



POLYGAMY

July 2007

News and Views from the Child Protection Project

United Effort Plan Reform

The UEP reformation plan will ultimately privatize property in Colorado City and Hildale and reduce the power of the prophet. By April 15th 40 petitions for benefits had been approved. The process for FLDS residents to obtain deeds and titles to their homes on UEP property had begun.

The CPP questions the criteria for the approval of claims. Some residents who had worked hard in building up Colorado City were denied. Others who had not been involved in building CC were granted claims.

The Trust property is covered by a patchwork of pavement and red soil. Some homes are grand, with stately brick, ornate fences and multiple entrances. Others are tiny, run-down trailers or unfinished buildings with wood fences to keep the outside world out.

In February 2007 Wisan accepted a bid of \$1.65 million for the Western Precision building in Hildale. Wisan was attracted to the buyer's plan to lease the 55,000 square foot state-of-the-art building to a gun safe manufacturer. That company has since decided not to move into

the Hildale facility. It is the view of the CPP that Wisan's acceptance of such a low bid was a further 'bleeding' of the UEP Trust like Jeffs and his men had done. It is further held that Wisan is using assets of the Trust to pay his fees. He and his attorneys reportedly receive a million dollar fee annually each from selling Trust assets.

In October 2006 a Salt Lake City judge signed an order reforming the \$111 million UEP Trust. The Trust has held virtually all land and buildings in the two towns.

The new Trust will not inquire as to

whether anyone living on its land is practicing polygamy thereby making it independent of religious doctrine.

In 2005 a Utah judge took control of the UEP amid allegations that Jeffs and others had been fleeing the Trust. The judge booted Jeffs from the UEP board and placed Wisan in charge as a special fiduciary with an advisory panel. Wisan is also in charge of UEP Trust reforms for the polygamous compound in Bountiful, British Columbia.

Meanwhile Jeffs has repeatedly told his followers to "say nothing, do nothing, sign nothing" when it comes to trust

(continued on page 3)

Criteria for approving claims questioned

Wisan and his attorneys bleeding the Trust

Surveys underway for dividing large parcels

Death rate would equate to 300 child deaths in Lake Havasu City yearly

Too many children reported as "run over"

6 month-olds slapped to stop crying

High Infant Mortality Rate

Small fresh mounds of soil over new gravesites mark the burials of infants in the "BabyLand" cemetery in Colorado City. This alarming observation points to a high rate of infant deaths in the FLDS. Percentage wise this rate of child deaths if compared to Lake Havasu City (also in Mohave County) would amount to 300 child deaths per year. Such a child death rate in Lake Havasu would be cause

for great concern, yet the same rate in Colorado City has been ignored. These child fatality rates in Colorado City raise serious questions.

From contacts within the FLDS, for children whose cause of death can be determined, neglect by their parents often precipitates the infant death. Two children apparently drank poison. One five-year-old died from burning. Two two year-olds and one

six year-old were run over. One 10 year-old fell off a mountain. The local coroner had not seen a child run over in St. George for 15 years. Yet in Colorado City, a much smaller community, he had seen a number of such cases during that time.

It is a known practice within the FLDS that in order to stop a 6-month old from crying the baby is slapped and its head held under water.

(continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UEP Reform	1
Infant Deaths	1
Child Protection Project	2
Healing Circle	2
Director and Editor	2
Excerpt - Jessop's book	3
Lost Boys	3
Heleman Boys	3
Polygamy Bill Dies	4
Q&As	4

“Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Child Protection Project

The **Child Protection Project** is dedicated to raising awareness about issues of child abuse within polygamy and other religious organizations. We are particularly interested in how institutions, especially churches, ignore child abuse reporting requirements; and thus cause unnecessary suffering and pain to children and families. Our religious institutions must be good corporate citizens because their mandate as tax-exempt beneficial, charitable organizations requires that children entrusted to their care be safe.

One major focus of our organization is to expose the abuses inside polygamous groups in an effort to free the victims and also to demand action on the part of government and law enforcement.

The CPP works in alliance with...

Justice for Children functions as the voice of the abused and neglected child. Their purpose is to advocate and intervene on behalf of the abused and neglected child at any stage of an abused child's case. Eligible children are victims of documented criminal abuse. JFC's advocacy for a child is not dependent on a court appointment. Therefore, the advocacy for the child's safety and protection can become a reality long before the case even goes to court.

Individuals call asking for assistance and guidance through a system that is often overwhelming, especially due to the emotional and traumatic events that are taking place in an abused or neglected child's life. Often, protective parties have nowhere else to turn through the maze of bureaucratic agencies and a legal system that is often stacked against the child. ▲

From the Executive Director

The CPP helps numerous victims of polygamous cults but wants to open a transition center to help better integrate them into outside society.

Many women continue to face the systemic abuses of arrest, involuntary lockup in mental institutions without court orders, harassment, stalking, retaliation, and few coping skills all for trying to protect their children and daring to hope for escape from slavery. Our focus is to help ease their way to freedom and choice.

Thanks to the many individuals in Arizona and across the country for your support. ▲

Flora Jessop

From the Editor

Welcome to *Polygamy News and Views* from the Child Protection Project.

Our purpose is to inform you about new developments in the FLDS, both positive and negative. Arizona news and CPP activities will be the primary focus.

I invite your feedback. I would like to create a “Letters from Our Readers” column in the next issue.

Many thanks to Rita Swan of the ‘CHILD’ organization, the *Deseret News* and *The Arizona Republic* for their reporting some of which I have incorporated into *Polygamy News and Views*. ▲

Doris Miller
Editor

Healing Circle Provides Safe Environment

A day of healing for FLDS men and women was held by a former plural-wife. This courageous woman escaped the enclave and lives on property she owns in Hildale.

In what some termed a “pow wow”, those participating were given walking sticks to symbolize that they would need support along their journey.

Those participating were able to express themselves about their roles as husbands and wives in the FLDS. Also in attendance by special invitation were several outsiders who have been helping former members for many years.

Through the course of the day the attendees were able to see the suffering and strength of other former members like themselves.

Everyone who attended

came away with a better understanding of the difficulty of escaping and rebuilding their lives and many have returned for other meetings.

This Healing Circle has become the life's work of the former members running it but money has become an issue. While grants are being researched for possible funding, small gatherings and individual healing sessions continue. ▲

Flora Jessop's Book



It was a clear sunny day. A young girl clad in a long printed cotton dress with two braids down to her waist stood at a gas station. She was with her father who wore a Western long-sleeved shirt and polyester slacks.

An elderly man, about 5'9" with a long gray beard wearing a leather jacket walked up to the filling station. His motorcycle had broken down and there was no service for 35 miles in either direction—he pleaded for some help.

"I remember his eyes. He looked at me without sizing me up as a potential wife."

The girl watched with horror as the men standing nearby threatened the man and ordered him out of town. Being taught "do unto others as you would like others to do unto you", The girl, Flora Mae Jessop age 8, began to question everything she was being taught. This incident marked the beginning of her journey to freedom from Colorado City, Arizona and the FLDS cult. ▲

UEP Reform

(continued from page 1)

reforms. However Wisan remains optimistic.

Surveying contracted out by Wisan is underway to break up the large parcels. ▲

Heleman Boys

Searching closets, drawers, cupboards. You would think in the Soviet Union or China under communism. No; searches and forced confessions are conducted right in the northern Arizona strip of the polygamous FLDS. A "reign of terror" in the FLDS emerged from the creation of the Heleman Boys by prophet Warren Jeffs.

The movement began with 1000 boys 12 years and older staging marches. Their group was God's army according to the Book of Mormon. Soon thereafter Jeffs wanted to see which boys would demonstrate the most loyalty to him. The marches led to searches of FLDS members' homes. Groups of five to six boys would enter a home and meet with the head of household. In addition the household heads were forced to confess and detail the "sins" of every household member.

Any books, magazines, printed material, television, computers or stereos were seized. Of great concern to

(continued on page 4)

Infant Deaths

(continued from page 1)

Flora Jessop and Linda Walker, former director of the CPP, researched burials in "Babyland" and the Isaac Carling Cemeteries in 2004. Marked and unmarked graves were compared to available information about the deaths. Again a high infant mortality rate was

Lost Boys Expelled as Surplus

Watching movies, ogling girls, wearing short-sleeved shirts and listening to popular music are all forbidden the boys in the FLDS. According to child advocates their real sin is being surplus males in a polygamous community. More than 400 males, ages 13 and older, have been banished from the FLDS community since Jeffs declared himself prophet in 2002.

Many of the boys are taken out of school before they reach eighth grade and forced to do hard labor in the sect's construction and other businesses on the promise that the prophet will give them the three wives they need to get into heaven. Then after years of work for little compensation, they are expelled from the only community they have ever known. Lost Boys have committed suicide. Many are homeless. Many use drugs or steal.

These are shocking abuses of hundreds of children. Some legislators have asked why parents have not been charged with child abandonment or neglect. Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff believes the boys do not want to testify against their parents.

In May 2006 an emancipation bill was passed by the Utah legislature. The law addresses the in-between stage of "legal limbo" whereby 16 and 17 year-olds can petition for emancipation from their parents. This law was intended to remove stumbling blocks to education, health insurance and student loans. The youth must demonstrate that they are able to support themselves. The CPP finds this law inadequate since most Lost Boys leaving the FLDS have been taught to fear all judicial proceedings.

A civil suit was filed by seven Lost Boys in 2004 against the FLDS. In early April a settlement was reached by attorneys on both sides. It allows for a \$250,000 fund for emergency housing and education to other Lost Boys as well. Also provided is 21 acres of property in the canyon behind Hildale. No land was granted near the highway which could later be sold for a profit. The cash awarded in the lawsuit settlements paid attorneys' fees. ▲

indicated with 53% of marked graves being children ten and younger.

According to Jessop, the former Mohave County [Arizona] coroner signed off on many FLDS deaths without even seeing the bodies. The CPP is monitoring the new coroner's procedures.

Flora Jessop is actively researching cemetery burials and public records. She aims to present solid evidence to responsible governmental agencies about the high child death rates and cruel treatment of infants in the FLDS. ▲



Child Protection Project

Contact Flora Jessop:
P.O. Box 71038
Phoenix, AZ 85050
602.373.0793
fjessop@childpro.org

Send tax deductible donations to:
Child Protection Project
c/o David Gould, CPA
555 S. Flower Street, Suite 4510
Los Angeles, CA 90071

www.childpro.org

Also:
www.helpthechildbrides.com
www.justiceforchildren.org
www.childrenshealthcare.com

*Discover your own claws—
Become your own hero...
Be a survivor of experience
Not a victim of circumstance.*

Contact the Editor:
Doris Miller
dredlin@childpro.org

Call to action

- Share *Polygamy News & Views* with friends and family
- Write the editor
- Write your legislators
- Make a contribution for the Transition Center

Polygamy Bills Die in Legislature



In February 2007 a bill aimed at helping women leaving polygamous husbands died in a second committee hearing due to powerful Mormon State Representative Eddie Farnsworth. Chairing the Judicial Committee, he refused to hear “any bill against polygamy”.

The bill, introduced by Representative David Lujan, Democrat Phoenix, would have denied husbands child custody if a court found “sufficient evidence” that they engaged in polygamy or child bigamy.

Also defeated was a second bill that would have appropriated \$550,000 to create transitional living shelters in Phoenix and Flagstaff for women leaving polygamy.

Lujan is an attorney with Justice for Children, a national child advocacy organization that has worked with many women and children from Colorado City, Arizona. He plans to reintroduce the bills next year but will narrow the language to make them more palatable and gather support from other legislators beforehand. ▲

Heleman Boys

(continued from page 3)

the Heleman Boys were any letters received from family members who had fled. In that case household heads would be punished by expulsion.

The actions demanded by the prophet meant that the Heleman Boys would have to turn against their mothers. Some boys did not risk such estrangement and were ousted by Jeffs. Eventually the home searches ended and the boys who proved their loyalty were promoted to some of Jeffs’ most trusted lieutenants who now control other FLDS compounds. ▲



Have any girls left the FLDS since the Fawns escaped or have any tried?

Yes, however as a result of the Fawns’ escape Warren Jeffs started marrying off 11 and 12-year-old girls. Jeffs believes that if young girls had several children by age 16 it would be impossible for them to flee.

What is the mindset of women and children escaping the FLDS?

Many women are unable to make basic deci-

sions for themselves as they have always been told what to do. Concerning religion, they have been taught that God is vengeful and exerts wrath on those who leave. At that point, most want nothing to do with religion. It is difficult to help them due to a “coded” language and their indoctrination in the FLDS.

Do the FLDS members vote in county, state and federal elections? Do they vote for City Manager?

The FLDS members vote creating a large “block vote”. They are able to swing elections and thus exert power over the Mohave County Sheriff and County Attorney. The Colorado City government is chosen by the

prophet and is allegiant to him.

With the continued inbreeding in the FLDS have new genetic deformities appeared?

None new within the FLDS. However to the Arizona State’s Children’s Rehabilitative Services (CRS) – yes.

Dr. Theodore Tarby, a pediatric neurologist at CRS, was very concerned about the prevalence of genetic defects in the FLDS. Before his retirement, he spoke before FLDS members imploring them to bring in outside genes. His audience had no interest believing outsiders would taint the “pure blood” of the community. ▲

Like the tiger we fight turning sexual predators into prey.