

Title: Conversations

Subtitle: Mormonism

Second Subtitle: Mormonism

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Quote:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints claims 11 million members worldwide. In the U.S., there are more than 5 million Mormons. The church is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mormons are officially referred to as Latter-day Saints. The name Latter-day Saints comes from the belief that after the death of the early apostles, the Christian church fell into apostasy and needed to be restored in the latter days, which Mormons believe began in the 19th century. This is part of their history.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was founded by Joseph Smith, a prophet by Mormons. He began receiving visions at age 14, in 1820, in which he received a mission to restore the church of Jesus Christ on earth. When Joseph Smith died, the church passed on to Brigham Young. Young was responsible for leading the church to Salt Lake City in 1847.

Scripture

Latter-day Saints believe the Bible is sacred. They also include in their canon the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price, which includes two lost books of the Bible, a translation of the Golden Plates, and the Articles of Faith. The Doctrine and Covenants is a group of 138 revelations given to Joseph Smith, and The Book of Mormon, originally published in 1830, is considered an official document.

Christ

Latter-day Saints believe that Jesus is the Son of God in the most literal sense, the firstborn spirit child of God. They believe that from Mary, he inherited the capacity to die, and from God, an exalted being, he inherited the power to resurrect.

Salvation

Latter-day Saints believe that salvation comes through Christ's atoning sacrifice. They believe in "original sin" or in human depravity. Still, Latter-day Saints believe that men and women do need redemption. Works are a necessary condition, but they are not sufficient for salvation.

Missionaries

More than 60,000 men and women serve the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as missionaries in more than 330 missions around the world. Missionaries are sent to preach the gospel and invite others to join the church.

Dietary Restrictions

Latter-day Saints caution their members against using tobacco, consuming alcohol, and using recreational drugs. They interpret the misuse of drugs--illegal, legal, prescription or controlled substances--as a violation of a health code known as the "Word of Wisdom."

Polygamy

Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon church, said the idea of "plural marriage" came to him by God. Among early Mormon pioneers, 20-25% of families were polygamous. In 1890, Wilford Woodruff announced an official end to the practice of polygamy in the LDS church and polygamy here.

Family Ties

Mormons operate the largest genealogical library in the world containing birth, marriage, death, and other records. In addition, the Church obligates Latter-day Saints to perform proxy baptisms for their deceased ancestors in sacred rites such as baptism and