

## The Mormon Establishment

Wallace Tuner, former Pulitzer Prize winner and correspondent for the *New York Times* has now completed a book entitled *The Mormon Establishment*. This book will probably be one of the largest selling books concerning Mormonism since Fawn Brodie's *No Man Knows My History*. In fact, the following statement by Fawn Brodie appears on the jacket of Wallace Turner's book:

**It is a courageous book . . . he is not afraid of attacking bigotry where he finds it, even in a highly respected and respectable church. He has cut through much of the secrecy that enshrouds the power of Mormon leadership, and exposed the structure with clarity and objectivity,** as well as a perceptive regard for the overpowering impact of Mormon history on the present.

In our opinion, this book will deal a heavy blow to the foundation of the Mormon Church. While Mr. Turner is very fair with the Mormons and even goes out of his way to bestow praise where it is due, he is very critical of certain doctrine and practices, such as the Mormon doctrine concerning the Negro, the doctrine of polygamy and the interference of the Mormon leaders in politics. We feel that this book is very well written and extremely accurate.

At Modern Microfilm Company we have a very special interest in Wallace Turner's book. In this book Wallace Turner devotes about eight pages to our work and Modern Microfilm Co. This will, no doubt, give a great boost to our work, and will probably be our greatest opportunity to get the public acquainted with our work.

Some of our readers will probably remember that Wallace Turner is the reporter who interviewed Hugh B. Brown, a member of the First Presidency of the Mormon Church, in 1963. In this interview Hugh B. Brown was quoted as saying:

"We are in the midst of a **survey** looking toward the **possibility** of admitting Negroes," said Hugh B. Brown, one of the two counselors serving President David O. McKay in the First Presidency of the Mormon Church.

"Believing as we do in divine revelation through the President of the church, we all await his decision," Mr. Brown said.

Mr. Brown, a 79-year-old former attorney, said he believed that **if the change were made, it would be a doctrinal revision for Mormonism of a magnitude matching the abandonment of polygamy in 1890.** (*New York Times*, Western Edition, June 7, 1963)

After this article appeared in the *New York Times*, Hugh B. Brown claimed that he was misquoted. In his new book, Wallace Turner shows that Hugh B. Brown was not misquoted and that the Mormon Church's own press representative had "approved" the quotes attributed to him (see *The Mormon Establishment*, pages 258-261).

In December of 1965 the *New York Times* ran a series of three articles concerning the Mormon Church which were written by Wallace Turner. These articles were very well written and very revealing. Although newspapers throughout the country ran these articles, the newspapers in Salt Lake City refused to print them. The *Deseret News* claimed that it did not print the articles because it was not a member of the Associated Press News Service. The *Salt Lake Tribune* could not offer this excuse, since it is a member of the Associated Press. A man in the editorial department of the *Salt Lake Tribune* stated that the reason they did not print these



Wallace Turner

articles was that they felt that the activities of the Mormon Church were "sufficiently" covered and that there was no need to pick up these articles from the *New York Times*. In the January, 1966 issue of the *Salt Lake City Messenger* we told of the suppression of these articles by the newspapers in Salt Lake City. After quoting some from these articles we stated:

Although the Mormon leaders may be able to control the newspapers in Salt Lake City and keep them from printing articles such as these, we feel that the time will come when they will have to face these problems. They will not be able to keep their people in the dark forever! (*Salt Lake City Messenger*, January, 1966, page 4)

When we made this statement we had no idea that Wallace Turner would come out with a book on Mormonism. We know that Mr. Turner was very disappointed that the Mormon people in Salt Lake City could not read the articles he had written concerning them, but now that he has written a book there is no way that the Mormon leaders can stop their people from reading it. We feel that the time has now come when the Mormon leaders will have to face the truth. Their methods of silence and suppression are not going to be sufficient to keep their people in the dark. The light must break through, and we feel that Wallace Turner's book will do much towards bringing light to a people who have been kept in the dark by their leaders.

Wallace Turner claims that "**the most serious** problem facing the LDS church today is the Negro question." Wallace Turner "devotes two chapters to the burning issue of the Mormon doctrine on the inferiority of Negroes." On page 244 of his book, Wallace Turner states:

So the ultimate effect of this aspect of **LDS doctrine** is as **racist** as anything asserted by the Theodore Bilbos and Robert Sheltons in the bigoted corners of the southern states . . . the LDS church actually is one of the most influential organs of **racial bigotry** in the United States. All the imposing list of wonderful and truly praiseworthy things about this tremendous and impressive institution help to conceal this ugly corner of its theology.

Concerning the Book of Abraham, which is the basis for the Mormon doctrine of discrimination against the Negro, Wallace Turner states:

The foundation on which this whole doctrine of Negro exclusion is based in the clause or so in the Book of Abraham. Yet, of all the works attributed to Joseph Smith, this one is the **most thoroughly denounced by the scholarly world**. . . . the church has reproduced some copies of the hieroglyphics which the Prophet Joseph said he translated. The reproductions are accompanied with detailed statements of what the Prophet said the hieroglyphics show. It was almost as if the invitation were being extended to scholars to denounce the work. This they have done with gusto. . . . I am convinced by very simple direct evidence that the Book of Abraham is a spurious translation. (*The Mormon Establishment*, pages 232-233)

On pages 234-239 of his book, Wallace Turner gives the information which convinced him that the Book of Abraham is a "spurious translation."

Wallace Turner's book is filled with interesting information. It has 12 chapters and 343 pages. The following are the chapter headings:

The Holy City by the Dead Sea  
 The Angel Moroni, the Farm Boy, and the Book  
 "Zion Will Be Built"  
 "One Tenth of Their Interest Annually"  
 Divisive Forces at Work  
 Origins and Importance of Polygamy  
 Polygamy Today—Rejected by Saints  
 The Anti-Negro Doctrine  
 Will the Negro Doctrine Change?  
 The Church in Politics  
 George Romney—Latter-day Saint  
 The Rightists and the LDS Church

The price is \$6.00 a copy. We sold 20 copies of *The Mormon Establishment* the first two days we had it. Order your copy TODAY!

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## ***MORMONISM—Shadow or Reality?***

In his book, *The Mormon Establishment*, Wallace Turner states:

The Tanners operate as the Modern Microfilm Company. They specialize in copying books and documents that are out of print, or have been suppressed in one way or another, but that bear on the history and doctrine of the LDS church. When I talked with them, they had thirty-one titles for sale. The best seller was *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* prepared by them jointly. They had sold about 3000 copies. (*The Mormon Establishment*, page 156)

Wallace Turner also stated:

The Tanners masterwork, *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* is an intricate weaving of arguments from many sources against the fundamental precept of the Saints' doctrine—that Joseph Smith, Jr., was a prophet of God and that his production of the Book of Mormon, the revelations set down in *Doctrine and Covenants*, and further writings in the *Pearl of Great Price* represented the fruits of divine inspiration.

With the Tanners the church today finds itself faced by its own techniques of argument and its own words turned back against it to create doubts and uneasiness among some members. The campaign is effective, too, and of this there is no doubt. (*The Mormon Establishment*, pages 159-160 and 162)

We are happy to announce that we have now sold over 4,600 copies of *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?*

Many people have commented that it is very strange that the Mormon leaders have not made a rebuttal to this book. We feel the reason that they have not openly denounced it is because they know it would draw attention to the very things they want to hide from their people and that this would work to our advantage.

About three or four years ago a Mormon author (whose book is sold at the Deseret Book Store at the present time) told us that he was thinking of writing a rebuttal to our book. We did not hear from him again until about a month ago. At this time he confessed that he had given up the idea of a rebuttal. When he was pressed for the reason, he admitted that the truth concerning the Church was even worse than what we had presented in our book. He stated that the problems we had found with the Church and its history were minor compared with the problems he had found in his research.

If you are interested in a copy of *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* the price is \$5.00. The quantity prices are as follows: 2 for \$9.00 — 4 for \$15.00 — 10 for \$30.00.



## **WORLD VISION**

We would like to pay tribute to an organization which we feel does a lot of good in the world. The name of this organization is World Vision. World Vision is a nondenominational religious organization which seems to be devoted to helping the needy people of the world. World Vision supports more than 21,000 needy children in 20 countries. They send food, clothing and medicine to needy areas throughout the world. They have just opened a new relief project in India where many people are starving to death.

We feel that many of our readers will be interested in helping an organization that does so much good throughout the world. For only \$10 a month you can support an orphan (the cost is \$15 a month in Viet Nam). This money pays for the food, clothing, schooling and other needs of each child. Each sponsor can exchange letters with his child (the letters are translated into English before they are forwarded to the sponsor). What a joy it is to help those who are in need, instead of spending our money for selfish reasons. For only \$4 you can provide a pair of crutches for the needy in Viet Nam, or you can help to buy a wheelchair for those who have lost their legs in the conflict.

The Apostle James said:

*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27)*

For further information write to the address below.

WORLD VISION, INC., BOX O, Pasadena, California 91109

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## **Everyone Welcome!**

We are now holding a Bible study in our home at 1350 S. West Temple, every Thursday evening at 8:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. This is not connected with any particular group or church. Attendance is open to everyone—there are no obligations connected with attendance. The scripture lesson is given by Sandra Tanner.

We feel that the answers to life's problems can be found in the Bible if we are willing to study it and apply its teachings to our lives.

*For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

*And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (James 3:16-18)*