

## UPDATE

WEBSITE CONNECTS  
JESUS, JOSEPH SMITH

**H**ELEN RADKEY, WHO HAS BEEN MONITORING LDS posthumous baptisms since 1995, recently made a perhaps startling discovery—the temple record of Mary, the mother of Jesus. According to this record, Mary was vicariously baptized and confirmed on 9 December 2009, in the Idaho Falls Idaho Temple. A few days later, she received her initiatory and endowment ordinances. Then on 7 January 2010, she was sealed to her parents, Joachim and Anna.

On the record Radkey discovered, God the Father is listed as Mary's husband, and Jesus Ben Joseph CHRIST (born on 1 AD, deceased on 33 AD) as her son. Although the LDS database doesn't allow patrons to see the records for God the Father or Jesus (Radkey believes the Church has blocked access to those records because they are controversial), the record does indicate the source of all the data: the Joseph Smith Sr. genealogical website (JOSEPHSMITHSR.COM). The site is sponsored by the Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Foundation, an organization which lists LDS Apostle M. Russell Ballard, former RLDS president Wallace M. Smith, and emeritus patriarch of the LDS Church Eldred G. Smith among its board members. The genealogical coordinator for the foundation is Michael Kennedy, who in 1973, became the first direct male descendant of Joseph and Emma Smith to re-join the LDS Church.

Affirming that Joseph Smith Sr. “was fruit from royal bloodlines and perpetuated that fruit,” the website provides pedigree charts which imply that Joseph Smith Jr. is a descendant of Jesus and, through Jesus, of the patriarchs of past dispensations. The website quotes Brigham Young as stating that “the Lord had his eye [on Joseph Smith], and upon his father, and upon his father's father, and upon their progenitors clear back to Abraham, and from

Abraham to the flood, from the flood to Enoch, and from Enoch to Adam. He has watched that family and that blood as it has circulated from its foundation to the birth of that man.”

Unlike the LDS database, JOSEPHSMITHSR.COM does provide access to the genealogical record of God the Father ([www.josephsmithsr.com/lucymack/d0009/112815.htm](http://www.josephsmithsr.com/lucymack/d0009/112815.htm)) which is empty except for a “Y” on the line where the date of death is to be recorded. The record of Jesus Ben Joseph CHRIST states that he married Mary Magdalene and that the couple had three children. From that point on, the site presents a genealogy connecting Jesus's bloodline with kings and queens of Britain and Scandinavia.

JOSEPHSMITHSR.COM contains at least three genealogical databases. The first one, which includes the record of God the Father, traces Jesus's genealogy back to “Adam The Red Man OF EDEN,” and “Eve or Issa ‘mother of all living’ OF EDEN.” According to this database, Adam was born in the year 4000 BC in the Garden of Eden and died on 15 Barmudeh 3070 B.C. in Anakim, Hebron. Adam's record includes nine different documentary sources as diverse as *The Autobiography of Edmund Bohun*, the King James edition of the Bible, and the writings of Josephus.

Two other databases stored on the same site trace the ancestry of Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith, respectively. Joseph Smith Sr.'s genealogy is traced through 27 generations to Alexander Catchman, born in the year 1050. Lucy's genealogy is even more impressive: it goes back hundreds of generations and includes kings and queens of Europe, including Charlemagne, who is listed as a descendant of Joseph of Arimathea. The line from Lucy Mack Smith to Joseph of Arimathea is crucial for the website's effort to establish that Joseph Smith is a blood descendant of Jesus. Lucy's genealogy as given on the site does not include Jesus. However, elsewhere on the site, “Joseph or Josephes The Rama-Theo” —presumably Joseph of Arimathea—is listed as one of Jesus's three children. The source of that claim appears to be certain legends about the Holy Grail.

The nineteenth-century LDS notions that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and that early LDS leaders are descendants of that couple gained new momentum in 2006 when Vern G. Swanson, director of the Springville Museum of Art, wrote *Dynasty of the Holy Grail: Mormonism's Sacred Bloodline* (see SUNSTONE, March 2007: 77). After providing abundant quotations from nineteenth-century leaders, Swanson concludes that “the patriarchal and matriarchal bloodline of the Lamb's chosen family presently flows through the veins of Joseph Smith” (*Dynasty of the Holy Grail*, 365). JOSEPHSMITHSR.COM is a

Contributor: LDS Church Temple Records  
Name: Mary Mother of Jesus  
Contributor: [REDACTED]  
Note: <http://www.josephsmithsr.com/lucymack/d0014/1149103.htm>

Mary  
BIRTH: 0016 B.C., Nazareth, Palestine  
DEATH: Y

Father: Joachim  
Mother: Anna

Husband #1: God the Father \_\_\_\_\_  
MARRIAGE:

+Jesus Ben Joseph CHRIST ...  
Read more

Also known as: Blessed Virgin Mary, Madonna (My Lady), Mary (Aramaic: מרים, Maryām, Hebrew Miriam, Greek Μωριαμ or Μαρια, in Arabic مريم)

*The alleged FamilySearch record for Mary, the mother of Jesus*

I138474: Jesus Ben Joseph CHRIST (0001 - 0033)

<http://www.josephsmithsr.com/lucymack/d0034/1138474.htm>**Jesus Ben Joseph CHRIST**

- **BIRTH:** 0001, Bethlehem, Judaea
- **DEATH:** 0033, Jerusalem, Israel

Father: [God the Father](#)Mother: [Mary](#)Wife #1: [Mary Magdalene](#) - 0063

- **MARRIAGE:**

+[Joseph Or Josephes](#)[The Rama-Theo](#)[Jesus II the Justus](#)[Damaris or Tamar](#) 0033 -

[My  
Biography  
Download  
GEDCOM  
File](#)

[Contact  
Webmaster:](#)

[HOME](#)[INDEX](#)

*The geneological record for Jesus on JOSEPHSMITHSR.COM*

new instantiation of this old Mormon belief.

“This website is designed to develop and make as accurate as possible this blood line,” JOSEPHSMITHSR.COM explains. “A great deal of time and work has been given towards the accuracy of the records already contained within these pages. However, it is not expected to be infallibly accurate, [as] family history is an ongoing effort.”

## MISSIONARY FORCE REDUCED IN EUROPE, INCREASED IN LATIN AMERICA

THE CHURCH'S MISSIONARY FORCE IN EUROPE WILL be cut back as the Church intensifies its missionary efforts in other parts of the world. According to a *Salt Lake Tribune* story of 12 February 2010, two German missions will be folded into one. Spain, which once boasted nearly 800 missionaries, will be cut to ninety.

“We were told that the Church was pulling about 900 missionaries from Europe,” returned missionary Alex Curtis told the *Tribune*. “Our mission president told us that he expected the 90 of us to do the work that 120 of us used to do.”

The reduction is part of a global plan to increase the missionary force in Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Philippines, Utah, and New Mexico—all of which will see the opening of new missions.

In Southern Utah, the Church is growing especially among Latinos, who now make up more than 10% of the Beehive State's population.

During the last 30 years, the LDS Church has experienced remarkable growth in Latin America and the Philippines. Mormon anthropologist David Knowlton, who has often written about the LDS Church in Latin America, believes such growth could mean that someday

the highest quorums of the Church will be predominantly Latino.

“I expect these Latin American members to increasingly rise in leadership,” Knowlton told the *Tribune*. “And, if they follow the pattern of Scandinavians, then sometime in the next hundred years, probably toward the end, we can expect them to take control of the reins of authority.”

## VIGIL HELD FOR STUART MATIS

A GROUP OF MORMONS HELD A MEMORIAL VIGIL for Stuart Matis, a gay LDS man who a decade ago committed suicide at a stake center in Los Altos, California, in the midst of a Mormon-supported campaign against same-sex marriage. (See SUNSTONE, April 2001: 90-91.)

Robert Rees, a former bishop who counseled with Matis shortly before his suicide, said the event was meant “to honor a good man who left life much earlier than he should have, whose passing was tragic but whose message was one of hope to other people.”

George Cole, a director with Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons, said that he has lost too many friends to suicide. “I know what it is like to seriously consider taking your life,” he said. “I chose happiness and fulfillment at the cost of not having the Church in my own life.”

After singing hymns in a nearby park, a procession walked to the stake center, where they set up a memorial display that included a photo of Matis's gravestone and obituaries remembering other gay or lesbian Mormons who had committed suicide.

“We're here because it's a horrible thing that someone's life was lost,” said Laura Compton of Mormons for Marriage, which was created in 2008 to oppose California's Proposition 8. “Let's come together and share our stories with ourselves and let other people know that they're not alone.”



Philip Barlow, professor of Mormon history at Utah State University, characterizes the Book of Mormon as “a vast tract on social justice. It’s ubiquitous in the Book of Mormon to have the prophetic figures, much like in the Hebrew Bible, calling out those who are insensitive to injustices.”

“A charitable interpretation of Beck’s initial comments is that he intended social justice to refer more narrowly to the coercive redistribution of wealth via government interventionism,” said Brian D. Birch, director of the religious studies program at Utah Valley University. “As the ensuing discussion has shown, the term social justice has a complicated history and has been used to refer to a wide variety of theological and ethical positions. Beck’s references to Catholicism, for example, were embarrassingly naive and demonstrated his illiteracy with regard to both Christian history and theological ethics.”

“If he acknowledges the multifarious dimensions of social justice,” Birch continued, “then he has to acknowledge

that one can advocate the ‘social justice thing’ (to use his language) and not necessarily be a socialist”

Birch sees a possible positive side to the entire episode, saying that Beck’s remarks “could be the catalyst for long-overdue discussion within Mormonism over issues that lie at the center of the Book of Mormon narrative, the early history of Church organization, and the construction of modern Mormon social practices.”

Matt Bowman, a doctoral candidate in American religious history at Georgetown, argues on the *Juvenile Instructor* blog that Beck’s “great failure . . . is his insistence on reading religion through the lens of his politics, or perhaps his confidence that the two are so perfectly blended that the seams are invisible and the language of one blends effortlessly into that of the other.”

But then Bowman digs deeper, wondering if Beck, for all his hyperbole, hasn’t hit on something. “I feel an incessant, nagging suspicion that perhaps Beck’s salvo is a justified one . . . to point out that as in every age, idolatry may be the most pervasive sin of our own.”

## People

**Deceased.** Author SUSAN TABER, 62, of cancer. Taber was chair of the Department of Elementary Education at Rowan University in New Jersey. In 1993, she published *Mormon Lives: A Year in the Elkton Ward*. She was a volunteer for *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, which she helped index between 1982 and 1987, and she presented at Sunstone symposiums.



**Deceased.** The Rev. Canon Dr. ALAN CONDIE TULL, 76, a Utah-born Episcopal priest known for engaging in theological dialogue with Mormons. A canon theologian to the Bishop of Utah and the Rector of St. Mary’s in Provo, Tull discussed theology-related issues as a presenter at Sunstone symposiums during the 1990s.



**Off the hook.** BYU graduate and federal judge JAY BYBEE, 56, who during the George W. Bush administration authorized the use of waterboarding and other harsh tactics that the Obama administration now regards as torture. An investigation by the Justice Department concluded that Bybee showed “poor judgment” but did not commit professional misconduct.

**Released.** An FBI file discussing several death threats made in the 1990s against then-president GORDON B. HINCKLEY. One of the documents describes another, un-

named, target who seems to match the description of then-counselor THOMAS S. MONSON. DAVID JAY HESS, a man with a history of mental illness, is believed to have written some of the threats. Hess received a 32-month prison sentence after pleading guilty to one count of sending a threat by mail.

**Sentenced.** GERALD W. HICKER, 58, after confessing to the 1974 murder of BYU classmate BARBARA JEAN ROCKY. More than three decades after her death, re-tested DNA evidence placed Hicker at the crime scene. Hicker received a relatively short 5-year sentence in exchange for explaining to the victim’s family in court the reasons for his killing Rocky.



**Apologetic.** Conservative Idaho gubernatorial candidate REX RAMMELL, 49, after neglecting to invite any women or people of other faiths to a public series of discussions around the so-called “White Horse Prophecy.” After the first meeting, in which he discussed the prophecy’s contention that the Constitution will hang by a thread but be saved by LDS priesthood holders, he said future meetings would be open to all. The LDS Church issued a statement distancing itself from Rammell and affirming that the prophecy “is based on accounts that have not been substantiated by historical research and is not embraced as Church doctrine.”

