position on marriage in the church, may I quote a paragraph or two from James Talmage an apostle of the Church who died in 1933, but who wrote of this in 1931 he said, “This holy order of matrimony, involving covenant and blessing for both time and eternity, is distinctively known in the Church as Celestial Marriage, and is administered to those only who are adjudged to be of worthy life, eligible for admission to the House of the Lord: for this sacred ordinance together with others of eternal validity may be solemnized only within the Temples reared and dedicated for such exalted service. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, however, sanctions and acknowledges legal marriages for mortality alone, and solemnizes such unions, as the secular law provides, between parties who do not enter the Temple or who voluntarily choose the lesser and temporal order of matrimony. The ordinance of Celestial Marriage comprises and includes marriage for time, and is therefore administered to none who are not legally eligible to marry according to the law of the land. Marriage that shall be valid after death must be solemnized here, as must all other ordinances required of men in the flesh, and that under the authority given of God for earthly administration.”(The Marriage Institution) This quote sets the stage for the goals which church members should have been striving to attain. This was published in 1931, but those that did not follow the council of the true living prophets were led astray by their own false doctrines, by their own apostles and their own way of living. Although my grandfather struggled with some issues he did make the effort to eventually attend the temple. It was better later than never. He raised his children the best he knew how and instilled within them a love of the gospel. My mother was the fourth child and second daughter and she went the way of the church that followed the prophet. Joseph Smith has said that one main difference between our church and others is the spirit. This would make no difference as to whatever church you were in. There are only two churches as the Book of Mormon states, the Church of God or the Church of the Devil. Bruce R. McConkie ran into some issues with persuing this doctrine to the point of naming other churches as falling under this very statement Church of the Devil. It was indeed a true statement, but deemed offensive to maintain a healthy relationship of feelings. Indeed the doctrine does come from the Book of Mormon and when taken in the light of good will toward men it seems harsh and verbose to claim such a statement. Yet indeed it is the Lords very own comment to Joseph Smith at the ushering in of this last dispensation to Joseph Smith that “…I must join none of them, for they were all wrong.” How can anyone mistake these words? Two churches only, one right and all wrong. And again further revelation speaking of the Church collectively and not individually saying that after publishing the Book of Mormon through him (Joseph and others whom these commandments were given to bring forth) “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth…” This doctrine really puts a hamper on some individuals life styles. They say in the conviction of their hearts as Luther did to his theological professors of old. What about the Greek Christians outside the Roman Catholic institution. Are they to be denied salvation in the Celestial kingdom of God. The answer Joseph would have given would be a resounding yes. For
spoke Joseph on the subject at hand. Are everyone but the Mormons going to be damned? He said yes and a number of them also if they don’t repent and work righteousness. All these statements seem just as harsh as the comments on the Roman Catholic Church Elder McConkie placed in his 1957 edition of Mormon Doctrine. Similar sentiments were previously provoked by Martin Luther and the like, with their statements against the institutions that were not practicing the teachings of Jesus Christ.

I find it interesting as Orson Pratt in his book The Seer has said, “Children are susceptible of influences; those whom they esteem most they will be the most likely to imitate.” He also states that “Parents cannot train up a child in the proper path, unless they walk therein themselves.” (The Seer p. 105 Seagull Book SLC 1993) For my grandparents to be new members of the church and very tender as a newly pruned branch, they did not have the background and solid firm ground dug round about them. Theodore when he came over from Germany was also a gardener on the grounds of Temple Square. One might expect that with his association and close proximity to the people and culture that he would have had more of a chance to accept the Church that has continued to keep and own the Temple Square grounds. Once again the influence of Joseph Musser and his ability to speak German really helped to influence their feelings toward the continuance of polygamy. Lucy had come over a little bit earlier than her parents did, but by the time that everyone came here, it was not one big happy family anymore, they started to separate their ways and there came a time where for approximately ten years they did not speak to one another. The season had ended for polygamy in the mind of Albert and Leo, for Lorin C. Wooley, J. Leslie Broadbent, Joseph Musser, Alma Kelsch, who married my mothers aunts, they were not finished with that part of the Mormon religion. They happened to marry Germans, and Germans are not easily persuaded from change. Just ask anyone who was in WWI or WWII. I don’t mean to be stereotyping, as I am part German myself, but there is a certain heritage that groups of people from all different parts of the world carry with them from their blood lineage etc. People can change and make their nature better if they have strong enough wills, but to change a complete lifestyle can be hard and difficult. To be forgiving takes even another step to help people on the road to recovery. Why would a family stop talking to each other for ten years if there wasn’t some form of stubbornness on both sides of the family. Usually there is a personal agenda on both sides of the table that need to be broken down for the communication to start. I grew up where some of that prejudice continued on. It was known in the community where I grew up that a certain teacher of descent from my mother’s aunt Lucy was a schoolteacher at the public school to which me and my brothers and sisters were and would be attending. When one of my brothers or sisters would have this teacher on their roster for the next year, my mother would get very upset at the situation and demanded that we be taken out of the class as she didn’t want anything to do with us being influenced in any way shape or form in anything that this polygamist might be teaching to us. However, my mother gave in to the persuasions of my father and allowed us to attend his class if we happened to get stuck on his roster. I for one rather enjoyed his class and have talked to many other students who really enjoyed being in his class. Of course in a class that is at a public school you are not going to talk of too much religion, however, by the time I came around to being in his class my parents thought it might be a good opportunity to do a little bit of communicating with a relative of polygamist persuasion.

When I would go to school they would occasionally send Genealogy with me to hand to him after class was over, where they told me to just kindly hand it to him and tell him it was from my parents, and it has some Genealogical information about yours and our ancestors in it. Years earlier my parents had visited this teachers mother to see if perchance she might have any more information about my mothers grandmother and the teachers grandmother. My father was able to obtain some very good information on a particular visit with my mother; they of course left Leo home as they did not want to cause a scene as very well might have happened. My parents being seriously involved with genealogy and family history wanted to learn more, they wanted to break the barriers that so many of us live behind, especially religious differences barriers. Years later this same teacher whom at first my mother despised any of her children taking classes from ended up visiting us on our doorstep and presented my mother and father a brown box that had a treasure trove of information about my great grandmother, her mission journal, and a number of other smaller journals that had writings of temple work, financial documents during and after WWI from both Germany and America, it had some writings of both Joseph Musser and my Great Grandmother in another book. One of the reasons why I have taken an interest in writing of these things has been because of this brown box to which genealogy and other documents were found. A copy of the German Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants was also included inside the box.

Why would I want to make these things known? Too help if it can to bring at least one person a little more knowledge about their family. If it can be persuasive enough, I would like to challenge those who are in a polygamist relationship to view their history and view it not just in the light of what people are telling them now about the history of their beliefs. If I can help them look backward just a few generations to look at the type of people that were getting involved and their circumstances, maybe I can present a little bit of information for them to look at in a different light. I believe that God has had his children from time to time live the principle of polygamy. That much I will agree with. It is written down in all the major books of scripture that we would both agree came from the writings of the prophets. That is a starting point for both of us. I will not try to present a treatise on the history of polygamy or the succession of church leaders that are already written in many books on polygamy that are very good. You can find them in bookstores and libraries. Books such as Richard Van Wagoners Mormon Polygamy a history (1986 Signature Books) and Brian C. Hales and J. Max Anderson’s book The Priesthood of Modern Polygamy (1992 Northwest Publishing Inc.) are excellent sources for obtaining the ins and outs about the old and new polygamy. Others such as Alvin R. Dyers book the Fallacy (1964 Deseret Book) are another good source of information. I do not have all the journals, dairies and writings of Joseph Musser, or his early companions and leaders that married my mothers aunts, but what heritage has come down to me is a conviction and a testimony that will be the basis of my book. I have a degree in History and could utilize all my time in putting down references and footnotes to pinpoint this or that doctrine, read from this journal or that journal, but I don’t have enough time in my
schedule to pursue that route. Trying to raise a family, work and play are a full time job aside from the other jobs. My family comes first, but on the side during quiet times the questions and answers can be given to an honest seekers of the truth.

So now onto the real discussion with my relatives living today, you to whom I have never seen, you to whom I have not visited. My father has been among your society, for funerals and other such occasions as he was able, he has a love of genealogy, to further open the communication lines as far as he is able. Both sides of the family near and extended believe in the Book of Mormon both have read in Jacob chapter 2 verse 30 “For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things.” Also in verse 26 it reads “Wherefore, I the Lord God will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old.” He was talking about polygamy. He said that this group who followed Nephi would not practice this principle. Did some of them do it against the Lords commands? Yes they did and it brought down a condition upon them as it says in verse 35 where “...many hearts died, pierced with deep wounds.” Why would the book to which we both believe have a section on polygamy? Why would Abraham, Isaac and Jacob live the principle and Peter, James, John and Paul would not. Why does one dispensation have practicing members and another period of time they will not be practicing. When will you ever stop practicing polygamy if you are now involved with it. Do your prophets have a time when they will tell you not to do it anymore? Your own books of scripture tell you otherwise, the Prophet Joseph Smith, another prophet to whom we both look to write in 1842, which was part of the Wentworth Letters information. “We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God”. Yet reveal made sure that Joseph left it open for the future prophets that would follow him to have the inspiration of the Almighty fall upon them for them to dictate to us the road that we should follow. John Taylor is not going to give a revelation that says don’t listen to any future revelation from a prophet after me if he says to stop the practice of polygamy. If you believe that then you don’t believe in the prophet Joseph Smith.

There are so many books and articles published on polygamy giving the demographic regions, the percentages of families and individuals involved that mostly deal with the historical aspects of the practice. This article will deal primarily with the key images of why the Lord would or could possibly require it of His saints and their obligation to keep His commandments. If you never understand why something is required then you will not understand why you must stop either. I will endeavor to put forth the scriptures, quotes and ideas of the early practicing members. I am not advocating the practice of polygamy. These are orders only given by the Lord through his living prophet. If this article can help you understand the charge to practice it when the Lord has commanded and feel the charge to stop the practice, by the same command then you will have come full circle with the information in your own mind and can put to rest the doubts and confusion that encircles the word polygamy. Most people even upon hearing the word Polygamy have an instantaneous misconstrued conception about what it is and the images that go into ones mind are often polluted, diluted and of an inaccurate nature to give the proper image.

For many modern day women hearing the subject talked about in jest by their husbands or friends can bring feelings of frustration and disgust because of the image of their husband being married to others besides themselves. They would naturally want to be first and fore most in the eyes of their husband with no one else obstructing that view. But, what if God required it of them? Then as Joseph Smith has said, “That which is wrong under one circumstance, may be and often is, right under another. God said, “Thou shalt not kill,” at another time He said, “Thou shalt utterly destroy. This is the principle on which the government of heaven is conducted- by revelation adapted to the circumstances in which the children of the kingdom are placed. Whatever God requires is right, no matter what it is, although we may not see the reason thereof till long after the events transpire.” Also “…as God has designed our happiness and the happiness of all His creatures, he never has- He never will institute an ordinance or give a commandment to His people that is not calculated in its nature to promote that happiness which He has designed, and which will not end in the greatest amount of good and glory to those who become the recipients of his law and ordinances. (Teachings p. 256-257)

We learn from this that our own wills will have to be swallowed up in His until we become like Him. Too often our own selfish wills become the standard for our lives and hence make it harder for us to accomplish what the Lord would like for us. We are keeping ourselves out of the right path by not accepting what he has given, or what he has taken away. Again the patience of Job and the lesson of his life can give new meaning to those who feel they are on the right path, but are really on the wrong path. Job lost everything imaginable that you could think of, but still counted it to the credit of God, Job said, “...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away...”(Job 2:21) He has a right to do that you know, and it is up to us to be like Job and accept those facts. I would like to put myself in the predicament of another and try as it were to determine whether I am in the right path or not. Have I accepted all avenues of thought, have I put the test to the challenge. You don’t go around town advocating polygamy up and down the streets, that was never the intention of the church. Stanley Iivins put the sum of Polygamy in this nice little nutshell of thought. This “…experiment in family relations extended over a period of approximately sixty-five years. It was professedly inaugurated on April 5, 1841, in a cornfield outside the city of Nauvoo, Illinois, with the sealing of Louisa Beaman to Joseph Smith. And it was brought to an official end by a resolution adopted at the 74th Annual Conference of the Utah church, on April 4, 1904. (Realy September and October of 1890) Since that time, those who have persisted in carrying on with it have been excommunicated. But the project was openly and energetically prosecuted during only about forty years. For the first ten years the new doctrine was kept pretty well under wraps, and it was not until the fall of 1852 that it was openly avowed and the Saints were told that only those who embraced it could hope for the highest exaltation in the resurrection. And during the fifteen years prior to 1904, there were only a few privately solemnized plural marriages. (Solemnized in the sense that they happened, but not sanctioned by the prophet.) So it might be said that the experiment was ten years in embryo, enjoyed a vigorous life of forty years, and took fifteen years to die.” (Utah historical Quarterly Fall, 1967 vol. 35 Num. 4 p. 310)
And in the case of modern day polygamists they affirm that it has not died. They wanted to continue on over a hundred years after it had ended. Has it brought the growth and testimony to them like it has to the members of the Church now nearly twelve million strong with a conviction that indeed the practice of polygamy was ended. Do the hundred thousand or so believers of today still affirm that till the end of time they will practice this principle? Is there ever going to come a time when one of their prophets will declare that it is enough? And the time has come to stop?

We see in the case of modern day polygamists the break right here at the junction. The period where confusion should not reign, as God has said he is not the author of confusion. He did not set up the saints to drop them on their heads and delight in the confusion that did abound in the minds of the country and many of the saints. He does not give a commandment (as was discussed in earlier paragraphs) to his children simply to see them struggle, although it happens, but He in His higher and infinite wisdom has already done the calculations to which we are just now experiencing, that portion of life lived, "calculated in it’s nature to promote that happiness which He has designed… that will (eventually if not always in this life) end in the greatest amount of good and glory to those who become the recipients of His law and ordinances." (Teachings pp. 256-257)

So onward again if I haven’t lost you to the fact that exists. I have descended from a heritage and so has everyone else that is on this planet. My ancestors came from England and Germany. Both sides of the family had received of the gospel of Jesus Christ as restored to the earth through the prophet Joseph Smith and the miraculous translation of the Golden plates from the stone box containing the records. My ancestors believed the information presented to them. They held strong convictions within their hearts as evidenced by the information that they have passed down from generation to generation. I came from ancestors who were not perfect, as we today are not. But they did maintain the convictions of following the spirit and the living prophet. Why did my Great Grandmother decide to allow her younger daughters to participate in the fundamentalist church as they call themselves today? All of them married into the highest division of the fundamentalist church, whether you want to call them the first presidency, the high priest apostles or just apostles. All three of my mother’s aunts and her cousin married into this fundamentalist faction. My grandfather Leo and great Uncle Albert, did not go to this offshoot of belief. They were baptized in 1902 in the period where the church had stopped the practice of polygamy. They came to America with the truth of the Church instilled in them. They struggled as all members do to keep and maintain that conviction without letting someone else or the fiery darts of the adversary try to destroy their convictions. I believe that it is my duty to release the information that I have been given to try and benefit the reader to think. Think about the reasons why you believe what you believe. Brian C. Hales has written a book in the hopes of reclaiming a member of his family who has partaken that lifestyle in the hopes of proving through research and sound logic the fallacy of that way of life today. I highly recommend his book “The Priesthood of Modern polygamy”. This book was co-authored with J. Max Anderson. Some other writers of fundamentalism are sympathetic to these groups today believing they should be left alone and not bothered with. I think that in order to help people understand more properly the actions of the individuals from the past, you will gain a better understanding of why you believe what you do today.

All of us grow to the age of accountability and reason. When you are two years old your reasoning is what is in front of you. As you become older you begin to investigate and question more things, so that by the time you are a young adult and teenager and beyond you begin to formulate your beliefs that become a part of the rest of your life. If you have grown up in a Catholic, Protestant, Mormon, Polygamist, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Tao, Zoroastrian, Amish, or other, your upbringing will largely influence the way you will formulate and grow in your beliefs. If you have something to share with the rest of the world, the world should take what is good you have to say, incorporate it into their life and throw the rest away that is fit for vultures and rodents. Joseph Smith said we should treasure up truth. Truth also happened to be one of the titles of literature that the fundamentalists were publishing. I have read some exerts and other various bits and pieces of it, but find that error is also contained in it. Why not go back to the nucleus of a family before it was divided. An atomic bomb when it splits its atoms makes for a large amount of unstable atoms. A family when it is divided also makes for a large amount of unstable members in it. These are the last days, the days that will have men’s hearts failing them, as they are not strong enough to withstand the blast of the adversary. No family or individual is strong enough without the help of the Almighty to combat the myriad and various new avenues and crafty plots and plots that the devil has mustered up in the last days. He too will utilize all the modern conveniences and luxuries that we have to become tools of his trade in trying to thwart our course. My great grandparents Theodore and Anna didn’t believe everything about the fundamentalists. They never officially were excommunicated as they remained upon the records of the LDS church. Should they have been excommunicated for the sympathies and feelings they held for the polygamist group? This could have been a determining cause for the Judge in Israel who was over their case and cause. When someone leaves this church, the church has on more than one occasion reached out with outstretched hands to cry repentance and desire and work and help to reform those who have been excommunicated. It is a serious matter to them to have the proper voice calling out to those who have become entrapped in the ways that are contrary and contradictory to the way of life that will bring true happiness to it’s members. So I say to you who are of the polygamist faith, please come back don’t stay involved another moment in the lifestyle you have chosen. It will be hard, probably the hardest thing you will ever do to break away from the people, the emotions and feelings that you have tied up into your religion and way of life. Joseph Smith to whom you also believe if you do believe him said, “a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary to lead unto life and salvation.” ( ) We have to be willing to sacrifice for the truth, not just our heritage. Some things in our past are not desirable; those have to be laid aside in order to pave the way through to better days ahead. So please consider what I have told you concerning some of the beginnings of the fundamentalist church. Don’t let the hang ups of these men who married my mothers aunts be the same cause of your concerns. My mother was taught by her mother and father, and they helped instill in her a
desire to do what was right. My mother believed in Jesus Christ, she read of him, she taught of him as well as my father. They instilled in me the desire to pursue truth and to follow the spirit of the prophets, those who witness today of the importance of staying in the mainstream of the church. Please come back that you can be with the church when you cross the veil to the next world. For your marriages nor your children will be sealed to you worlds without end unless you repent of the ways you have pursued. Please come back and drop all polygamist ties.

Tom Green is now doing what Joseph Musser did fifty years ago. He is taking new pride in his verbal apologetics when deep down he knows it is just to comply with the statutes of the law that put him behind bars for these past few years. This couple of years in prison only made him think he really can’t accomplish his secret religious tenants behind bars. However taking your young wife to be your only wife does show the public what they want to see, a conformity to the law! It does seem a bit ironic however that especially for outsiders to see the persecution and trials held by lawyers and judges for polygamous groups in Utah can seem a bit hypocritical. If you investigate further however, it reveals a side of Utah that outsiders and even staunch members have a hard time understanding. But it really is a matter of making correct choices on issues dealing with multiple wives, the same as it is of banning same sex marriages. These are the issues facing America today. These are the new laws being enacted that will govern the next generations. The Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches of our government are under obligation as well as each individual state to see too it that the correct laws are in place. Does anyone wonder why a few years back states fought against polygamy with such religious vigor, and now many states seem to have the opinion that same sex marriage does not violate the laws of God. Next the same sex marriage couples will want same sex rights to have multiple marriages and partners in the name of their inalienable rights conferred upon them by reason of their existence, their privilege will you, of being born in a free country.

You can see where this is heading. Pretty soon there won’t be a law or a right that is a just and true cause because the American Civil Liberties Union will deem what is constitutional instead of the judicial branch of our government. It is becoming increasingly and more readily apparent that our government is on the verge of breaking by a tread this very moment. We have a right in this country to stay separate in church and state, but not to the point where now the state has taken the rights of individuals everywhere to perform religious acts of service or speech right out from underneath their own door step. When I was younger and in school, we were able to pray, be whatever religion we were. Now my children are growing up in a school system that cringes at the thought of even uttering such words. The very constitutional convention was started with an act of prayer so that a higher source of help could be summoned upon to give aid and assistance to a struggling society. Are we not struggling now with the issues that face America? We are in a time now more than ever before where we need to draw upon the sources of a higher power than our own as we are steadily heading in a downward spiral of filth and frustration. The Internet with all it’s wonders and ability to draw one closer and quicker to resources of knowledge and wisdom has become infested with filth and pollution of a sordid nature. Parents and children are ever on the watch to keep the smut and grime out of their homes. Many things unsolicited and unwanted by the slip of the finger on a keyboard or a misspelled word will take one into a realm where the devils playground lurks.

If we are going to teach our children to grow up to honorable people in society, we must be honorable people. If we don’t want anything stupid know about ourselves, we must not do anything stupid. That which goes around will surely come around. What goes up comes down. Truly what seeds we plant will come up from the ground sprouting in different directions. It is our duty to keep the weeds out of the garden. What garden ever grew very well where the weeds were not continually watched out for and plucked from the ground? This talk of polygamy therefore becomes not only an issue of religious beliefs, for we still claim in the United States to be able to have the freedom of religion as far as it lets us go without bringing harm to individuals, societies and communities. A religion that delights in killing others as part of their fundamental beliefs are going to be stopped by other God fearing folks who disagree with those beliefs. It becomes paramount that we find out what the limits really are. To Jesus the query came of the tax to be paid, what shall we do? He asked them whose insignia was on the coin? They told him Caesar! And He answered them “render unto Caesar the things that be Caesars, and unto God the things that are Gods”. How great and powerful those statements really were. It allows us to determine the very same importance that we place on the idols and gods we worship. Are we rendering unto God the things that are His? This in the first place really is everything when you have the belief that God has created this world and everything in it. If you don’t at least believe this way, certainly you will render unto the government what is theirs hopefully? Or the tax collector when he finds you will issue a penalty you won’t find pleasant.

Polygamy should not always be viewed in the historical perspective, although that method does bring some clarity to the issues at hand. It would be to the advantage of the layman to view some other data besides ones that are connected to a footnote. We become lost in the literary wrangling and semantic jargon that we lose sight of why we started to read the information in the first place. Often we become disgruntled by what we are reading or have an over obsessive fixation on certain criteria that we think should be addressed that we simply lose interest altogether and put the book down. What makes a good book, or article worth reading, is the fact that each page makes it worth while and interesting. The words captivate your attention and your thoughts. The words will elevate one too higher grounds of thinking and reasoning.

When serving a mission for the church in California, we attended a church with some people that were investigating the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They said they would come to our church if we would come to theirs. In order to be as nice as possible we accommodated them in their wishes. While listening to the speaker, music and healing events of the minister, we were told a story by him of King David. He told us that even though David had done the many bad things that he did, he was still Gods prophet. I have heard this numerous times since then by articulate orators with large followings. This still brings to my mind the words Jesus spoke to Joseph in the grove, “...those professors were all corrupt...they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me...having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.” (JSH 1:19) This somewhat disturbed me, as once again in the light of modern day revelation delivered to His prophet today, David it
is said was not justified in committing the acts that he did, namely that he committed adultery and also planned the death of Uriah the Hittite so that it would be a swift and sure death. The word today tells us that David’s problems with Bathsheba could have been overcome, but that his slip up in killing Uriah was the back breaker for his high position in this life and in the next. Yet time and time again, professors and orators of religious gatherings around the country, continue to exalt David, completely bypassing the fact that he murdered someone. They are the ones today that say as Nephi explained in the Book of Mormon “And there shall also be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.” (2 Nephi 28:8 Book of Mormon p. 107)

What are the questions that are to be answered by a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that would be of interest to the rest of the world? Why another book on the Church from the standpoint of a member? It is because some of the other books though good in their nature and with professional care taken to see that certain points are made, sometimes skip the deeper meaning to which our answers are really grounded. The root of the problems often times go unnoticed. Why do we say the things that we say about the bible? The bible is the most common record that we have among all of us of Christendom. Why do we have so many differing opinions upon the subjects and characters, stories, etc., not to mention the fact that the book itself has no original copy in existence? This mere fact is a major problem for members of our church. We stick by the Articles of Faith written out for us by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and in it there is the claim that we do believe the bible as far as it is translated correctly. The Church states that we believe the bible to be the word of God along side with the Book of Mormon and that they complement each other.

Because we do not have any original copies of the Bible should be of concern to bible believing people. The original Hebrew texts as the words came forth of the tip of the writing utensil that Moses, Isaiah or Malachi used when inscribing onto the parchments of old are not to be found anywhere. If they were then we would have had as much excitement for them as we have for the Dead Sea Scrolls, Nag Hammadi texts etc. These later texts are still by products from the original. Can anyone dispute this fact? We do not have any original texts of the bible any earlier than the Dead Sea Scrolls! This is a historical and established fact, and because there are no earlier texts than these it becomes necessary to compare the earliest texts with the texts that have come to us through the hands of competent various other scholars. The King James Version for instance has been widely accepted as a competent version, but why still all the various versions? Why are we still trying to get more meaning and clarity to the bible if it didn’t have the need of being subject to changes and clarity improved? This doesn’t mean a clarification of grammatical problems, but meaning and content. This is by far one of the most strenuous concerns that others have about members of our Church. Why don’t they believe the bible like everyone else? Why are they not Christians like everyone else? We answer these questions quickly and bluntly, we are believers in the bible! We are Christian! Does not the very name of our Church, the very, very name, say we are members of the Church of Jesus Christ, of whom? Jesus Christ. Can you see this? It is as completely plain as the words on this page that we indeed must be Christians if the very name of our church says we are members of Jesus Christ’s Church. So anyone with a proper education and some intelligent thinking particles floating around in their brain can tell we are Christians. Can we lay this issue to rest for the rest of your life? Rest assured that we are Christians. Don’t say but what about this or what about that, this makes you not a Christian or that makes you not a Christian. The very fact is as plain as the nose on your face. Even if I have to say it a little too bluntly. We are Christians. And because we are Christian, it takes us to the very next step as to how and why we should and do live. I am not to argue with another about my religion. The pursuit of truth is what it’s all about for me. We live by two many myths, superstitions and rumors, gossip etc., that makes life too short to live well if we don’t stay focused on pursuing the course that will bring true intelligence and wisdom into our lives.

We all know as well as any other good person on the earth that we are mortal, human and have frailties and problems. He that is without sin should cast the first stone said Jesus. And if ye say ye have no sin the truth is not in you. These few simple scripture words tell us that we all stand lower than the sinless one, and we are in need of being lifted up to a higher level. This point made, we alone can not judge other people as reflecting the qualities of the Master of Masters. He showed us the way and all of us are on different levels of how well we adhere to and emulate his qualities. The polygamists which have grown and sprouted from the early fundamentalist fractions are now in an upheaval of doctrines and confusion. Stories such as those of Rulon Jeffs death and his son Warren Jeffs taking a large gathering of elect to Texas where a temple is constructed for preparation for the second coming of Jesus are being blasted in the news again today. Many people are skeptical of their motives and those left behind in the bordering cities of Southern Utah and Arizona find they have to re-think their tenants and beliefs once again to try and capture the real meaning of why they entered polygamy in the first place. For the system which they have been following all these years is now at a crossroads again. It would be in their best interest to repent and be baptized. This leads us into our next topic of Apostacy.

The elect are going to be tried and tested very severely and a test would not be a test if it did not require persperation in one form or another, otherwise it is not a test but only a workout. The recent outpouring of books from insiders looking out are beginning to accumulate in rapid succession. The books of Grant Palmer, Martha Beck Nibley to name a few are pinpointing the supposed weaknesses of the Church. They both have recently been published since the discussions of the DNA confusion lying around their heads as it relates to the Book of Mormon. It is a true statement that was said that those who leave still can’t leave the Church alone. While I was reading the Martha Nibley book, I decided that I would compare it to my own experiences. Conjecture was here greatest weapon. She is only a few years older than I, and thus I could find some common ground upon which to stand. She complained of
primary and the silly songs and how she was indoctrinated. I didn’t mind it and am grateful for the instruction of my days in primary. She is a student of Sonia Johnson the famous women’s liberation advocate and former church member. Little did she know that my mother taught Sonia in primary. My mother also taught me. Why would children grow up and take the paths that they have taken? Simply to fit their view of the world into their schedules. The truths that are all around us are not those of brainwashing, but of choices and consequences. Both Martha and Grant have serious issues with the Book of Mormon. Issues that would have never been published until the advent of the DNA studies of modern science. They both need in their opinion some form of evidence to pit their claims against. The area of science which DNA falls into is by no means a perfect art. Just as the earlier days of Carbon 14 dating have been shown to have flaws when objects come into contact with water for long periods of time, so also the DNA studies are by no means the final word as it relates to constructing the history of the world. This too will in time be answered fully and unequivocally. We can not postulate that DNA has found the lost tribes of Israel emigrating from the North Lands of Mongolia. The east Asiatic connections that the scientists are connecting the American Indians to are by no means meant to be the final word on the Book of Mormon. The Book gave a much greater test to mortals to find out it’s validity, than to believe in the Inventions and wonders of modern science. All the wonders of the internet age and the information highway are not to discredit the simple fact that truth is not going to always come knocking on your door, nor is it going to always come onto your computer screen from the internet. Most likely than not the internet will still emulate the minds and thoughts of the people that use it. Therefore the percentage of information that we can believe on it is going to be a difficult task for seekers of truth to handle in years to come. Even as it displays a primary source on its view node or screen, it does not eliminate the fact that the images and data can be altered. The original sources and impressions are to be sought after. This also brings about the discussions of Geography, Anthropology and History of the Ancient Americas. You can’t tell me that a few hand full of people can start conjecturing, corroborating and discussing with other Ph’d’s that this will give you all you need to know about the Ancient Americas. The history and story that revealed the Bible lands have been known for millennia and that right there should give you a great big idea that the discussions in the Americas are not over as we have been studying it for many millennia less. You can’t argue the fact that America was hidden from the study and general populace from the rest of the world. People make a few statements about the Olmecs, and Zapotex some of the earliest peoples to inhabit the continent. The mere fact that many of the later groups such as the Maya, Inca, Aztec, Toltec new very little about their predecessors who inhabited the land before them. Even the mere fact that were are only now; since the discovery of Columbus; just barely over 500 years ago; coming to understand a little bit more about the Ancients that inhabited the land. That’s a testimony to you right there, by the fact that Columbus wanted to call these people Indians. They were not from India as we know it now. Yet every Redman on this continent, bares the mark of that name error. If this first error can be made in their behalf, then certainly there could be more and indeed there are. Remember if the first mistake of calling them Indians was made, then indeed other assumptions have been made even in the light of the passage of time and more information coming to light. The promise Moroni gives at the back of the Book of Mormon is the only true test of our faith. Pray about it, ask God about it. Why go to every single library, quarry, heaping rock mount and ruin there is to try as it may to unearth everything about an ancient people that left a record. You will always find more in a written record than you will simply by examining a bone and trying to decipher what the people were thinking rather than knowing what they were thinking. A faith that indeed asks of it’s members to exercise exactly what it asks for, Faith. Now if faith had a perfect knowledge of things, then we would not call it faith, and surely as the Bible says he who has not faith is not accepted of God. You will have a much harder time erasing a feeling than you will a picture. Of course we live and labor along side each other, working together, some strive to live moral lives, some are trapped by the monsters of immorality. Some swear, some tell dirty jokes, others uplift, shun evil pictures and dislike the crude language day after day defiling the air. We all exist on the same boat we call earth. Brothers and Sisters whether we like it or not. We have an opportunity every day to do something kind and friendly, or we can shun, hide and even attack the opinions, beliefs and very lives of those who we disagree with. We only have so much time on this planet, to waste it with works that don’t uplift and edify is a waste of time. When someone is in pursuit of truth, that will consume them. All or as many facts as possible are taken into account. They are assembled in their brains to go over and over again, rehashing them against the backdrop of what in their past holds true and fast. In the day and age where there are as many divorces as there are marriages, you might get the idea that we live in a fast paced, wicked society, as so we do. The levels of selfishness have increased in leaps and bounds with in just a few short years, it has always been that way, but even more so now. The Book of Mormon is indeed there to be tested, but even more so to test us. That book will withstand the test of time. It will take any and all opposition to it and come out victorious in the end. The stuff that goes on in between is what we are going through right now on this planet, but that book will not lose. It has too many prayers and too much blood behind it, blood of the greatest people on earth to back it’s contents up. It is a companion volume to the Bible, yet as true as the Bible is, it still produced the myriad of religious fractions that exist today. You can study it from numerous collections of important writings, Gutenberg’s edition, King James, earlier editions in Greek, older ones as the Hebrew Dead Sea Scrolls from Qumran from the Essene groups. Pseudipigrapha, Aprocraphal, Gnostic to Josephus, Philo and others shine light on the subjects at hand. But the simple fact remains, there is no original copies of the Bible. Just as people can say we don’t have the original edition of the Book of Mormon. This meaning the composition of ore and percentage of Gold edition that made up the very plates that Joseph Smith found in the Hill Cumorah. We can’t test the level of Gold and say that it was 24 Karat Gold and things like that, but what we can say is that the doctrine has remained unchanged from the original published edition since 1830. Yes there have been some punctuation and a few minor wording changes to give a more accurate clarity, but the doctrine has remained unchanged for nearly 200 years and it will continue to remain unchanged.
The time frame from when Moses held the manuscript parchments that were the start of the Bible have not stayed in the same form. I don't care what religion you are from, the simple fact remains that we do not have the original writings of Moses, Isaiah, etc. We have copies of copies of copies of copies of copies. This has to get somewhat diluted through the passage of so much time, that it really can be said with certainty, as Joseph Smith has said, that "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly." Boy oh Boy, Girl oh Girl does that set us apart from the rest of the Christian believing world. How do you go up to them and tell them that and not expect to get some kind of reaction out of them by saying what you just said. Every time I do it it brings a chill to my heart and mind. I know indeed that it is so very true that I would love to shout it from the mountain tops. It is so true that it rings throughout my whole body. They tell you that you are crazy and that you should only have the bible and no other book but the bible. Then bingo again the Book of Mormon rings again with truth in my ears as it had already predicted the very words that are coming out of the unbelievers mouths. Why can't they understand the very fact that as we just said we don't have any original copies of the Bible. None what so ever, so why such the incredible audacity to continue to say "A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible." This is definitely why Joseph Smith said in answer to the question that was put to him. "Do you (people) believe the Bible?" his reply was an astounding "If we do, we are the only people under heaven that does, for there are none of the religious sects of the day that do." Also under the same topic as were we differed from other religious groups he has on many occasions said that it was the spirit that made us different and apart from all other religions. But also on the same occasion as the first question as to whether we believe the Bible or not he put up this answer as to wherein we "differ from other sects", he said simply "...we believe the Bible, and all other sects profess to believe their interpretations of the Bible and their creeds." How much more plain and simple these words are I can't imagine, but they do need clarification to those who don't understand them so plainly. Take the words one by one. We believe it. Before you can completely believe it you must understand that it is not going to deceive you. And before you can understand that it won't deceive you, you must know all the truths about it. If you believe that the devil wanted you to receive the bible you are exactly right, but he wants you to receive it on his terms and not God's. That would mean that he will give you if he has to for his sake two truths for one lie, he will do it. This of course is still a lie for him, as he is unable to tell the truth and help others. He is not good if you haven't figured this out that he will fight against the truth, against what is the honest to goodness truth of the matter. When people understand this simple truth, and no one understood it better in our dispensation than Joseph Smith himself. He therefore had the power to utter the simple facts that indeed we do believe it as far, oh how I love those words "AS FAR" I shed a tear and shutter at the very words. AS FAR as what? As far as IT is translated correctly. This therefore put a limit as to how far we really can go with our knowledge of the written words from the Sticks of Judah. This is why he took such great interest as well as a commandment to cure and fix the portions that were deficient. If you can only go so far, it means there are some deficiencies. That is the great mystery of the words he has told us. If we do believe there are some deficiencies in it, then you are on the right road to really believing it. This was the main fact and point I believe he sought to stick into the hard heads of this generation, that indeed the opposite also holds true that if you think there is nothing wrong, then you are really not open to accepting truth. You can't have both in your life. You either believe that accepting deficiencies will or can lead you to an acceptance of further information or you will stop in your tracks right now and declare an end to further information and thus damn yourself in your progression toward further truth and knowledge. Joseph Smith ushered in the last dispensation of which the fullness of times is the word used to describe what it encompasses what he has done. Joseph Smith turns 200 this year, in a few more months from the time I am writing this. He has truly done more for the salvation of mankind in this world than any other, excepting Jesus Christ alone. This is going to be hard doctrine to swallow for most people. You begin to say within yourself why am I reading such pompous crap? But wait, why do you say this to yourself. You certainly have a right to feel something within yourself. And if you can feel one thing then certainly, you should be able to feel another. This is the very same principle upon which revelation is given. From information that is sent to your mind and heart. You are enlightened. Truth will be witnessed to you by the power of the Holy Ghost. To every sincere person who has "real intent"to know what is the truth, will receive that very witness by their faith in Gods ability to do so for them. He has the ability for sure that much is a constant. Is our ability to receive such any where as close to the consistency that His is? Our faith as we are told can move mountains if we have even but the amount of the grain of a mustard seed. That's such a small little amount, but with it we can achieve an incredible amount of good.

Let's go back in time to a place where Martin Luther lived. He was from Germany and had some issues with what he had seen as a contradictory set of elements between the scriptures and the actions of his superiors in the Roman Catholic Church. He felt inclined to post up his information on the door of the Church for all around him to see the items. If he would have gone to the Church and decided to take up the discussion with them, he would have been considered crazy and foolish and quite possibly hung or tortured to get the discipline needed to correct the error of his thinking. But where did he err in his desire to have the Church conform to the scriptures. The feelings here again are what stirred him on to take the actions that he did. Indeed he did feel what he felt and had every right to feel that way. The Church to him had lost sight of it's real meaning and purpose. As it had from centuries earlier. Others felt the same way he did and were killed for it, the likes of John Huss and others. John Fox in his book of Martyrs has described the scene of blood and carnage that many have had to pass through to make a point at the expense of religion. The apostacy could be delved into here for a quite lengthy amount of time. Re-hersing and re-hashing the in's and out's of persecution of the early saints. The simple quite big and grand fact of the matter is, even though we know that the Roman Empire and the succeeding generations of Church fathers came on down through time with a fairly accurate list of Popes 236 or something at the time of Benedict the 16th who was Joseph Ratzinger of Germany. Now the list of Popes is fine and all and I believe mostly accurate and all, all the way back through the history of time.
until you get to the period of the most important choosing of all. The apostle Peter if you will for the general Christian world became the Pope. I would rather call him the Prophet of the Church. President of the Church most likely would not have been used in the New Testament times. So here we have a list of Popes. Ok so we can see how it went from Jesus to Peter. But it is the very critical next step that has the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in query of the Church of Jesus Christ in Earlier-Days. I will call it the Church of Jesus Christ. As it was not John the Baptists’ or Moses’ or Luthers’ or even that early the word of Catholic was not even around either. So let’s stick with Jesus Christ and his Church which would encompass the 12 apostles that he called and the other many members and disciples that followed his teachings. To Peter the next in line from Jesus went the authority to guide and direct the Church, the early Saints. This much is fair and all as the situation arose shortly thereafter with the death of Judas from hanging himself in a tree, to the need of filling in the gap in the apostolic calling that was created. The New Testament tells how it was that after praying and supplication to the Lord they “gave forth their lots” for God had chosen Matthias to take the new seat in the apostleship. It would seem quite logical that by this very act of another one being chosen of the Lord and joining the brethren in the apostolic calling that he was that even so the next in line of the “Popes” or Prophet as you will would indeed be from such close association. If we use the excuse that shortly thereafter the death of all the apostles came too quickly to make effect to another to take charge. Then indeed right there we find the beginning of the Apostacy of the Church. If on the other hand time was grace enough to the early Saints to allow them plenty of time to adhere to the next Prophet or Pope the new head of the Church, would not the logical choice God willing be those of the Apostolic association. Even Saul who became Paul after receiving sight from being three days blind at the edict of the Lord and by the hands of Ananias was made to see. Paul later became as well a valiant Apostle for Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. Then we see the separation drawing even nearer when we see the list of 236 men all the way stretching back through time to the time of Christ. And lo and behold the very next name after Peter is none other than Linus. Not James or another apostle who was still in Jerusalem at the time, but none other than Linus, Linus who? Linus the first bishop of Rome, yes he received authority of the priesthood, but so did Clement Bishop of Rome, Zaccheus and others with the same instructions. This all in the first century as termed in the later language of Latin anno-domini in the year of our Lord. Now this is not meant to belittle the character or personality of the man who was a member of the Church. It is said of him that he (Linus) was a Christian at Rome and a friend of Paul and Timothy (Timotheus) who was ordained the first bishop of the members in Ephesus or the Ephesians. Paul we know spent much time in Rome and we learn from the writing of Irenaeus and Eusebius that they speak of him as bishop of Rome. Others of that early period Polycarp, Ignatius and others all tell of items in early church writings were they point out that they are not as the apostles were, they were not a Peter or a Paul. Quoting from Sir Frederic Kenyon from Nibleys Silibus again, the oldest Manuscripts of the New Testament known show “a welter of unassorted variants, out of which the families that we find at a later date were eventually formed...in the 1st and 2nd centuries this original text (of each book) disappeared under a mass of variants, created by errors, by conscious alterations, and by attempts to remedy the uncertainties thus created. Then, as further attempts to recover the lost truth were made, the families of texts that we now know took shape.” (Nibley Syilbus p. 3) Gnostic forms of writing began raging a rampant war on the simple truths that once were known. Here is were all the speculation in the world begins as it relates to Christianity. There will be those that take Linus and make of him as the Bishop of Rome over and above any other higher calling of that of the Apostleship and say hey, since the Apostles are now all killed off and Peter himself hung upside down, the beheading of Paul and the brutal murdering of the others that we shall now just go with what is left of the growing and running for their lives Church and snag what leaders there be left to head out the orders of God. Peter from the writings of Clement and others is clearly shown to have given the priesthood power and authority to other bishops. Multiple bishops were given the power to direct and bless others in their affairs in those early cruel times of the history of the church, but not at any time did Peter give the ultimate leading power of his holy Apostolic head of the Church. The very next leader from Christ, to Peter to whomever was not there. “Christ was treated exactly as the other prophets had been.” (Ibid 20.) Why would we not think Peter would be treated the same? Just read Acts chapter 12 if you think that Christianity and it’s leader was not under attack from a bitter world. Yet after Peter we will find one who thinks this is just fabulous and great to usurp the throne and carry on with the Church. It didn’t happen. Simply being a bishop of Rome or any other region of the area whether Jerusalem or other did not entitle them to the Head of the Church, the leader of it will you after Christ and Peter. This can’t possibly be taken as the right way to start the Church out on the right foot. “The Word of God bears more weight than the logic of men.” (Nibley Sylibus on Apostacy p. 20.) It was the very misinterpreted verse of Matthew 16:13-20 wherein the papal claims of the Catholic church have based their claims when in reality it is the foundation of revelation that was the important element that was recognized there as spoken by Jesus to Peter. It was “the Godhead of Christ, which Peter had just confessed, that (was and) is the true keystone of the Church.”(Bible Dictionary p.749) Hence even many centuries later any even millennia later we see the likes of Luther questioning the way things are done. Is it to be not understood that maybe he indeed had a right to question the way things were done considering that even from the very beginning there were things done shall we say that were questionable? That brings us down to the time of even more drastic movements, that of Joseph Smith he went ten thousand times further than Luther in restoring not just reforming. Luther went far and had a following of great influence upon the thought processes of Church members, many of whom were seeking now to find their own 95 thesis to which their own conscious could settle with. The Pilgrim Puritans and the like were heavily influence in their quest for religious freedom while still maintaining a close association to the Bible as they had it. Yet if we look even deeper there is more information to be gleaned from a study of the Bible when we do take it literally to be the Word of God. Indeed it is. Let not you reader for one moment think that it is not nor do the Members of the Mormon Church think that it is not the Word of God. For indeed we do. Joseph
Smith has said that if we do believe it we are the only people on the earth that do anyway as all others just profess to believe it. There is indeed a difference in believing it and actually really believing it for sure. That for sure part will even make more sense to you if you accept the fact that the Book of Mormon will help clear up many misunderstandings that don’t seem to stand out as clear in the Bible as they will when you read the Book of Mormon alongside your reading of the Bible. Again the testimony of two witnesses that Jesus is the Christ is indeed better than only one. And just think what about many? Won’t that be nice. Don’t close off the channel or bridge that will bring about the verification and witness of many. If 10 or 12 saw an accident as apposed to the eyewitness of just one or two, would not there be more versions of the sight to compare it with? Yes.

The nations and tribes of the earth are seeking a relative statement as it relates to Jesus the Christ. He was the embodiment of all the Quantum Universe and yet many simply call him a great prophet or merely mention his name in passing as it dots the pages of the here and the there of our history books. Many simply spend much of their time focusing on the leaders that commanded the attention of their subjects. Disregarding the most important of all subjects their eternal salvation. Joseph Smith knows that this is the time when the gathering of Israel is taking place like no other prophet before him. He believed what the other prophets have said concerning the gathering of the house of Israel and the elect from the four corners of the earth. We know all the continents of the earth and the vast knowledge of people, places and things, internet, libraries and archives are simply not enough to give out all the intelligent information on the house of Israel. Some people don’t even know past a few generations of their family tree let alone a more general history of the world. No we are not perfect let no one assume this. But this you must know that facts are not relative. In terms of Absolutes the truth will win out and the doctrines anyone preaches are subsidiary or as Joseph Smith said Appendages of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Of this one main incompasing all inclusive fact, that Jesus Christ suffered and died for our sins to save us from them and not save us in them. And as is stated in the Book of Mormon this doctrine comes out conclusive from and not in our sins. This is where the world differs from the teachings of the Book of Mormon. The Bible teaches the same thing we are saved by grace after all we can do and not saved by grace after no matter what we do. This point has been the hardest to hit into the heads of this generation. When on my mission in California it was not uncommon to see hundreds of the Ithhus fish sticking on the back bumper of the cars of the born again Christians. That fish had an early beginning from the days of the Roman persecution were in the Saints in fear of persecution would draw in the sand a half circle only to be completed by another member so they would know that they could talk of Christ without fear of being put to death. Now we just drive by and think nothing of the like when we see the fish. Do we know the history behind the symbols and do we know the meaning of the tokens that are passed on down to us from the heritage of our past. No too many of us have forgotten the real meaning behind the sacrifice that our early Church and National fathers have in their legacy left us. It is great to live in the age of technology and learning, but are we becoming any wiser as a benefit of the tools we get to use at our disposal. Or are we too complacent heading actually in the wrong direction as it relates to knowledge and the intelligent application thereof. Even as it has been said before the Devil knows the scriptures as good as any if not better for all the years he has had to study them, but he can make no practical application of his knowledge for the good no not one inch. Although he tell you a half truth just to get one lie to be set in your mind. The bible teaches that you are to be a doer of the word and faith, and not just a hearer only. By your works shall ye be known for faith without works is dead. This bit of works was greatly over appreciated so much by the Jews that they indeed became well over worked in the Talmud and Kabbalah that they lost sight of the simple pleasure of keeping their Torah law and ended up looking “beyond the mark” as the Book of Mormon so well states. When you shoot at a target the bulls eye is the best score that you can get. When you try to get better than the bulls eye you will stumble and fall in your efforts. The writings of their forefathers therefore were overlooked in the things that they really said in exchange for the new documents of what others thought they were trying to say and then this is how they got all mixed up. This is how when the Messiah came they really were not looking for him at that time. This is why the Christian and Jewish closeness that should be there for each other is not their because of the wording separation they have placed between them and the Christians. The Bible and the Torah really should not be looked at as two separate and distinct different books that one or the other is missing the point in. For both as I stated earlier were to be held accountable for the errors that have crept into both through time. As neither have Moses’ original copy of the animal parchment skins copies that he carried with him in his brief case – made of skins. There is a difference in the technology of the mediums which some civilizations have written down their works and revelations. Some on skins, some on copper and others on gold. Definitely the gold etchings and inscriptions when preserved well and kept fresh from storm and hail and wind and sand and rain will keep for times sake. Other medium will deteriorate and waste away. The science of today is certainly being taken seriously and really somewhat selectively by those who want to formulate their opinions above and beyond the science itself. Take for example the DNA issues with regards to the American Indians. People take samples and some data and establish with some sort of scientific analysis that there is an Asiatic heritage that places a large percentage of their findings and study. There are exceptions to the rules they have formulated. Some immediately leave the church under the pretext that everything that Joseph Smith ever said on the subject must therefore be wrong and hence the book which he translated even the Book of Mormon must be wrong and the whole of the Mormon Church is therefore false end of subject. But wait just a minute, because before that you were a Bible believing person that took the story of Adam on the grounds which Moses had given them to us. Whether they came from the Bible, Book of Mormon, writings of Moses or other apocryphal writings. You said to yourself, yes indeed the Bible is true and Adam and Eve were our first parents on this earth. Then the learned scientists come up with a theory. Theory at first that had a destiny of it’s own in the eyes of it’s perpetrators. It was Darwin to the Galapagos and the voyage of the Beagle ship. Then the myriad of other rising scientists who would take it to the carbon 14 dating level, bone diggers and the like. Lucy and the missing
link would occupy center stage and eventually all you would see now is the National Geographic displaying a myriad of forms of Gorillas and Apes with a morphing attribute. The trilobite rock fossil and the squid like sea creatures crawling out from the haunting deep to appear on land. The Austropolithicus, the Peking, the Java and the Neandralth man emerged as the some old story of the Greek mythology. Posidon and Zeus along with Hercules and others in those days took new forms for us in our day. What was myth to them turned into theory for us today in the great form of Evolution. Evolution is what the great scientists uphold now today. But the Bible believing class of people don’t put their stock in this system. Yet they don’t mind putting all their eggs in one basket so to speak as it relates to the Book of Mormon and their DNA studies. Haven’t we learned over the past 150 years of the great surge of evolution instruction by the scientists that they simply can’t wave their conjecture in the face of the Bible without inciting a veritable war of conscience. I becomes again a war of conscience and science once again for the people who believe in the written word. You simply can not uphold the DNA data and believe in Evolution at the same time. Or if you believe in both Evolution and the DNA data, then you must not believe in the Bible or for that matter The Book of Mormon. You can’t have the one without the other or indeed you are serving two masters, you are a fence sitter and therefore really have no say in any matter whatsoever. Nibley on evolution finds these statements which are actually quite amusing. W.D. Wallis: “I have sought, and in vain, for an anatomist who would venture to say from examining the bony inside of a skull whether the individual was a mute or an orator... Yet to this very year the statements are made, in some instances by anatomists, that Pithecanthropus as indicated by the skull, probably had speech. As mentioned, those same anatomists would not make pronouncement regarding the speech abilities of a contemporary individual if they had not only the bones of the brain case, but also the brain.” Here we see “The experts would not dare commit themselves as to whether a modern anthropoid can speak or not, even when they have its whole brain to examine; yet they will take a fragment of a prehistoric skull and from that alone confidently announce that its possessor could speak.” (Nibley on evolution p. 8) So here we go again, why do people have to pit against some position. We believe in Adam, Noah, Abraham, Peter and Paul. Why not Lehi, Nephi, Mormon and Moroni? Why not? Water can do funny things to carbon dating analysis and it’s accuracy. Why not water pressure causing the earth after receding and soaking back into the earth as well as other elements cause shifting and stretching, the crust, mantle and center cores of the earth being disfigured. Underneath the surface all is not so stable as the outside seems to appear to us. Things can change at any moment in time. We don’t know all the in’s and outs of how and why the earth was divided in the days of Peleg, but it did. We don’t need to argue that the Garden of Eden was in Missouri as the Pangea was still intact at the time and makes it as plausible a place as any in the Eastern Hemisphere. We go by revelation not by the desperation of science. It is when we put our trust in the arm of flesh that we end up having problems. When we disregard the word as a strange philosophy instead of the literal veritable Word of God. Ignorance is not a proposition. When we claim that anything is the final word on something that is not coming from God, then that is a serious error. The stories are not myths, are not the imaginations of a frenzied mind and are indeed facts of history. The religious truth seekers have always had a struggle with the accepted norms of the world. Joseph Smith will not be left alone, by members or non-members alike. His name is the one that indeed will be had for good and evil or both good and evil spoken of. That does not mean that the word evil in that sense connotes that he will have evil in him. Let it be known that indeed this is a work that speaks not ill of him or evil of him, but one that is for the good. His life was incredible. His life truly is incomprehensible to others and he was the first to claim he wouldn’t blame anyone for not believing in what has happened to his life as he said he wouldn’t have believed it himself had he not been the one who experience it first hand. Let not anyone take that as an excuse not to believe the doctrines that he taught and had revealed to him to be given to those seeking the truth and to join themselves with the Church of God. That is certainly not the case he put up with the statement of his comments. He has revealed and restored the Church of Jesus Christ back to the earth again. This time not to be taken away through apostacy as the primitive church went through. Yes we are suppose to be nice, yes we are suppose to be Christian, and yes to all these things, but what if we are human, what if we have problems. Of course we do and we have issues just like any other human being. We are human, that much is true as anybody else is are therefore not perfect. My writing is not perfect, my manners are not perfect, nothing that we ever do is quite righteous enough it would seem, but yet we can be perfect in paying tithing, we can be perfect in certain areas of our life. The truth of things as they were, are and are to come are all held in the balance that God holds. He is the judge of both the quick and the dead.