

## **SHIELD YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FROM FALSE TEACHINGS AND DANGEROUS BELIEFS**

[www.familyshieldministries.com](http://www.familyshieldministries.com)

“My family and I just heard the dreaded news...my little brother has converted to the Mormon faith. I need your help and have several dilemmas. First, Tim is already trying to convert my father. Second, he is the godfather of my oldest daughter. I have done enough research on the Mormon faith to know I do not want him responsible for her spiritual upbringing if something were to happen to my husband and I. But I have so many questions. My daughter’s third grade teacher encouraged me to contact Family Shield Ministries for assistance because of your expertise and knowledge of the Mormon faith. Can you help? What do I do? What about resources that will help us all begin to understand the differences between Mormonism and Christianity?” **Teresa**

Family Shield Ministries received the above e-mail from Teresa. A few weeks later Kay Meyer, the founder and president of Family Shield, met with Teresa, Teresa’s father, and her stepmother. Teresa and her parents, who are Christians, are concerned and worried about their relationship with Tim, and how they will deal with his new religion. And they have questions. Questions like: How do I keep my relationship with my brother/son and at the same time shield my young daughter/granddaughter from this religion that is not part of the Body of Christ? What do Mormons believe about God and how is it different from Christians?

Teresa and her family understand that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is not just another Christian denomination. It is a cult. Her brother and his wife may be moving to the St. Louis area soon and are planning to live with Tim’s parents while he attends the university. Recently when he sent her daughter a baptism birthday card, Teresa and her husband decided to review it before giving it to her daughter. They found comments about Mormon beliefs. They want to shield their daughter from false teachings of this organization.

“It’s never easy for family members, especially committed Christians, when loved ones get involved in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society,” shared Meyer in a recent interview. “I encourage individuals and families to begin with prayer and become equipped biblically so when God eventually opens a door they will be able to respond in love to their family member. Dealing with loved ones involved in a cult is a spiritual battle. We need to encourage them to use God’s spiritual weapons (Eph. 6:10-18).”

Family Shield’s Counter-Cult Ministry purchases and distributes tracts from other apologetics organizations, and also offers other resources that include: audiocassettes and CD’s from the *Family Shield* radio program. The program has featured many ex-Mormons, ex-Jehovah’s Witnesses, and other experts knowledgeable about cults and the occult. Besides the radio program, the organization also offers workshops and seminars on a wide variety of topics including: “Witnessing Effectively to Jehovah’s Witnesses”

and promotes other apologetic organizations with experts in these areas on its website at [www.familyshieldministries.com/resources/recommended links](http://www.familyshieldministries.com/resources/recommended-links).

“I let family members and friends know that there is no easy solution and that it can take years of fervent prayer before they see a loved one leave the organization,” shared Meyer. “I also tell them that family members sometimes need to back away from trying to witness and just keep the communication lines open. Each situation is unique and special. Family Shield offers suggestions, but does not tell family members what they should or shouldn’t do. The family needs to make these important decisions.”

Meyer has worked with family members and friends of Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons since she first witnessed to an active Jehovah’s Witness in 1981. One was Don who lived in Colorado. A father, he was determined to help his son and daughter-in-law stop association with the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Family Shield mailed resources, including print resources and a series of audiocassettes from a ten-day radio series on “Witnessing Effectively to Jehovah’s Witnesses,” spoke by phone with Meyer, and wrote Don to help equip him in his understanding of what the Jehovah’s Witnesses believe and teach and how it differs from Christianity. It took over three years, but finally the ministry received a letter from Don telling them that his son and daughter-in-law had stopped associating with the Witnesses and returned to the Christian congregation where they had been raised.

Another time an employee who recorded the first ten-day radio series on “Witnessing Effectively to Jehovah’s Witnesses” at AM 850 KFUE asked if she could make copies of the series and mail it to her son and daughter-in-law who were in the military service and stationed in Germany. They had recently been studying with Jehovah’s Witnesses. She sent the audiocassettes, and additional print resources. Before the program ever aired, the woman told Meyer that her son and daughter-in-law had listened to the series, read the material and had been led by the Lord to stop their association with the Witnesses in Germany. Soon afterward they got involved in a Christian church.

Getting accurate Christian information to those studying with Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses while they will still listen is critical. As they become more and more involved and indoctrinated into the false beliefs they will often refuse to read or listen to information from Christians and apologetic organizations. A Jehovah’s Witness can be disfellowshipped for reading Christian apologetic material or talking to an ex-Jehovah’s Witness. Mormons sometimes are shunned for similar activities.

“Sadly, everyone doesn’t have success in getting loved ones out, although we never stop praying for a conversion. Kathy was the first Jehovah’s Witness I ever witnessed to,” shared Meyer. “Over the years following that first encounter, I shared my faith with Kathy, her husband, Terry, his sister, Donna, and his sister’s teenage daughters. All were Jehovah’s Witnesses. During that same time I also began a Bible study with Pat, who was a new Christian at the time and one of the only Christians in the extended family. Pat was Terry’s ex-wife and the mother of Amy, Terry’s daughter by his first marriage.”

“Pat and I have stayed in contact over the years. She continued to grow in faith, is active in her congregation, and is one of *Family Shield’s* faithful radio listeners. During the past 25 years she has grown into a mature Christian who lets the light of Christ shine brightly in her life. But, she is the first one to admit she failed as a new Christian in raising her two daughters to know and love Jesus. She didn’t shield them from false teachings and dangerous beliefs!”

“Some years ago I got a telephone call from Pat. She had just learned that her daughter, Amy, had become a Jehovah’s Witness. As you can imagine, she was extremely upset. Here is what she said to me that day, ‘I wish I had encouraged my daughter in her Christian faith and witnessed more often while she was growing up. I never realized her father and stepmother were taking every opportunity to teach her about the false teachings of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Now she believes Jesus is only a man and that she must do good works to obtain eternal life. Why didn’t I speak up more for Christ? It’s so sad. Amy won’t allow me to talk to my granddaughter about Jesus. I can’t give my granddaughter birthday or Christmas presents. Please, Kay, ask Christians to pray for my daughter and granddaughter!’”

Besides helping family members cope and witness to loved ones, Family Shield also receives calls from concerned neighbors, friends of Mormons and JW’s, and Christians who are interested in learning how to reach them. Family Shield shares resources and tracts that will help them grow in their understanding of the teachings of Mormons and compare them with the Christian faith. FSM also witnesses to active Jehovah’s Witnesses and those studying with Witnesses when invited to do so by an involved family member.

“Betty heard a program on the radio program and called asking for literature and prayer for her daughter, Cathy, who is a Jehovah’s Witness. She later invited me to meet with her daughter and son-in-law. We talked at Betty’s kitchen table for over three hours. I focused on the Gospel, talked about the humanity and Deity of Jesus Christ, the Word, and touched briefly on the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society’s false prophecies. At the end of the conversation Cathy and her husband accepted print resources from us. This surprised me. They usually will not do this. Although I was willing to continue talking with them, they refused to do so. Please pray for Betty, Cathy, and her son-in-law.”

**The following are suggestions for Christians who have a loved one involved in a cult:**

1. Pray for God’s wisdom in your communication with loved ones. Ask God to help your family member or friend involved in a cult learn about the false teachings, prophecies and come to know the true Christ of the Bible.
2. Pray fervently for their salvation. Ask others to pray too. Pray that God would use you or bring someone into your loved ones life that will witness effectively to them.
3. Keep the communication lines open. This may mean not talking about spiritual issues with your family member. Be aware that Jehovah’s Witness elders will encourage members to stop all communication if family members continue to try to witness to them. This is less common with Mormons.

4. Equip yourself and learn as much as you can about their teachings and beliefs from a reliable Christian source. Family Shield has a referral list of books and resources available for those who request them and has recommended links on its website.
5. Encourage your congregation, zone, or circuit to coordinate a seminar or workshop on “Responding and Witnessing Effectively to Jehovah’s Witnesses” and/or “Responding to Mormons.” Advertise it to your members, to other denominations in your community, and in the community secular newspaper. Establish ground rules to protect your children and others in your extended family. Shield your children and other loved ones from false teachings and dangerous beliefs.
6. Join a support group for family members and friends coping with a loved one who is actively involved in a cult.

**The following are suggestions for congregations, a zone, or circuit:**

1. Establish a support group for family members and friends of those involved in cults. Family Shield has had support groups for family members and friends and would be happy to share suggestions for establishing one in your community. Support groups would be a wonderful outreach for a circuit or group of congregations to consider. Family Shield advertised its support group at Christian bookstores, churches, and other public venues. Within three weeks twelve people had signed up. Most support groups offer friendship, support, and educate those who attend about the challenges of the cults.
2. Other apologetics non-profit organizations also offer support groups. Concerned Christians ([www.concernedchristians.org](http://www.concernedchristians.org)) has support groups for family members of Mormons in many locations. They also have excellent resources.
3. Prayer is vital. Involve congregational prayer groups. Many churches have prayer networks already established. Invite them to pray for issues related to salvation, not just health issues. Those who become a Jehovah’s Witness often send a letter to their former Christian congregation asking to be removed from the membership roles. Put this person on the prayer network.
4. If you have an ex-Jehovah’s Witness or ex-Mormon join your Christian congregation make sure you get them involved in a Bible study. They will often hold on to unbiblical beliefs for years after their involvement and need sound Christian teachings and often one-on-one studies with major Christians.

**Beware of those that teach another Christ and a different gospel**

The Bible warns Christians to beware of false prophets and those that teach another Christ and another gospel. And to hold fast to the words of Scripture and beware of those who want to lead people away from Christ, eternal life as a free gift, and focus people on their works instead of Christ. The following are some of these Bible verses: *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers disguising themselves as an apostle of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently*

*some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned (Gal. 1:6). If one comes and preaches another Jesus, another gospel or a different spirit you bear this beautifully (2 Cor. 11:4). Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks (1 Peter 3:15). They will introduce destructive heresies even denying the Master who brought them (2 Peter 2:12). Do not believe every spirit, test the spirits—many false prophets are in the world (1 John 4:1).*

*Have mercy on some, save others by snatching them out of the fire (Jude 22; 24). With gentleness correcting those in opposition, if perhaps God may grant knowledge of the truth and they may escape the trap of the devil (2 Tim. 2:25).*

May the Lord of the harvest have mercy and snatch those who do not know Christ or who have been led into a false religion out of the fire and escape the trap of the devil!

The following prayer was written by a family member who had a loved one involved in Mormonism. Why not adapt it and use it for someone you know who has strayed from the Lord?

Lord God, You are the One True God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and in You and You alone do we receive all things. We lift up our loved one (name) \_\_\_\_\_, who has been deceived by Satan and is following a false organization. (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ has either never understood or has abandoned Your gracious gift of salvation through Christ alone, and is turning back to his own hard work and moral living to earn his way to heaven. Father, I pray that You would open his eyes, and show him Your truth. Send faithful Christians to proclaim God's Word and hit him hard with your precious Holy Law, convict him of his sin, crush the old Adam, and lead him into despair, so that he may see clearly the only way to heaven is through Your Son. Let him see and understand who Jesus is, what Jesus died for, and why He did it. Remind him that Jesus was not just an example for how we are to live, but He was the only true living sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Show him the truth! In Jesus name. Amen.

**Family Shield Ministries** (FSM), is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and has several ministries associated with its Gospel outreach services. The Family Shield Counter-Cult Ministry offers help and hope to individuals and their families who have a loved one involved in a cult or the occult. It also helps Christians learn to witness to those involved in cults. To learn more contact: Family Shield Ministries, Inc., P.O. Box 230015, St. Louis, MO 63123, 1-866-370-6070, or [www.familyshieldministries.com](http://www.familyshieldministries.com).

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