

Transparency and Censorship within the LDS Church

Presented by MormonLeaks



Ryan McKnight

- Born and raised LDS
- Served mission in Spain
- Left LDS Church in 2013
- Regulatory auditor



Ethan Gregory Dodge

- Born and raised LDS
- Served mission in Guatemala
- Left LDS Church in 2016
- Cyber security professional
- Also known as Privacy P. Pratt
- Craft beer enthusiast



MormonLeaks™

MormonLeaks™ is a non profit media organization founded on the belief that increased transparency within the Mormon Church results in fewer untruths, less corruption, and less abuse within Mormonism. The organization provides sources and whistleblowers the technical ability to anonymously submit sensitive documents for use by professional and citizen journalists for starting and expanding news reporting, public commentary, and criticism related to Mormonism.



MORMON LEAKS™



Destruction of the Nauvoo Expositor

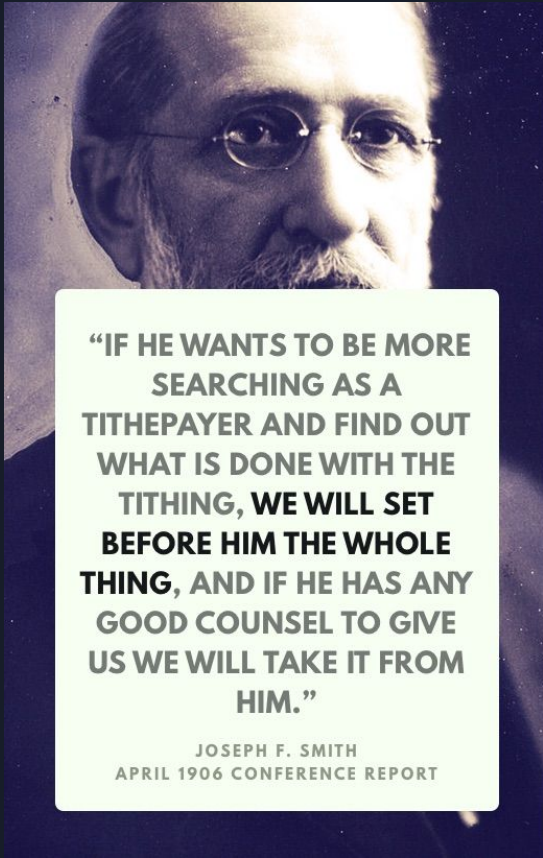
- In 1844 the Nauvoo Expositor published their first and only issue
- The issue was dedicated to exposing Joseph Smith's polygamy
- A few days later Joseph Smith wielded his power as the mayor of Nauvoo and ordered the printing press to be destroyed.



Financial Reports

- The LDS Church published detailed financial data every year until 1959
- Data was published to include things like how much tithing was received and what percentage of the membership paid tithing and fast offerings





“IF HE WANTS TO BE MORE SEARCHING AS A TITHEPAYER AND FIND OUT WHAT IS DONE WITH THE TITHING, WE WILL SET BEFORE HIM THE WHOLE THING, AND IF HE HAS ANY GOOD COUNSEL TO GIVE US WE WILL TAKE IT FROM HIM.”

JOSEPH F. SMITH
APRIL 1906 CONFERENCE REPORT

“By the end of 1959, the Church had spent \$8 million more than that year's income. This deficit was extraordinary in view of the fact that the Church had had surplus income of \$7 million after 1958's expenditures. **To conceal the massive increase of building expenditures in the last half of 1959, which created that deficit, the Church stopped releasing even abbreviated financial reports.**”

HISTORIAN D. MICHAEL QUINN
'LDS CHURCH FINANCES FROM THE 1830'S TO THE 1990'S'

*MISSED IN
SUNDAY.com



TABLE 3.2. Church Tithing and Expenditures, 1943–47, in US Dollars

	<i>Tithing</i>	<i>Percent Increase</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>
1943	15,725,854.57	—	4,390,649.65
1944	17,618,963.33	12.0	4,666,057.43
1945	18,339,700.27	4.1	5,081,109.50
1946	17,696,181.40	-3.5	6,786,233.86
1947	15,046,910.46	-15.1	9,646,827.87

Source: Financial Department, “Financial Report for the Year 1947,” 11, General Administration Files, First Presidency, CR 1/48, LDS Church History Library, Salt Lake City.

Note: Each year represents the fiscal year ending in December.

Quinn, Michael D. (2017). *The Mormon Hierarchy: Wealth and Corporate Power*. Signature Books.



TABLE 3.1. Expenditures by LDS Headquarters, 1924–28, in US Dollars

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
General Authorities ^a	120,483.52	131,404.01	130,390.52	137,682.30	136,642.82
General Offices	129,634.97	129,779.15	137,342.70	141,882.04	155,834.56
Ward and Stake Meetinghouses ^b	462,501.08	563,592.83	614,992.14	1,062,163.84	1,246,779.42
Ward Expenses	675,215.04	690,835.50	683,764.71	725,038.59	709,778.24
Stake Expenses	225,057.31	237,189.45	238,662.92	245,483.44	235,620.09
Church Schools	727,808.93	958,440.67	837,810.47	805,017.84	939,811.33
Temples	442,018.16	334,747.54	322,500.36	230,110.77	195,050.30
Missionary Work ^c	659,742.04	656,018.55	718,406.02	750,261.34	944,184.91
Hospitals	12,564.14	19,500.00	44,454.00	111,734.50	263,642.60
[Total:]	[3,455,025.49]	[3,721,507.70]	[3,728,253.84]	[4,209,314.33]	[4,827,344.27]

Quinn, Michael D. (2017). *The Mormon Hierarchy: Wealth and Corporate Power*. Signature Books.



Leonard Arrington

- Father of “New Mormon History”
- First professional historian as Church historian
- Advocated for a much more open and honest telling of Mormon history
 - *The Story of the Latter-day Saints* spoke of Brigham Young’s tobacco use
- Strongly opposed the Correlation Program
 - “I do not think we could determine the truth of what had happened in history by having the Quorum of the Twelve vote on it.”



Leonard Arrington

- Dreamed of a comprehensive series of Church history, but it never happened
 - Rough Stone Rolling
 - Early Mormonism and the Magical World View
- Church moved History Department to BYU to disassociate with HQ
- Picture was never on display with other Church historians until 4 years after his death



Transparency in the Digital Age

- Gospel Topic Essays published beginning in late 2013
 - An attempt to address controversial issues with church history
- Joseph Smith Papers - 2008 to the present
 - Publishing all documentation created by or under the direction of Joseph Smith
- DMCA
 - The church is still attempting to silence some through DMCA letters and other means of silencing critics



Ethics

- A conceptual framework of business ethics and organizational management which addresses moral and ethical values in the management of a business or other organization.



A night sky photograph featuring the Milky Way galaxy stretching across the frame. The foreground shows dark silhouettes of trees and mountains. The text "Real Life Applications" is overlaid in white serif font.

Real Life Applications

Retail Sales

- Ingredients
- Country of Origin
- Expiration
- Health Information
- Return Policies



Services

- Lawyers
- Accountants
- Contractors
- Ability to Appeal



Public Companies

- Top Executive Salaries
- Financials
- Extraordinary Events



A night sky background featuring the Milky Way galaxy, with the text "LDS Church" overlaid in white serif font.

LDS Church

Corporate Policies and Procedures

- All Manuals
- Committees
 - Members
 - Purpose
- Corporate Structure



Sex Abuse Statistics

- Annual Report
 - Number of Accusations by Region
 - Number of Cases that Resulted in Criminal Charges
 - Number of Cases that Resulted in Monetary Settlements
 - Dollar Amount of Settlements



Finances

- Local Level
- Regional Level
- Corporate Level
- True 3rd Party Audit
- Executive Salaries





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