

Sample

# **UNMASKING A MORMON SPY**

**The Story of Stan Fields**



**By Jerald and Sandra Tanner**

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**Utah Lighthouse Ministry**

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# Unmasking a Mormon Spy

On March 5, 1974, we talked with a man who had been excommunicated from the Mormon Church who claimed that his telephone had been bugged and his private journal stolen at the time he was under Church investigation. In June of that year Attorney General William B. Saxbe called on the American people to report any information they might have about illegal wiretapping. On July 1, 1974, we sent all the material that could be gathered about this alleged wiretapping to the Justice Department. After a long delay the FBI finally investigated these charges and claimed that there was no “validity to the allegations” (*Salt Lake Tribune*, April 9, 1975).

During this period we were investigating to see if there was a connection between Mormonism and the intelligence world. We found, for instance, that the Watergate break-in and other illegal activities had been discussed in the Mullen Company, an organization which handled public relations for the Mormon Church. Robert Bennett, the son of Utah Senator Wallace F. Bennett, was president of the firm and the notorious spy Howard Hunt worked for Mr. Bennett. We also found that a student from Mormon-owned Brigham Young University helped Hunt with spying and bugging operations. Moreover, we discovered that James A. Everett, who worked for Bennett’s company in Europe, was doing public relations work for the Mormon Church at the very time he was serving as a secret agent for the CIA.

## “THEY’RE TRYING TO CALL OUT”

On November 6, 1975, one of the authors of this booklet (Jerald Tanner) picked up the phone to call an ex-Mormon who claimed to have information on bugging operations. The phone rang a number of times without an answer. Between two of the rings, however, a woman’s voice softly but distinctly said, “They’re trying to call out.” Since both our phone and the number we were calling were private lines, we could only conclude that someone was monitoring our conversations.

While we are aware of the fact that much of the equipment used in bugging telephones is made in such a way that it does not produce any sound, on some occasions telephone equipment is used which can carry a voice back into the line. In his book, *Undercover: Memoirs of an American Secret Agent*, page 273, Howard Hunt alleges:

On September 22 I was telephoning attorney Bittman from my home when I heard a whisper just after my attorney had spoken. The intruder voice said, “That’s Bittman,” as though to identify the person to whom I was talking. This slipup by the monitors convinced me—if I needed further convincing—that my telephone line continued to be tapped.

At any rate, after the strange voice came on the phone, we became fearful that we were uncovering something that could turn out to be like Pandora’s box. This was a very disturbing experience.

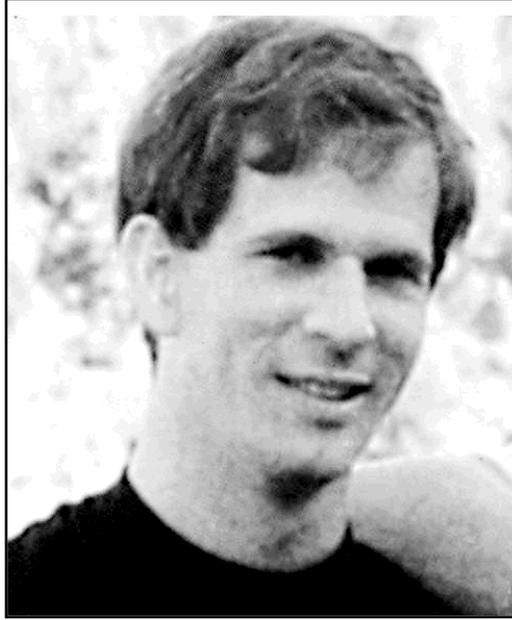
Not too long after this occurred (January 23, 1976) a man in California by the name of Steven L. Mayfield wrote Dr. John Fitzgerald a letter inquiring if he happened to “know anything” about the individual who claimed his phone had been bugged before he was excommunicated—the incident we reported in 1974: “I understand the FBI investigated possible illegal wiretapping against the church . . .” Steven L. Mayfield’s desire to know more about this man becomes rather interesting in light of the information which follows: According to Mr. Mayfield’s own admission (tape recorded interview, July 16, 1980), he was working for the FBI at the time he wrote this letter of inquiry. Even more important, however, is the fact that on October 11, 1976, Steven L. Mayfield assumed the alias of “Stan Fields” in a letter which he wrote to us:

Dear Friends in Christ: I am a feollow [*sic*] Ex-Mormon for Jesus, and would like to be added to your mailing list, . . . What is it like being “Apostates” in the capitol of the “Saints”? It really fasinates me how anyone could survive as long as you have.

Thank you in advance for answering my questions. . . . God’s blessings on you as you do His work, Sincerely in Christ

Mr. Mayfield not only assumed an alias, but he opened up a post office box in Pleasant Hill, California (P.O. Box 23114) for the purpose of deception. On the very day (October 11, 1976) that Mr. Mayfield wrote to us under the alias “Stan Fields,” he wrote a letter to John Fitzgerald in which he gave his address as 925 St. Louis Ct., Concord, California 94518. It is common practice, of course, for those who are engaged in spying operations to cover their tracks by assuming an alias and renting a post office box.

In any case, Mr. “Fields,” who has professed to be our Christian brother, has been spying on our operation for about four years and has also penetrated a number of groups of Ex-Mormons for Jesus. By dishonest means he has obtained the names of many Mormons who have questions about their religion. He has been diligently working to obtain photographs of critics of the Mormon Church and has gathered large files of information. He boasted, in fact, that he had the largest file on Sonia Johnson. We know that in one case he did research on a prominent non-Mormon and found that he had obtained a divorce several years ago. He also claims to have “tons of tapes.” One of his primary objects seemed to be gathering information concerning the scheduling of activities which were critical of the Mormon Church.



A picture of Steven L. Mayfield, who spied under the alias "Stan Fields."

Jerald and Sandra Tanner  
 Modern Microfilm Company  
 Salt Lake City, Utah

10-11-76

Dear Friends in Christ: I am a feollow Ex-Mormon for Jesus, and would like to be added to your mailing list, to receive your newsletter. Also would like to receive a list of the materials you sell. Would also be interested in knowing how your work is received among the people of Utah, both Mormon and Non-Mormon. What is it like being "Apostates" in the capitol of the "Saints"? It really fasinates me how anyone could survive as long as you have.

Thank you in advance for answering my questions and you anything you send me. God's blessings on you as you do His work, Sincerely in Christ

*Stan Fields*

Stan Fields  
 P.O. Box 23114  
 Pleasant Hill, California  
 94523

A photograph of Stan Fields' first letter to us.

## MAYFIELD'S CONFESSION

Mr. Fields' nefarious career came to a sudden end in July, 1980, when we discovered his true identity. We also found that he was employed at the Mormon Church Office Building in the Genealogical Department. On July 16, 1980, Edward Decker of Saints Alive in Jesus (a group of ex-Mormons who share "the gospel of Jesus Christ with the Mormon people") and Jerald Tanner directly confronted Steven L. Mayfield in the Mormon Church Office Building in Salt Lake City. We had abundant evidence of the spying activities and Mr. Mayfield made no attempt to deny the basic charges. He consented to an interview and we went to an area of the Church Office Building where we could have some privacy. Although Mormon Church Security guards were patrolling the area, they made no attempt to stop the interview. Mr. Decker pulled out his tape recorder, set it on the table and asked Mr. Mayfield, "Do you mind if I record our conversation?" Mayfield replied: "You might as well, I kind of figured you would . . . Do you want to ask questions, or do you just want me to spill the beans here?"

Although Mr. Mayfield maintained he "was not spying for the Church," he said:

. . . I can't guarantee that material that I've shared with other people hasn't floated upstairs . . . I'm as scared of Church Security just as much as you are, if not more . . ."

Mayfield admitted that "by taking on an alias I made a mistake, an error, a sin. I was out of line . . ."

In this same interview Mr. Mayfield gave this revealing information about his activities:

I went on my mission to Colorado and Nebraska . . . 71 to 73 . . . I went back home . . . started working with the FBI in San Francisco as a file clerk . . .

Everything about Stan Fields is untrue, but I did work for the FBI. If you care to I've got, from the Freedom of Information, I've got my file which you can look at.

A lot of things happened down there that I wasn't aware of . . . San Francisco . . . I think is the fifth largest FBI office . . . I served from July of 73 to June of 77 . . . I went over to Berkeley, this is in early 74, to be the clerk in Berkeley \_\_\_\_\_ on the Patty Hearst thing . . . then back . . . I went back to a security squad which were maintaining the file . . . upon various radicals . . . Then, from there . . . I accepted a job as the evidence enclosure clerk. . . . and that is the job I had when I resigned. My letter, in . . . my file says . . . that I resigned to go back to school, which is true.

. . . what I was doing with you was spy, what I did with the bureau . . . was just a paper shuffle.

One of the biggest fears I had was some crazy person taking a pot shot at you or you. Why? Well, because the first thing they [the authorities] would do, they would probably want to get your mailing list . . . and try to . . . contact people you've had contact with . . . and that would come right back to me, and when they find that Stan Fields is a non-existent person—let's find out about it.

JERALD TANNER— . . . You were watching us—protecting us?

STEVEN MAYFIELD—Well, this was one of my concern[s], you know, . . . people would say, you know, I wish someone would take a pot shot. I'd say please, no, don't think that.

Some time after giving this tape recorded interview, Steven Mayfield said he wished he had not consented to it. He was apparently concerned with some of the things he had revealed. However this may be, the FBI has confirmed the fact that Mayfield was an employee at the time he assumed his alias:

Steven L. Mayfield was employed by the FBI in a clerical capacity in our San Francisco Office from July 3, 1973, until June 3, 1977. (Letter from Roger S. Young, Inspector in Charge, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, to Jerald Tanner, dated August 18, 1980)

## MAYFIELD'S MASK COMES OFF

Although we were at times a little suspicious of Stan Fields, we did not realize what he was up to until July 1980. On the morning of the 10th a well-known Mormon, who works at the Church Office Building, called us on the phone and said he would be paying us a visit. Not too long after this Stan Fields showed up at our bookstore and began to engage in a conversation with Sandra and another man from California. The man from the Church Office Building was delayed for some time. When he finally arrived, we noticed that Mr. Fields turned his back to him and pretended to be looking at books. This lasted for some time, but when the man finally left, Mr. Fields jumped right back into the conversation. His behavior led us to suspect that he might have been at our bookstore for the purpose of spying on this man.

After Mr. Fields had been in our bookstore for about three hours, Michael Marquardt came walking up the path. As soon as Fields saw who it was he made for the door. We thought that his sudden departure was rather strange, but it was not until two days later that we learned Mr. Marquardt knew him under the name Steven L. Mayfield. He had originally been introduced to him by a man who had known him before he took on the alias. Michael Marquardt, therefore, posed a real threat to him, and he was always afraid that Mr. Marquardt would run into him when he was using the alias. In his tape recorded confession, Mr. Mayfield said that, "My problem . . . was the fact that . . . Michael Marquardt . . . knew me by my right name because he was introduced to me by John Fitzgerald . . ."

Besides the problem with the alias, it would appear that Steven Mayfield had another reason for fearing an encounter with Marquardt. This stems from an incident that took place on March 18, 1980. (In an earlier "Statement on Mormon Spies" we erroneously gave the date as August 11, 1979. This was actually another occasion when Mr. Mayfield visited with Marquardt for over four hours.) On March 18, 1980, Mayfield came to Marquardt's house and spent five hours visiting with him. During the course of the conversation, Mayfield desired the telephone number for a Mormon scholar at BYU. Mr. Marquardt got out his address book and gave him the number. Later, however, when Marquardt went to put his papers away, he noticed that his address book had disappeared! Although we cannot actually prove that Mr. Mayfield took it, it is interesting to note that Mayfield subsequently compiled a long address list of critics of the Mormon Church and such a notebook would have been helpful in its production.

## LINKED TO CHURCH SECURITY?

One of the most interesting aspects of the Mayfield affair is his association with Church Security Guard Brent Metcalfe. For over a year Mr. Metcalfe has been deeply involved in gathering information from critics of the Mormon Church. In fact, a Mormon scholar who knows him told us that Metcalfe feels it is his mission to destroy the Tanners and Ex-Mormons For Jesus. Our first contact with Metcalfe came when he sent a letter while serving on a mission to England. In this letter he stated:

End of sample pages.  
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