

How Mormons Recruit Christian Young People for the LDS Church

By the Mother of a Mormon who has a Heart for the Lost

“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19).

Most Christians will recognize the words above as the Great Commission where Jesus Christ commanded His disciples and followers (that’s us!) to share the good news of salvation with *all* people. Many Christians take these words very seriously. But, others do not. Some Christian who do not take the Great Commission seriously may not feel equipped to share their faith. Others may be afraid to share their faith. And still others may be babes in Christ. We should pray that the Lord would strengthen their faith and encourage them to grow spiritually.

But the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS/Mormons) do take these words seriously. Mormons are knocking on doors, sharing their false teachings and beliefs, and convincing the uninformed Christian and those with no faith that they have the true church. In particular the Mormons are reaching out to your children and youth who may be Biblically uninformed.

How do they reach out to your children, youth, and young adults? First, LDS children are trained starting at age 2 or 3 to give their testimony of their faith. They receive training in their faith at church, Sunday school, Family home night (Mondays), Boy Scouts or young Women Activities and camping, classes at Seminaries (high school) or Institutes (colleges). They are groomed from little on to be polite, respectful, to make a positive impression, and share Heavenly Father’s plan of salvation. Boys, especially, are encouraged to go on their 2-year mission to be a missionary for the Church at age 18 or 19. Young ladies are encouraged to marry, but may go on a mission of 18 months duration if they are not married by age 21.

As children they are encouraged to invite their neighbors and friends to services and activities at the LDS church. Later, it’s Scouts for boys and Young Women for the girls and again they are encouraged to invite their nonMormon friends to attend with them. Often, because the Mormon family is so caring, the nonMormon family will begin attending and joining the LDS church. As the LDS children reach high school there are the released-time classes at the seminary run by an LDS recruiter with a master’s degree. This person’s responsibility is to conduct classes for LDS students in Old Testament, New Testament, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants and also recruit/convert nonMormon students to Mormonism. The same method works at the college level Institute and its Doctorate-holding recruiter.

A friend of mine told me that this happened to her grandson when he went away to college. He had some Mormon friends who invited him to sign up for a class or two at the institute. The recruiter finally convinced this young man to convert, be baptized to become a true Mormon. Next the recruiter’s job was to find a nice LDS girl to marry this young man because that would increase the chances of this young man staying in the LDS church. Before that could happen the young man’s grandmother

convinced him to meet with a friend of hers, an exMormon, who showed the young man the deceptive teachings of the Mormon Church. This young man quickly left the Mormon Church, returned to his Christian church back home and became a Christian youth leader.

Others are not so quickly solved. Often, when a young Christian begins seeing an LDS person on a date, they get the LDS missionaries to visit with the nonMormon to help convert them. After several months of dating, the Mormon may leave the new Mormon and begin dating another nonMormon. Ed Decker of Saints Alive writes, “The Mormons call it conversion by dating and actually encourage their young people to seek out non-members to date.”¹ Sometimes when the Christian and Mormon date the relationship can become more intense with the couple getting married and the Christian converting to Mormonism. This is what happened in my family. My son met this sweet young LDS woman while attending his company’s annual and semi-annual conventions. Soon they were traveling back and forth long distances to see each other. They talked of marriage but she refused until he converted and was baptized in the Mormon church. My son was raised in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, attended Lutheran Day School, and was in Sunday school and Church every Sunday. He was confirmed, and was active in the youth group. As an adult he attended a Christian church weekly, took the messages to heart, and helped out in church activities. He gave all that up to please her. How wonderful it could have been had he stood up for his Christian faith and won her and her family for Christ. Instead, they are raising my grandchildren in the Mormon church.

I have met other Lutheran families who have had a son or daughter convert to Mormonism in order to marry. If the convert has been Mormon long enough the couple can marry in an LDS temple where only LDS family and friends with a temple recommend can attend. Sometimes the nonMormon parents are cut-off from the couple because of their Christian beliefs and then they are not allowed to see the grandchildren. What heartbreak and divisiveness this brings to the family yet the Mormons claim families are forever.

Ed Decker of Saints Alive (www.saintsalive.com) writes of Christian parents emailing him almost daily asking for help. Their son or daughter is dating or is marrying a Mormon. They know that Mormonism is a cult but don’t know how to stop their child from marrying a Mormon spouse. Other Christian evangelists, Jim Spencer of www.mazemormonism.com writes of similar experiences as does Michelle Grim of www.lifeafter.org. The parents they talk with are heartbroken as their child has been stolen right out from under their noses. Often the child has had difficulty dating, but Mormons give them all the attention they need. The child/teenager/young adult is made to feel accepted or wanted. In some cases if the parents of the convert question or try to prevent the marriage, the LDS family will surround the convert and tell them how much they love them and that their parents don’t love them. They then invite this convert to move into their home with them until the marriage. Some call this lovebombing. The converts are even told not to inform their family that they are going to convert and be baptized in the LDS church.

What can we as Christian parents, friends, teachers, pastors, do to prevent similar events from happening in other Christian families? Ed Decker of Saints Alive writes, “Christian parents and youth pastors need to build a wall of protection from these ravaging wolves that prey upon your children.

Most good Christian kids are not street smart and (are) easy prey. They have to be immunized against attack. To fail to do so is asking for trouble, especially in high school.”²

As Christians we need to prepare, plan, and protect our children from those who seek to deceive them. In Deuteronomy 11:19 God tells parents, "*You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*" God gives us the very best advice from His Word. Begin today, and daily continue to train your child/children in the Word of God. Pray for them daily. Have them memorize verses and discuss these verses with them so that they will understand. Teach them the doctrines and teachings of the Bible so that they can stand strong against the enemy. Also, teach your child that Mormons who are loved by God need to hear the truth from God's Word so that they, too, can receive the blessings of forgiveness and salvation. And as always, *Pray without ceasing* (1 Thess. 5:17).

Footnotes

1. <http://www.saintsalive.com/resourcelibrary/Mormonism/the-mormon-art-of-child-stealing>
2. Same as above

Resources:

1. www.saintsalive.com
2. www.lifeafter.org
3. www.mazeministry.com

Produced by **Family Shield Ministries**, PO Box 230015, St. Louis, MO 63123. Learn more at www.familyshieldministries.com. Also listen to a radio program on this topic on Feb. 18, 2011 on KXEN AM 1010 from 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (CST) and after Feb. 19 anytime at www.globalgospelbeacon.com. The host is Kay Meyer of Family Shield. The guest expert is Ed Decker of Saints Alive. Family Shield Ministries received a grant from the TX LWML District that made this article and the radio program possible.