

## Grant Palmer AMA: Have all questions in by Dec 4th (self.exmormon)

submitted ago by [curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry.

**Final Edit:** The responses have been posted. I'd like to thank Grant Palmer again for setting time aside to do this Q&A. It went over time, but he was kind enough to let us get through the entire list. I've called out where I injected a few thoughts or links by using [] (very minimal). The rest came from Grant.

I'll leave this post stickied until tomorrow morning.

If you're looking for just Grant's replies, then search for **[From Grant]** using your browser search function.

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*Edit* Questions are now closed.

*Edit2* Interview just wrapped up. Thank you, Grant! I'll be working on transcribing this later today and should have up by 10:00 EST tonight.

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Grant Palmer has agreed to do a Q&A session with this subreddit; however, the bulk of the conversation will not be on Reddit itself. So here is how we're going to be doing this AMA.

- Use this post between Dec 1st and Dec 4th for all questions.
- All questions must be in **by 8:00 PM EST on Dec 4th**. This is when I'll be emailing him the list of questions ahead of the call.
- This will be a one-time communication, so please include all follow-ups in your questions.
- The other mods will be invited to the call where he will respond to each question, but we had agreed to limit the number of participants.
- I (and the other mods if they're able) will transcribe the responses to each questioner during the call early on Dec 5th.

As the question has come up, I'm open to suggestions on how we can prove that this is actually Grant Palmer to the rest of the forums.

[More information on Grant can be found here.](#)

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**whitethunder9** The lion, the tiger, the bear (oh my) 23 points

You've mentioned in a few places where non-believing general authorities have approached you.

- How many times has this happened?
- How many GAs do you know for sure don't believe in many or all of the church's truth claims?
- What percent of the big 15 and quorums of the 70 would you *guess* fit in that category?

**source**

**Catallactiks** 11 points

Addendum:

Many in the exmo community doubted the validity of the above simply because there is no easily identifiable evidence on the internet to support it. What is your response?

What kinds of evidence can you provide that would suggest GAs are less believing than is apparent?

How confident are you?

Do you plan to write anything on this subject?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 11 points

[From Grant]

That's a fair question. This GA I've been dealing has agreed to only talk to me on

conditions that I keep his name out of it. And I agreed to do that, so I feel the need to do that.

I suppose I did it to shake the tree to see what would come of it. Some things have come from it. His notion that all the general authorities don't believe is his very strong opinion. "All of the top 15", he says, "they don't believe. It's based on my interactions with them over the years. They do not want to talk about the foundational issues, but they'll defend the church to their death. They go on about their business because the people need it."

The idea that being church broke. I've received several communications confirming that. Some have been told that by Gordon B Hinckley.

Another, and maybe the most important thing, is the million dollar gift. We have a second person. He would characterize this a little differently. Big corporations do this, and it's not unique. They don't write them out a million dollar check. It's more a million dollars to pay off their debts. I don't even know if all of them get the same amount. They pay off their mortgages. They pay off their cars. They get out of debt so they can dedicate themselves completely to the work. That's kind of the form it takes.

The forgivable loan part is if they keep their nose clean, and they don't do anything to offend the church, they don't have to pay the principal or interest. When they die, the loan is forgiven.

They also all receive their second anointing. They're not bought. I don't think that would buy them per se, but it doesn't hurt either. In fact, every member whose a 70, any member of the general quorums, they receive their second anointing now. Some receive their second anointing first and are later called to be a 70.

| Do you plan to write anything on this subject?

I've had the John Whitmer Journal offer to publish it. I don't think I will. We don't have any real back-up, or at least no one is willing to come forward and back it up. So the answer is no.

[/Grant]

source

**SirOinksalot** Laughing from the Great and Spacious Building 3 points

Another, and maybe the most important thing, is the million dollar gift. We have a second person. He would characterize this a little differently. Big corporations do this, and it's not unique. They don't write them out a million dollar check. It's more a million dollars to pay off their debts. I don't even know if all of them get the same amount. They pay off their mortgages. They pay off their cars. They get out of debt so they can dedicate themselves completely to the work. That's kind of the form it takes.

The forgivable loan part is if they keep their nose clean, and they don't do anything to offend the church, they don't have to pay the principal or interest. When they die, the loan is forgiven.

----- genius on the part of the church right there.

- Get someone who shows enough allegiance
- Give out this million dollar loan with a preface of "the lord needs his chosen to be able to focus on the work, for legal reasons we call this a loan but don't worry it'll never come due"
- Ease the new guy into the reality of the church's origin
- Newcomer thinks "I should come forward... wait I'm in it deep with these people. I thought that 70 times 7 interest rate was just for &@#\*\$ and giggles."
- Then "Well, I guess I can still use my position do some good in the world. Gee, gay people sure seem like they're bad news."

I wonder who came up with this system for the q15.

[source](#)

[POOR\\_IMPULSE\\_CONTROL](#) 2 points

Satan?

[source](#)

[AI\\_Tilly\\_the\\_Bum](#) 5 points

I would also like to know if any of these GA's plan to come forward and if there are any plans to help prevent their story from being marginalized by TSCC.

[source](#)

[TruthIsMyGod](#) Don't Doubt Your Dear Leaders 6 points

THIS!! Where did they go? Is it money they are afraid of losing? Could we offer to pay them tithing to support them to blow the whistle? What is the deal and why no word at all? Are they better as informants on the inside, or what's going on here?

[source](#)

[curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 6 points

[From Grant]

He doesn't think any of the apostles will ever come forward. I hope he's wrong. I hope there are some who will. Some of them get so fed up with what they're doing that they may come forward. This GA, his own kids don't even know. There's a price to pay when you're that high. Some of our viewers don't understand that.

[/Grant]

[source](#)

[curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 4 points

[From Grant]

|| How many times has this happened?

It's been one general authority, and we met 4 times, and then we talked on the phone a little bit.

|| How many GAs do you know for sure don't believe in many or all of the church's truth claims?

One.

|| What percent of the big 15 and quorums of the 70 would you guess fit in that category?

I don't know.

[/Grant]

[source](#)

[MrPlisk](#) Fuhrer and Grand Wizard of the Third Quorum of the Reich -1 points

Addendum:

Is it too much to ask if you could just hold an apostle down, hog-tie him, and tickle his feet with a feather until he admits that he doesn't believe in this #\$\$@? Any way possible?

Thanks.

Or just get him sloshing drunk? That might work, too.

[source](#)

[Believemehistory](#) 4 points

Add to the above, any bets on how long it will take for an honest GA to step forward? I'll call a Vegas sports book and see if they'll start running the odds.

[source](#)

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 3 points

[From Grant]

I don't know, but I think the odds are getting better than they were 20 years ago. We've had Hans Mattsson come out.

[/Grant]

**source**

**POOR\_IMPULSE\_CONTROL** 2 points

Tickle his feet? Psh. Let's just water board him.

Edit: not a username joke

**source**

**MrPlisk** Fuhrer and Grand Wizard of the Third Quorum of the Reich 2 points

Waterboarding will get people to admit anything...

:(

**source**

**POOR\_IMPULSE\_CONTROL** 14 points

Oh I don't care if he admits anything I just want to waterboard him. I lost 25 years of my life. I think I'm entitled to a complimentary apostle waterboarding on my way out.

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 23 points

I've heard you mention a 3rd 14 year old bride of Joseph Smith, beyond Hellen and Nancy. Who was she, and where can I find the source?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 5 points

[From Grant]

I called our historian. He's assured me that there is a 14 year old girl he's found. He knows her name. Her family is in the church today. He's been burned in the past by giving out information he's researched and found, and then someone else takes the credit.

There are two sources on this. The cousins of the 14 year old girl say she was married to Joseph Smith. The descendants of the 14 year old girl say she was someone's plural wife, and she lost a baby. The descendants don't say she was married to Joseph Smith.

He's going to tell her story in this upcoming book. Hopefully it will come out in 2015. He'll also be talking about a counterfeiting ring involving Joseph Smith. The presses for the counterfeiting is in Joseph's old homestead house. He'll also be talking about the first 11 poisonings in Nauvoo. The 11th poisoning is Emma poisoning Joseph with arsenic.

What they have in common is that they are all about people and polygamy. 4 of the 10 were too eager to practice polygamy, and he thinks this was the motivation for him or someone who worked for him [to do the poisoning]. That includes people like Brigham Young, John C Bennett, Johnathan Thompson, and one other guy. They were too eager, so there may have been a motivation to get rid of them. The other 6 were too much against polygamy. One of those was his own brother, Don Carlos Smith, and 5 others. They're all about polygamy.

When William and Jane Law published the expositor. William Law says that Joseph and Hyrum Smith tried to poison him. That part of it is in my article. You can go to my [Mormonthink.com homepage](http://Mormonthink.com). Everything I've done in the past 12 years is there. [That article](#), which was published in the John Whitmer Journal gets into Joseph Smith being willing to hit(?) murders such as on Governor Boggs. Hit(?) murders, according to Law, were put out on himself. Emma.

The historian doesn't believe the evidence is as strong for the poisonings. It's more circumstantial that links to Joseph Smith than say the counterfeiting that is pretty solid in

Nauvoo. A lot of people know there is counterfeiting in Kirkland, but there is major counterfeiting going on in Nauvoo. This is referring to coins and currency (referring to bills).  
[/Grant]

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[Note from CM: The goal is to release the book in 2015, but there are some personal conflicts and timing hurdles to overcome first. These were edited out as they are not public].

source

**parachutewoman** Now officially evil 2 points

I am very interested in this question too. Please ask it, please please please.

source

**kolob-kitty** Apostate 13 points

Grant the church used to teach that the Atonement took place on the cross and they now teach that it took place at Gethsemane. Could you explain when they changed that teaching and why. The way they teach it now is totally different than how it is described in the book " Jesus The Christ " by James E. Talmage. I don't understand why they changed it and why they didn't explain why they changed it.

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 3 points

[From Grant]

I don't know. I was surprised to learn that Talmage didn't mention Gethsemane.

[/Grant]

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[Editor's note from Curious Mormon: I'm pretty sure the LDS church currently teaches that [both were parts of the atonement](#). I want to say this is also said in Jesus the Christ.]

source

**kolob-kitty** Apostate 3 points

For about the last 10 years I have listened to talks by members and I have looked it up myself on the church's web site ( unless they have changed it again ) that the Atonement, 100% of it took place in Gethsemane. It was a big part of me deciding to leave the church. I was actually shocked the first time that I heard it in a talk. Each person giving a talk about it made a point in saying that it took place in Gethsemane and not on the cross. I thought they were wrong and so I looked it up for myself. I was very surprised by what I found because it totally contradicted what I had read in " Jesus the Christ " by Talmage and earlier church manuals and publications.

source

**fluteitup** 8 points

What do you believe is the biggest flaw in the seminary/CES system?

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 11 points

[From Grant]

That's a good question. What does [CES] stand for? Church. *Educational*. System. That's the biggest problem with CES. That they don't teach education. They teach religious instruction, but it's not education. This carries over into the adult sunday school, and all of the adult experiences within Mormonism.

Education to me is here you are, you're given choices, you study and research the propositions, and you come to your own conclusions. That is not what happens in LDS church education or LDS church experience. It's a one-way approach, and this is why, I think, adults come on [MormonThink.com](#) and they see both sides of the issues there. They're blown away.

Two days ago, a woman saw the sign on I-15 in Salt Lake City for mormonthink.com. She says, "look, I'm 50 years old, and I've been a [chapel\*] Mormon all my life. I go on this website, and within 2 hours my testimony is gone. I've never heard any of these issues brought up or discussed in a church setting, in fire sides, in sunday schools, in relief society, in seminary, or in institute."

Some institute directors will bring up propositions, but this is the biggest problem with church education. It's not education, it's instruction. When they do find out there is the rest of the story, they get very disturbed. They leave or lose respect for the leaders.

[/Grant]

\* That's Grant's term for her.

source

**StandardDeviation** 10 points

This one account make the billboard project well worth it.

source

**whitethunder9** The lion, the tiger, the bear (oh my) 3 points

Ramen. And I'm sure there are many more similar stories to be told.

source

**TruthIsMyGod** Don't Doubt Your Dear Leaders 3 points

Absolutely! Money well spent!!! I want to hear any anecdotal stories like this!!

source

**4blockhead**  6 points

Greg Prince recently gave the Leonard J. Arrington lecture in Logan and [in the final question and answer sequence of the evening](#), Prince stated that the literal historicity of the Book of Mormon is a *hill that no one should have to die on*. My slightly more cynical take on his statement is that If the Book of Mormon is able to bring in new converts, then it has done its job, and that is all it was ever intended to do.

I wonder how you would respond to the same question as posed to Greg Prince by John Dehlin that evening. Here it is:

For the young people who are no longer able to view the Book of Mormon as a historical document, the implications for them is that some fraud must have taken place for the book to have been produced. How could you make your best argument to them that the church is still worth affiliating with if in their mind that there is fraud at the root of the production of the book?

As a followup, do you personally see any value in the narratives offered by the Book of Mormon assuming it is simply biblical fan fiction?

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 6 points

[From Grant]

Greg Prince is a friend of mine. I would agree on what he's saying, no one should die on the hill of the Book of Mormon. The RLDS, Community of Christ, no longer regard that as binding upon members. They accept that it's not what it claims to be. I would agree with that part of what Greg is saying there. To me, if that was the only problem then it would be a lot easier for people to decide to stay.

Should they stay if they find out the Book of Mormon is bogus? Yeah, if that's the only thing, but the problem is that it's much more extensive than that isn't it? At least it is to me.

You've got all these problems with Joseph Smith. Members would be disturbed if their kids came to them and said they could see a guy in there with tables, chairs, gold, and all kinds of things. They would take them to see the doctor. Yet, we have apologists saying Joseph is the village seer and he practiced with these things. Then he became the village prophet. I

don't think it works that way. I think it's deceptive.

I don't think he could see anything in that stone. If the church thought he could see things in that stone then they'd like to talk about the rest of the things he saw. All the guardians. The treasure, and all these beings. Then they would have a case. I don't think they believe he could see anything in the stone. As I said, the reason I don't think they do is that they are not willing to talk about all these other things, and spirits, and guardians of treasure that he saw in the local hills for 7-8 years that he and his father and brother were involved in.

I think that's kind of deceptive. He's brought to court 3 times in 5 years. 1826 and two in 1830. We have evidence. Addison Osten, who testified twice, in the July 1830 trial. Joseph told him he couldn't see anything in the stone, but he did it to make a little money. We have his father in law who said Joseph told him and Emma's brother Alva Hale that he couldn't see anything in the stone. Then he admitted it to his neighbor Peter Ingersoll. So we have four separate affidavits admitting Smith couldn't see anything. That's kind of fraudulent. It's a pattern.

Joseph and his treasure hunting, accusations of making untoward sexual advances, starting in 1827 with Emma's friend Eliza Winters. I don't know if all of these allegations are valid, but this is a constant drum beat throughout his life. He's getting them in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, and then he really kicks it into high gear in Nauvoo. All his life he's accused of this kind of sexual, untoward behavior. In Nauvoo, he's marrying women. If you look at the last two years of his life, William Law says he broke 6 of the 10 commandments under his own observation.

No Mormon should die on the hill if the Book of Mormon is not what it claims to be. But the character of Joseph throughout his life is really problematic, and everyone will have to make that determination for themselves. On whether it's worth going for the social aspects, or raising your kids, or however an individual makes that determination.

As a followup, do you personally see any value in the narratives offered by the Book of Mormon assuming it is simply biblical fan fiction?

The Book of Mormon was used as a sign that the restoration is here. Joseph Smith could not have written the book. This shows he's a prophet of God; therefore, accept everything else he says and the church believes. That's the value of the Book of Mormon. From the historian's point of view, you're adding religious revival, but you're not told you're at that revival. The preachers in the middle of the Book of Mormon all qualify.

[/Grant]

source

**meangreenjuice** 7 points

Grant, can you expand on your belief about Jesus? Last I heard, you said something about an extraterrestrial deity.

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 6 points

[From Grant]

I've worked it out for myself. If readers would like to know what I believe, take a look at the book I've written, "The Incomparable Jesus". That explains why I believe in Jesus. Also, I did a TV interview in Aug 2012 called "[Encounters with Christ](#)" where I talk about some of my experiences and encounters with God over my lifetime.

If people want to read the book and listen to the interview, they'll have a pretty good idea why I believe in Christ. If they want to have further discussions, they can [contact me](#).

[/Grant]

source

**malarson** 7 points

Do you feel the church is actively trying to hide its history from the membership and punishing those that publish their findings? If so do you then feel as if the church could be pushing out its

most intellectual and inquisitive members? Second question. Should mormonthink and similar sites be more or less aggressive in their attempts to educate current members? Is the current billboard marketing campaign a step in the right or wrong direction?

source

[curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 8 points

[From Grant]

Do you feel the church is actively trying to hide its history from the membership and punishing those that publish their findings?

They say they're not, but the church only moves forward on what they *have* to do. They feel like they have to put out these 13 essays now because they're bleeding, but in the 1980s when these 11, 12, 13 books were commissioned Ezra Taft Benson shot them down. Some were published individually, but not under the auspices of the church even those these men were paid under commission to write these books.

There are so many members that don't know any of this information. It comes back to the education question. They are simply not educating members. When they find out the rest of the story, they defect. They're disappointed. They're hurt, angry in some cases.

Even though they say they're not hiding anything, I think they are indeed hiding things. The George Q Canon diaries; the journals are not available; the council of the 50 minutes in Nauvoo are not available; although, they said they were going to release those. The William Clayton Journals, which are the backbone of our history of Nauvoo, are not going to be used in the Joseph Smith papers project. What they're publishing is pretty good, but it's what they leave out.

I don't know that this is a full disclosure anyway. You have 20 volumes on the Joseph Smith papers coming out. They say that they don't have anything to hide. In one sense that's true, but what have they been doing in the past.

They haven't come forward and talk about Joseph Smith in the past like they are starting to now. Even there, there is an ulterior motive in my view. The church wants to put their own spin and control and narrative. That's why they're doing the project. They want to only quote from themselves. They don't want to quote an outside source. They want the members to trust and believe their interpretation, and to be able to say they aren't hiding anything. Maybe at that point that will be a more true statement, but in the past that has not been true at all.

If so do you then feel as if the church could be pushing out its most intellectual and inquisitive members?

I do. I think there's a brain drain going on. I don't know why they come after some members and not others. I worked in the Salt Lake county jail for 13 years. When I got wind that they were going to hold a trial on me, I wrote a letter to the then counselor Thomas S Monson of the first presidency. I said, "why is it that you go after authors. I work in the Salt Lake County Jail here, and I can tell you that at least half of all those members are LDS." Now, they're not very good LDS usually, but they're LDS. I got to know their stories. They committed first degree felonies. Over my 13 years, I can count on my fingers and toes the number that the church went after for committing first degree felonies. If someone writes a book, they're right there. The Strengthening the church committee comes right after you. That's what happened to me. My first court came down through the area presidents and so forth.

A lot of lawyers are going. They're trained to evaluate information. The thinkers. The teachers that are leaving. The people that are most interested in promoting and believing it's true and then they find out it isn't. That's who is leaving.

Should mormonthink and similar sites be more or less aggressive in their attempts to educate current members?

I think they're doing just fine. They're presenting both sides of the issues. They're getting 2.3 - 3 million hits per month. They're doing just fine.



|| Is the current billboard marketing campaign a step in the right or wrong direction?

I think it's the right direction. I told you about the woman earlier. She saw the billboard and found out stuff she'd never heard before. I don't think the church wants that.

[/Grant]

source

**whitethunder9** The lion, the tiger, the bear (oh my) 6 points

| They're getting 2.3 - 3 million hits per month.

Holy mother of science.

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 4 points

[To be fair, I probably count for a few thousand each month ;) ]

source

**whitethunder9** The lion, the tiger, the bear (oh my) 3 points

Lol. I'm sure a significant number of their hits are ex-Mormons. But still, that's a huge number of hits.

source

[deleted] 6 points

In a recent address (<http://youtu.be/3KpYoMGCqpE>) at 1:10:00 you discuss that the church is not releasing the truly controversial historical records that they hold, ex. William Clayton's journals.

Would you elaborate on what sources they are holding back and what those records would potentially describe?

source

**Chias** 6 points

How long do you think it'll be before the church "receives revelation" telling them it's okay to be gay, and how much of the membership do you think will leave because of that?

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 3 points

[From Grant]

That's forecasting.

When the church is put in a spot where they are no longer benefiting from their position, they will have a revelation. I can't predict how many people have left.

I had a high councilor tell me that their stake had 15 people leave the church over Proposition 8 in California. I'm sure some of them resigned and some didn't. Even one of my children left because of the Church's stance on gays.

[/Grant]

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[Editor's note from Curious Mormon on this. Grant was understandably very hesitant to discuss speculation, and was very clear that it's non-binding]

source

**kristmace** 6 points

Firstly, thanks for writing "An Insiders View...". I got it last month and finished it very quickly. My question is what you think of the latest research into parallels of the BoM by Chris Johnson? Would you say these are more significant than the ones mentioned in your book, such as contemporary Methodist writing?

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[From Grant]

I haven't read Chris Johnson, so I don't know.

[/Grant]

**source**

**qmz3000** 5 points

I remember when you came out with "insiders view of Mormonism" at that time you wish the Mormon Church would become a Christian, Christ and Bible Focused Church. What do you wish for the future of the LDS Church today, and what is your view on Joseph Smith now?

As a fellow Christian, and ex-Mormon I also wonder what keeps you from looking at Christianity in the same granularity and cynicism as you have Mormonism.

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 4 points

[From Grant]

What do you wish for the future of the LDS Church today, and what is your view on Joseph Smith now?

They need to become a more Christ centered experience than it is now. They sing hymns during sacrament. They drop his name during testimonies and prayers, but they don't really talk about the life of Jesus very much. They don't spend a lot of time on the bible. The four gospels are treated maybe three months every four years. They don't do much for easter or Christmas, more Christmas than Easter.

These are all things that could be done, and should be done.

What keeps you from looking at Christianity in the same granularity and cynicism as you have Mormonism.

There's a number of things to be said about that.

First of all, I just don't think we have all the documents to evaluate Jesus like we do Joseph Smith. There's more evidence for the validity of the Bible than any other book in the ancient world. There are thousands of Greek Manuscripts. We don't have anything like that for any other book.

I just don't think we have as much to evaluate Jesus as we do Joseph Smith.

[/Grant]

**source**

**qmz3000** 2 points

Thanks Grant, Keep up the good work.

**source**

**grandmagoddess** old enough to know better 6 points

Thanks for your example of scholarship, courage and integrity. In hindsight, are you glad you resigned your membership in the Church? Are there any things you lost that you wish you could have back, or was resigning a net gain for you?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 4 points

[From Grant]

I didn't want to resign. I was pushed to resign. The stake president was told he must hold a court on me. The approval came from the first presidency of the church.

On the positive side, I no longer have to look over my shoulder every time I publish something. The stake president showed up at my door with a very obscure paper I'd written in a baptist journal out of Missouri, and he had it in his hand. The strengthening the church committee undoubtedly gave it to him because the stake president doesn't have any interest

in Mormon intellectual history.

All in all, I'd say I'm very pleased with it.

[/Grant]

**source**

**nursemommy** Apostate sister of the Jesus Whisperer 7 points

Grant- Not really a question, but I have to say listening to your 2nd Mormon Stories podcast was the single most painful thing I have ever experienced, worse than natural childbirth. But I came out better on the other side because of it. Thank you.

**source**

**currentmo** 5 points

How do you respond to the arguments like, "They were just imperfect men"? People can find all sorts of embarrassing things that happened in church history, but believers seem to brush everything off so easily.

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 8 points

[From Grant]

I think that's just an incredibly weak argument. Look, if I'm imperfect, and you're imperfect, and Joseph Smith's imperfect then what's the difference? His imperfections are still affecting people. 80,000 people are out there pushing his errors, or some of his errors. We don't claim to be a prophet, seer, and revelator. To say they're imperfect, we'd have to get more specific.

It's like president Uchtdorf said in the last conference. Mistakes were made. Well, it's more like first degree felonies on the part of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young.

[/Grant]

**source**

**RandomInquizitor** 5 points

I'm very curious about who in the very early church was a true believer versus who was "in on it"?

At one end of the spectrum you have Joseph Smith, who presumably knew the true origins. At the other end, you have people like Martin Harris and later William Law who seem to clearly be true believers.

But what about the others? Cowdery, Whitmer, Rigdon, the Smith family, etc. If you had to guess-- who knew and who didn't?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 4 points

[From Grant]

That's speculation, but if I *had* to address someone, it would probably be the Smith's parents. If I remember in the early draft of Lucy Smith's book on her son Joseph Smith, she had a lot of "we" passages. We got the plates. We did this. We did that. Brigham Young didn't like that. It's one of the reasons he was against that book that Orson Pratt had put out by Lucy.

I think Oliver Cowdery knew some things. He was the associate president of the church. He was there for the priesthood restoration and so forth. He was Joseph Smith's second cousin.

I don't think Sidney Rigdon knew. I don't think he met Smith in any substantial way until after the Book of Mormon was published.

I don't think we know. We should leave it at that.

[/Grant]

**source**

**qmz3000** 1 point

Do you think Martin Harris was scammed or in on the scam?

**source**

**RandomInquizitor** 2 points

(incidentally, I'd love answers from people other than Grant too)

**source**

**CranialEruption** Nothing is true, everything is permitted 6 points

Is the fact that most people who leave the LDS church go on to be atheist/agnostic or just irreligious concerning to you? Do you take it as an indication that the Church *doesn't* focus enough of Jesus despite their claims? How do you think the Church could change their current approach to Jesus so that more people would turn toward other Christian sects when they leave?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[Answered here](#)

**source**

**ZisGuy** 5 points

(Please ignore if this was asked already.)

What things have you lost as a result of your transition from TBM to not? Please include material (job, etc.) as well as immaterial (relationships, etc.) losses. What have you gained? Again, include immaterial (the truth, peace of mind, etc.) and material (book sales, notoriety, etc.) gains.

Thanks!

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[Answered here.](#)

**source**

**ZisGuy** 1 point

Sort of. In any case, thanks for setting this up.

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 1 point

[I'm sorry if we didn't get all of your question. I tried to skip what I read as a repeat due to time constraints. Grant has been extremely responsive, and I'd recommend using the email on his [mormonthink](#) page if you'd like follow up with other questions]

**source**

**ZisGuy** 1 point

No worries, I understand.

**source**

**UtahLegal** 3 points

Grant, I am a direct descendant of George Q. Cannon. I have read that the church has his personal journal s locked up somewhere and wont release them. Do you know if that is true? If so, what is so scandalous in those journals that they have to hide them?

Also, I think it is sad that current GAs are instructed not to keep a journal, it seems like they can be a valuable resource for future generations. Its even sadder the church has so much to hide that they have to make such a rule.

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 5 points

[From Grant]

I've heard that myself. I know he's got 9 volumes or something, and I thought Davis Bitton (?) was doing some work on those journals before he died. He died, and they never saw the light of day.

George Q. Canon is a lot like Gordon B Hinckley. He was essentially president for 3 or 4 president's terms. He's very important. I think it is that the Canon family does not want them released, but I don't know that for sure.

[/Grant]

**source**

**jimmy02** 4 points

I assume he's referring here to Davis Bitton, history professor at the University of Utah.

**source**

**cagelessbird** Never be a spectator of unfairness or stupidity 2 points

GAs are instructed not to keep a journal? That is interesting. Where did you learn this?

**source**

**muucavwon** 2 points

From what I remember Hans Mattson mentioned a higher up telling him and his wife that as they were questioning.

**source**

**grandmagoddess** old enough to know better 1 point

UtahLegal, apparently we hang from the same family tree!! We should connect backstage some time!

**source**

**UstaBLDS** 1 point

It sounds like you should talk to family. Maybe you can help get them released.

**source**

**UtahLegal** 3 points

The problem is that George Q. Had 5 wives and 32 children, so the number of family members now is HUGE. Plus my family knows I am an apostate so nobody would listen to me on these issues. Bummer.

**source**

**UstaBLDS** 1 point

But you're family - that should count for something. Maybe you can just quietly request to see them while researching family history.

**source**

**Vatimus** 4 points

What are your views on how the church treats homosexuals?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 10 points

[From Grant]

There's a good one. There's much that could be said. In no particular order of importance, there's a BYU student that's done a study on [Gays at BYU](#). He's found, I think, 1800, and he's found 75% of that 1800 had thought about suicide. And I think he said 25% of that 75% had tried suicide. These are LDS college students.

He's being given an award in California, of course not in Utah, for his research. If what he's

saying is true, and I have no reason to doubt it, I don't think the church is doing enough to stem suicide among its own members. They need to internalize why our young people who are gay are doing what they're doing. That's one thing they are not doing enough of.

Another thing that comes to mind is that the church sends representatives down to city council meetings in Salt Lake City proper when they are trying to pass an ordinance to allow equality, civil rights for gay and lesbian people. Bishop Burton from the presiding bishopric was there and another representative. It passed right through.

It seems to me that there's no effort to make what happened in Salt Lake City available state wide. In fact, the legislature is kind of opposed to make equality a civil right in Utah.

It seems to me that Dallin Oaks is saying that people in the United States should allow us to practice our beliefs and behavior. No one is going to stop them from spouting their point of view or teaching their point of view. He's worried about the consequences, or social and financial consequences that may happen as a result of teaching what they're teaching.

The church hasn't felt the full pressure of this yet. This is going to happen. I think the church knows this is going to happen. Eventually all of these states will allow this marriage equality act to be law in their states. When that happens, that's when I think the pressure is really going to mount. I think there could be corporations that will not go to BYU to hire BYU graduates. I think there could be sports teams that will not play BYU, as occurred during the civil rights movement. If and when this affects the profit line of the church, that's when you'll see a change.

These are the social financial consequences that I see coming down the road if they don't change things.

Let me say one other thing. I think the basic argument is flawed. Is it a sin or isn't it? If people are born this way, it's very difficult to call this a sin. In the Ensign magazine, from the last conference, he said that even if the marriage is legalized then it's still a sin in the eyes of God. It's still immoral. That's going to haunt them in my opinion. I think they're going to have enormous problems because that will trigger the consequences if they hold to their guns.

[/Grant]

source

**4a4a2** Chased by an elephant 4 points

Grant, based on your experiences what are the most significant misunderstandings about church history and/or doctrine held by typical mormons?

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 7 points

[From Grant]

That's a big subject. It's just about everything. Everything is a minefield of Mormon history. They have not told you the whole story. This comes back to the education question again. They don't educate the people; they instruct them. They indoctrinate them.

We can trot out 20 or 30 things that are important to Mormon church history, and the members just generally don't know much about it. If they've heard of it, they won't have any depth. If they say they know all about that, ask them a couple questions and they really don't.

It's all the foundational stuff. All the polygamy, the Kinderhook plates, the Book of Abraham, the Book of Mormon, the second sight thing.

If you want a better answer to this question, go to the [Ah-Ha Moments in researching Mormon History](#) from the 2012 ex-mormon conference.

[/Grant]

source

**4blockhead** 3 points

I've heard in many other interviews where you have come out strongly as a believer in Christ. Denver Snuffer is also a strong believer, but was likewise recently excommunicated for writing a book that somehow impinged on the brethren's territory, and was reminiscent of the reasons given for [Avraham Gileadi's](#) excommunication in the 1990s. You have also been famously disciplined for writing a book, but other voices within the LDS church are allowed to express non-conformist theologies, while not facing church discipline. Greg Prince is the most recent example along those lines. My question: do some people walk on water? How do they escape when others don't fare as well? It is very hard to understand where the line for being labeled an apostate over doctrinal issues lies. Why aren't more high profile *new order mormons* summoned into *courts of love*?

Also, what is your opinion on the *new order school* of thought in general? It seems to be a major departure for those of us who grew up with the traditional, literal beliefs espoused by Joseph Fielding Smith, Ezra Taft Benson, etc.

**source**

[curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 5 points

[From Grant]

[Greg Prince discussed here.](#)

I don't have a definitive answer because I'm not in that category [NOM]. My experience with these people is that they start out that way and end up going one way or the other. Usually out. I talked to a person who thought they could be a New Order Mormon, and he thought he could be one of these one foot in and one foot out. He said, "it worked until we went and got a temple recommend. We were going to be a Jesus Christ Mormon and we were going to promote it and teach it. More Christ centered. We were honest with them, and we said we don't think much of Joseph Smith." That was it. It didn't matter that they answered every other question. It doesn't matter that they were worthy of a temple recommend in worthiness.

The idea that you can be a New Order Mormon, if you're honest with them [the church], they don't like it.

[/Grant]

**source**

[Will\\_Power](#) neo-danite 3 points

There is a great deal of speculation about General Authorities' compensation, with some claiming that the 15 receive six-figures annually. Have you been privy to information about G.A. compensation? What can you tell us about it?

**source**

[curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[Loans addressed above](#)

On the salaries:

[From Grant]

"I don't have a clue".

[/Grant]

**source**

[Oakfire](#) 4 points

I have heard you mention that one of the accounts of the first version was ripped out of the journal by I believe Joseph fielding smith. What proof do we have of this? How do we actually know he did it?

**source**

[curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 4 points

[From Grant]

I originally gave a lecture at the Salt Lake library, and I talked about that. Stan Larson is publishing this in the Winter issue of dialog magazine. It should come out in December/Jan 2014. I knew about Stan Larson's article because he sent it to me. I had a rough draft of it, and that's where I got the information I presented in the Salt Lake library.

The context, footnotes, and everything will be in the Dialog magazine.

[/Grant]

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[Editor's note from Curious Mormon] Note that there was a great post with scans not to long ago in this forum. It's worth searching for.

source

[whitethunder9](#) The lion, the tiger, the bear (oh my) 6 points

[Searched and found](#)

source

[shh-ut](#) 3 points

Who was the hardest person to face and tell of your disaffection? How did it go?

source

[curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 10 points

[From Grant]

The friendships at the ward level are generally superficial. The two or three I identified most with have left the church. They were thinkers, questioners and so forth.

I think I underestimated the impact on my family. I wish I could have sat them down before they knew I had written a book and told them some things.

**My advice to people is that you had better tell your children as you raise them, age appropriate, the rest of the story that they're learning in Sunday School. I could have done more. I could have been teaching them to be a little more open, because it can come back to burn you. They think less of you once the church indoctrinates them. They think somehow the parents are inferior if they left the church or are no longer active. If you don't want that to happen to them then you had better teach your children the rest of the story. Then the church will have them and the cycle begins anew.**

If you think you're just going to go along then the church will capture the minds and hearts of your children.

[/Grant]

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[Curious Mormon notes: I bolded this for emphasis. Great advice!]

source

[Darth\\_Jay](#) 2 points

Agree. Don't outsource the religion to the corporation. The good news is that its easier now than ever to keep your children from the clutches of the corporation. Because the internet.

source

[muucavwon](#) 1 point

I totally remember thinking this about my parents--and they were pretty hardcore TBMs! I believed what the Church taught over my parents. But my parents were explicitly teaching me that from day 1: follow the prophet, be obedient, don't get deceived. If your kid buys that, there is no tempering of thought that a parent can do.

source

[bluerabbitinthewind](#) 2 points

I have the book, An Intimate Chronicle, The Journals of William Clayton, edited by George D.



Smith. Someone mentioned that you said that "the church is not releasing the truly controversial historical records" such as Wm. Clayton's journals. Are there more of Clayton's journals that the church hasn't released? Thank you.

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 4 points

[From Grant]

I think William Clayton had 5 journals. One is just about his own family, so let's say that there are 4. William Clayton is the main scribe of Joseph Smith. He's told to write down everything, and that's what he does. The first several Journals are in Nauvoo, and he continues doing the same in Utah.

The church itself has not released any. Andrew ehat (??) got ahold of the copy and has revealed some things. The tanners have revealed some things. Micheal Quinn has revealed some things. It doesn't sound to me like they're going to release them if they're not going to use them in the Joseph Smith papers. I doubt it.

[See also](#)

[/Grant]

source

**whitethunder9** The lion, the tiger, the bear (oh my) 1 point

[/u/bluerabbitinthewind](#) Would you recommend the book?

source

**4blockhead**  3 points

The other mods will be invited to the call where he will respond to each question, but we had agreed to limit the number of participants.

What is the total/limit for the call?

I'm open to suggestions on how we can prove that this is actually Grant Palmer to the rest of the forums.

One idea is to have Grant edit [his page at mormonthink](#) to link to this post, [http://www.reddit.com/r/exmormon/comments/1ru8e7/grant\\_palmer\\_ama\\_have\\_all\\_questions\\_in\\_](http://www.reddit.com/r/exmormon/comments/1ru8e7/grant_palmer_ama_have_all_questions_in_)  
A note about our reddit AMA could be added just below the notice that states he gave a presentation at the 2012 Ex-Mormon Conference.



source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 3 points

What is the total/limit for the call?

I don't know that there's an expectation on duration, and I think it'll mostly be driven by the number of questions. Off hand, I'd expect about an hour.

One idea is to have Grant edit his page at [mormonthink\[1\]](#) to link to this post,

That's a great idea. I've passed it on.

source

**4blockhead**  2 points

That must have been a lot of work transcribing that. Wow! Good job!

One suggestion, I think you should preface the answers with a leading quotation. That way, if someone is looking through your posting history it will be clear you are quoting Palmer, and it will not be confused with you speaking personally. Something simple at the beginning would be enough...[quoting Grant Palmer...]

source

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

Good idea. I'll start on that now.

source

[Will\\_Power](#) neo-danite 3 points

Can we have a round of applause for [/u/curious\\_mormon](#) here? That's a lot of work and I'm sure his fingers are worn down to nubs.

source

[Toast--](#) 3 points

Where do you see the church in 10, 20, 30 years from now as far as the growth of the church and the policies/doctrines that will be in place? Do you see the church making big changes if attrition is high? Do you think the church will gradually become more open and accepting and less strict on rules and worthiness requirements? Do you see the church drifting away from some of its unique core doctrines and developing more Christian like doctrines?

source

[curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 4 points

[From Grant]

I think there's going to be a tipping point in Utah. Members will start to ask, "why is that good family leaving the church over there?" Orthodox mormons are beginning to ask that question. They're seeing very good members leaving, or dropping out. They're not all resigning.

I think it depends on who is in charge in 20 or 30 years in the church. Maybe they'll open up to include more people. I hope that's the case. Right now, they're doubling down. I don't see them giving much ground at all, but we'll see what happens. I honestly think the church will do almost anything to survive. If enough people leave, speak up, then I think they'll make some changes. Right now, they only change what they absolutely have to change and no more.

In many ways, the church is becoming marginalized. It's becoming irrelevant to young people. It's not meeting their needs. A lot of young people feel church meetings are boring; there's not a lot of preparation on the part of the people. They sit there for three hours. A lot are saying that they're not going to do this.

[/Grant]

source

[alison1879](#) 3 points

Are there other authors that have talked about "The Golden Pot" that you describe in An Insider's View of Mormon Origins and the similarities this story has with the Book of Mormon? If so who are they? If not why do you think this has not been addressed by others?

source

[curious\\_mormon](#) Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 3 points

[From Grant]

Michael Quinn has in his magic world view book. I'm the only one who is detailed having gone into it. A historian at [redacted] thought he was going to do something on this, and he was asked or told by [redacted] to drop it. If he would have gone against that he would have lost his job. He gave me what little evidence he had. He just said that they didn't want him to go there.

There will be writings about the Golden Pot.

[/Grant]

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[Editor's note: I've redacted identifying information due to the naming and shaming policy for non-public information]

source

**alison1879** 3 points

Have there been other authors who have reported on the visions that you discuss the Smiths had regarding the subterranean chambers & treasures that you discuss in your book (Chapter 6 in An Insider's View of Mormon Origins)? If someone wanted to find out more about these reported experiences where could they find additional information/sources for this?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 3 points

[From Grant]

Look at the footnotes of Chapter 6 and go from there. Michael Quinn certainly has, but the footnotes will lead to other areas.

[/Grant]

**source**

**pelatiah** 3 points

I found it fascinating the information you provided recently about Joseph Fielding Smith ripping the pages about the 1st vision from Joseph's diary. What sources can you provide to substantiate this?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 1 point

[Answered here](#)

**source**

**ZelphsLament** 3 points

I am curious about your experiences with correlation while working for the CES. Was there pushback from within the CES or elsewhere? How was it implemented? Did it cause you doubt or make you feel uncomfortable? That you know of did it cause others to become disaffected? Any other aspects that people might find interesting?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[From Grant]

I'm out in the field. I don't really know what they're doing; I didn't pay much attention to it [correlation].

[/Grant]

**source**

**exmocaptainmoroni** BYU history student 3 points

At the RFM conference last year, you mentioned that another teenage wife of Joseph Smith had been found. Who were you referring to and where can we find evidence on this?

Could you give a quick summary of the sexual allegations made against Joseph Smith that you discussed in John Dehlin's interview?

How would you rebut Brian Hales explanations of Joseph Smith's polygamy that he made in a later interview?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[Just an FYI, I didn't get this question before I sent over the list; however, it's [partially answered here](#), and [here](#)]

**source**

**exmocaptainmoroni** BYU history student 1 point

Thanks for the answers. Those are what I wanted to know.

**source**

**kingofharts** My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt. - Dostoyevsky 3 points

I remember you mentioning in your video on YouTube, "My Ah-Ha Moments While Researching Mormon History", that you actually think there is *too much* unbelief respecting God, particularly among the younger generation. From the same video, I also got the implication that you not only still believe in God, but you still consider yourself a Christian. Is this correct?

If so, can you elaborate on this? How have your views on God changed since you abandoned Mormonism? How have your views on faith in general changed since you abandoned Mormonism? What do you have to say to atheists, or agnostics, or deists?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[Answered here](#)

**source**

**Catallactiks** 2 points

Where will be the best place to find a response to the church's 13 essays on tough topics?

The first vision essay has been out for at least a week and mormonthink has yet to provide a criticism. Should I be patient?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 5 points

[From Grant]

I think the best place will be on Mormon Think. I suggested they not be in a big hurry to answer the church. The first vision is already up. It's kind of anemic. An informant told me that each of the 13 essays would have 3 tiers. A beginner's tier, an intermediate tier, and an advanced tier. I don't know if that's true, but my guess after reading the response on their website is that that is tier one.

And it's kind of hard to find. It's not exactly like they're putting it out for the members. In fact, my informant said someone was asked to take down the link of the first vision essay on LDS.org. It's almost like they do not want the membership in general going there. That's the impression I'm getting, but we'll see.

[/Grant]

[See also](#)

**source**

**UtahLegal** 1 point

Mormon Disclosures (which is affiliated with MormonThink and written by its former editor David Twede) recently published an analysis of the first vision essay:

<http://mormondisclosures.blogspot.com/>

**source**

**Catallactiks** 1 point

Thanks for the reference. I expect the mormonthink response to be a little more structured and detailed.

**source**

**laffattacks** 2 points

What do you believe happens to us after we die? The Mormon version of an afterlife is the hardest of the Mormon beliefs for me to abandon.

**source**

**TruthIsMyGod** Don't Doubt Your Dear Leaders 2 points

I had understood that the essays that Jed Woodworth was helping author were going to be more

prominent than just on the topical guide pages. Do you know if plans changed once they were outed or if this was their intent all along - to write them, but continue to bury them and have them reside on a page where people might assume they always existed, rather than having a date tied to their publishing?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[From Grant]

I've observed that they [the church] don't want to be accountable for anything they've said in the past. The General Authorities I've spoken to have been told by Gordon Hinckley directly not to keep a journal. The journals that are out there are now in books and they're embarrassing the church. That's the thinking behind that.

The less that's said, the less they have to stand behind, the better. That seems to be the position and direction they're going.

[/Grant]

**source**

**TruthIsMyGod** Don't Doubt Your Dear Leaders 1 point

Is this supposed to be the answer to my question? That's interesting, but what does it have to do with the possible change in plans as far as where they decided to publish these "essays"? They've been calling them "essays", but the last place you put an essay is in a topical guide...so something seems amiss between their previous plans and what they decided to do. I was wondering if he knew anything about this and their original plans or if this was the plan all along.

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

**Try this.** If you're looking for something else then you'll need to reach out to him directly.

**source**

**SupaZT** Religion short-circuits our reality checks 1 point

Almost positive richard g scott keeps a journal. It's just spiritual things though. "impressions"

**source**

**Mablun** 2 points

From your time in the CES and with your perspective now, what was the most ethical and least ethical things you did or saw someone do in interacting with students? What are the most ethical / least ethical 'official' teachings/policies/guidance they gave to instructors?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 4 points

[From Grant]

From your time in the CES and with your perspective now, what was the most ethical and least ethical things you did or saw someone do in interacting with students?

That's trying to remember back a long time. The only thing I would say to that is a few years before I started in CES, some of the old timers told me that they used to take the tithing out of their checks automatically before they got it. I thought that was kind of a strange approach.

Then, I guess that they realized that they should let people decide if they're paying tithing.

What are the most ethical / least ethical 'official' teachings/policies/guidance they gave to instructors?

Nothing comes to mind on this. Let me say one thing. The institute directors, most of them

are one-man operations. They don't have people checking up on them. They can pretty much do what they want. That gave me a lot of autonomy. I was true to my charge, but I think in these big fishbowl institutes, they have more politically correct.

I was called in once or twice in my career. It's inevitable that you're not teaching something they would like, but I don't have anything more to add.

[/Grant]

[source](#)

**TheWayoftheFuture** ...the way of the future...the way of the future... 2 points

What are your major interests/passions other than Mormonism and religion?

What is your favorite movie? Book? Musician?

[source](#)

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 7 points

[From Grant]

I like to travel. I've been on 20+ cruises the last 10 years. Visited 60 countries. Most of the united states.

I like raising pigeons. I raise parakeets and canaries. I like to garden.

I don't know that I have one [favorite book or movie]. I like to go to movies and dinner. That's my favorite night out or date.

[/Grant]

[source](#)

**TheWayoftheFuture** ...the way of the future...the way of the future... 1 point

Thank you so much!

[source](#)

**Mike\_trollzowski** 0 points ago

**grandmagoddess** old enough to know better 2 points

Grant, you've had some amazing experiences in the Church, both good and bad. if you could start over again, (especially the last 20 years or so) what would you do differently?

[source](#)

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 6 points

[From Grant]

Of course I was in CES 20 years ago. If I was still in CES? I don't know. You're pretty limited in what you can do. I'd probably do what I did. I was conflicted. I talked to my supervisor who was over the whole valley. He understood. He had doubts of his own.

For the last 13 years I taught inmates in the Salt Lake county jail. I wrote a book about that experience called "The Incomparable Jesus". I'm lucky I was able to do that. Those positions now are volunteers. The church is going more and more towards volunteerism. This position isn't even a paid position any more.

I'm lucky I had somewhere to go. A person today who would have similar conflicts that I had would have no where to go.

[/Grant]

[source](#)

**Sig1911lv** Kraft Moroni and Cheese 2 points

what does the future of the LDS church look like?

[source](#)

**EvilApostate** 1 point

Any new book plans? do you know of any great new ones on the horizon? loved your book by the

way. My brother took it back to Australia with him.

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 3 points

[From Grant]

I'll probably right a few more articles, but I've passed on the torch. I'm going onto 74 here. We have a lot of good young writers who are doing just fine. I do think we need a book on William and Jane Law. Tom Kimball is writing that, and he should have an article soon on that.

[/Grant]

**source**

**n0tquitesane** □□□□□□ 1 point

No questions, but I just wanted to say thank you. I didn't hear of you until nine years after I left, but what you are doing amazes me, and I hope that many more read and listen to your writings and speeches. If you had been doing this in the 90's, I probably would have left a lot sooner.

how does the line go, what does one desire most? "light"

Thank you for the light.

**source**

**alison1879** 1 point

What are your thoughts regarding the recent official church release regarding the multiple First Vision Accounts? Do you think what they have posted is accurate? Do you feel they left anything out? What type of response do you feel this will have among the members?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[answered here](#)

**source**

**alison1879** 1 point

Can you share with us what has happened with your close relationships since you wrote An Insider's View of Mormon Origins? Are you still married? Do you have a close relationship with your children/grandchildren? Do you still have close family members that are active in the church? Has your journey out of the church affected those relationships and if so in what ways? What do you find the biggest challenge regarding your relationships to be since you resigned your membership? Do you have any suggestions/advice for others that have left the church who still have close family members that attend and believe?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[Partially answered here, but I had to drop this question due to time](#)

**source**

**portseven** 1 point

in grants conversations with GA's what indication has he seen of the church becoming more accepting of differing views, such as a non-historical view of the book of mormon. will we ever see 'big tent' mormonism?

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 2 points

[answered here](#)

**source**

**ThinkOfTheNewName** When in doubt,.. Start your own church!!! 1 point

Hi Grant,

I would also like to know, what is the point in telling us a story about GA interviews without giving any information with which we could verify who it was or at least have a second testimony of the event?

With such little evidence of this event being factual, I can't believe it to have actually occurred.

Thank you for the work and research that you do.

**source**

**curious\_mormon** Truth never lost ground by enquiry. 3 points

[Answered here](#)

**source**

**ThinkOfTheNewName** When in doubt,.. Start your own church!!! 1 point

Question not answered

**source**

**grandmagoddess** old enough to know better 1 point

To add to this question: if it's true that a member of the 70 might have lost his faith in Mormonism, what is the potential fallout for him if he chooses to expose the church and resign (other than false rumors of scandal or other personal attacks against him)?

**source**

**laddersdazed** 1 point

I think you are a Saint to stick your neck out for truth....thank you! Be safe...

**source**

**Landonian** 1 point

Awww snap. It's on like Donkey Kong. This battle is gonna be more epic than Steve Wiebe vs. Billy Mitchell.

**source**