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The CES letter is a saint's honest latter-day quest to get official answers from the LDS (Mormon) Church on its disturbing origins, history, and practices. Jeremy Runnells was given the opportunity to discuss his own concerns with the Director of the Church Education System (CES) and was sure that his doubts could be resolved. After reading Jeremy's letter, the director promised him a response. No answer ever came. The letter from ces Runnells presents many historical issues concerning the history of LDS, which for many members was a wake-up call. The letter deserves to be read, both within and outside the LDS community. Read with an open mind, and you will understand why many members ask questions. —Hans H. Mattsson, Former Area Authority of the Seventy, Jeremy Runnells' CES LDS Church is a perfect summary of the fundamental problems of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Given the generous amount of time, energy, and money given to the LDS Church, members owe it to themselves to take it seriously beyond what is taught in Church meetings. Let me start with ces letter. - Grant H. Palmer, author of Insider's View of Mormon Origins Meticulously Researched, this book represents Jeremy's sincere, sincere and Herculean effort to gather and discern basic evidence of the origin of the LDS Church. This is an amazing work of love ... for the truth. Mormon apologists have tried to discredit the CES letter. I highly recommend this book. — John P. Dehlin, Ph.D., Founder of MormonStories.org Sums Up Issues Better Than I Imagined – Matt Sums Up All Issues Nicely – Phil Great and Amazing Recap – David Impressive and Complete – Dustin Red Mormonism Pill – Heather Almost Brought Me to Tears – Austen I Love Your Fantastic Letter! - Matt Riveted From Start to Finish - Steven Beautifully Outlines My Concerns - Jason Read This Tonight. I really liked it – Craig I thoroughly enjoyed every paragraph! - Rob Jeremy T. Runnells is a critic of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Church LDS) and author of a book entitled Letter to the Director of CES (later renamed CES Letter). [1] Runnells grew up as a member of the sixth generation of the LDS Church with pioneering origins. He served a mission at a Church in New York city and graduated from Brigham Young University. [3] In 2012, he began to experience doubts about his faith. The Director of the Church Education System Institute (CES) asked him to write down his concerns, and in response Runnells sent an 84-page letter with his After not receiving a response, he posted his letter online in April 2013. [6] The letter spread throughout the Mormon blogosphere and the LDS church community and became one of the most influential places to catalyze many people leaving the LDS Church and resigning. [7] Ces Letter Letter Foundation Background Logo After participating in Marlin K. Jensen's fireplace in 2012, Runnells learned that some members are losing faith in historical issues. To understand these historical issues, Runnells learned about Joseph Smith's polyandry and the book of Abraham. I began to have these feelings of betrayal. I wasn't a rural idiot, I read books, a lot of approved books, I just couldn't believe that I had never heard of polyandry for example, or that Joseph Smith was married to 14-year-old girls. It really shocked me. When his grandfather heard about Runnells' doubts, he contacted the ces director, who suggested runnells write a letter of concern. [4] The content of the CES Letter presents a large list of problems that Runnells has with the beliefs of the LDS Church and its historical narrative. He deals mainly with historical issues related to the time of the founding of the LDS Church in the 1920s. This list includes issues related to the translation and historicity of the Book of Mormon, Genetics and the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith's First Vision, the Book of Abraham, Kinderhook plates, polygamy, claimed prophetic abilities, the prophetic history of power, Mormonism and Freemasonry, science and the Bible, Church finances, and Church academicians. The main theme of the letter is Runnells' belief that the Church knew unflattering aspects of her story but deliberately concealed or misrepresented it. According to the Salt Lake Tribune and The Daily Beast, the letter influenced the decision of many former members of the LDS Church to resign. [1] [8] Numerous responses from LDS Church apologists in blogs, books and podcasts were created, including several by FairMormon. Brian Hales of FairMormon suggested that Runnells was lying and had been deceived by Satan. Runnells posted an extensive reassessment of FairMormon's response. However, Tad R. Callister, general president of the Church's Sunday School, referring to Runnells as an unnamed critic, wrote that Runnells' claims were a rash, partial truth, and a classic case of presentism. [12] CES letter with a book published by Egyptologist Robert K. Ritner and reactions by apologists influenced the publication in 2014 by the Church of LDS of an essay relating to the historical difficulties in the Book of Abraham. In 2016, due to the content of the letter and public criticism of the church, its local LDS Church leaders held a disciplinary board to determine Runnells' membership status, but at the end of the council before the decision was made, Runnells resigned, left the church building where the council was held, and declared to a crowd of supporters outside the church. I have excommunicated the LDS Church ... from my life. ... What bugs are errors out there in the CES List or on my website that I can publicly correct? If there are no mistakes or mistakes, why am I punished for searching for and sharing the truth? ... I did nothing wrong. I just wanted the truth. [3] [13] Utah news station KUTV pointed to a survey of 57% of LDS Church members concerned about high-profile excommunicates such as Runnells, including 43% of temple recommend holders. Writer Jana Riess argued that the impact of the letter on CES was overstated, but important. It claims that the majority of members who leave do so for reasons other than historical inaccuracies. Those that leave historical inaccuracies, according to her research with Benjamin Knool, are a smaller, loud and growing group. [16] This contradicts a poll conducted by Podcaster John Dehlin indicating that historical causes were a factor in 70% of former members' decision to leave. In 2018, spider-man comics with the inscription CES Letter were released. Upon receipt of the notification, Marvel issued a statement: According to the policy, Marvel does not allow hidden controversial messages in its graphics and has taken out a reference from further works of art. [18] The artist, Ryan Ottley, also issued a statement: My whole family is members, like many of my friends, and I would never turn anything deceived about them or their beliefs. The reference was about the subject that interests me and the personal decision I made in my life. It has nothing to do with character, history or Marvel. In 2018, when Lars Nielsen published confidential documents about the LDS Church's investment fund, he called his work a letter to the IRS director in tribute to a letter to the CES director written by Runnells. [20] Nielsen said, I wrote an 'IRS Director's Letter' in style (and admiration) letter to the CES director because isolated, interrogated Mormons need hours of immersive, binge-worthy, relatable and rich content when their shelves start to burst. [21] External links REFERENCES to CES letters ^ a b Peggy Fletcher Stack In this new era of doubt, will there be a stronger Mormon faith? 11 March 2016 online ^ a b Michael Ash, Bamboozled by the 'CES Letter' 2015 ^ a b Nancy Van Valkenburg Author Jeremy Runnells resigns from the LDS Church for an excommunicate hearing in the American Gephardt Daily News fork, April 18, 2016 online at a b c John Dehlin Jeremy Runnells and His Letter to a CES Director Mormon Stories Podcast, June 18, 2014. online at ^ Kevin Poulson Inside the Secret Facebook War For Mormon Hearts and Minds online at: ^ a b c Harris, M. L., Bringhurst, N. G., & Mauss, A. L. (2020). LDS Gospel Themes Series: Scientific Engagement. Salt Lake City, UT: Signature Books. 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