

Timeline of Lynn K. Wilder's Life and Conversion
Author of *Unveiling Grace:*
The True Story of How We Found Our Way Out of the Mormon Church

Early Life—

Lynn grew up on the south side of Indianapolis, IN in the 1960s – a self described “nominal Christian” – she attended Methodist and later Presbyterian churches. Age 12 – She memorized the twenty-third Psalm and the Lord's Prayer for Presbyterian catechism. In high school, Lynn nannied for a Catholic family of eight, so for a time she was curious about Catholicism.

College & Marriage—

During her first year of college, she attended a weekly Bible study at the Catholic Newman Center, but her motives were mostly social. “I didn't pray. By the end of that first year, I wasn't sure I even believed in God.” During her sophomore year of college in Indiana, her parents and youngest sister joined a community church back home and found renewed faith in Jesus, but she does not remember them sharing their experience with her. “Perhaps they assumed I knew Jesus from my years of church attendance growing up.”

Met Michael Dean Wilder her junior year of college. Mike was raised in a hellfire and damnation Baptist church, but although he believed in Jesus, he never caught the vision of a life surrendered to his will. They had their first date February 9, got engaged the end of July, and were married in a Presbyterian church in Lynn's home town December 28, 1974. Tried, unsuccessfully, to find a church home in Muncie, IN where they lived.

Visitors At The Door—

Despite their lack of a church home, Lynn decided she wanted to know more about the Bible. In her typical academic way of seeking, she signed up for a correspondence course to learn the Old Testament. At the end of the course, she was so convinced that these were the “latter days” spoken of by the prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, and others, because Israel had returned to her homeland. She felt an urgency to know more about this. “The pastors in the churches we visited never talked about the latter days. But soon two young men in dark suits knocked at our door in August 1977 wearing this title on their badges: The Church of Jesus Christ of *Latter-day* Saints.”

Nevertheless, Lynn was skeptical about Mormonism, “Mike offered not to join Mormonism for me. I offered to try it for him. We made a pact then and there that throughout our life together, whatever we did in the area of faith we would do together. So, we decided to try Mormonism together.”

Ten weeks later Mike and Lynn were baptized by immersion, and became members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by the laying on of hands by those who held Mormon priesthood authority. They made their first temple visit in March 1979 and became sealed in marriage so they could be a forever family in the next life.

Family—

December 1979 – Son **Joshua** born after an extremely dangerous pregnancy and five previous miscarriages. A sixth miscarriage occurred in 1981.

March 1983 – Son **Matthias (Matt)** born.

January 1985 – Son **Micah** born

September 1988 – Kathryn (**Katie**) born – a daughter!

Lots of years changing diapers, raising kids, caring for in-laws, and fulfilling church callings....The Wilders were all very active in their Mormon faith.

Brigham Young University—

In May 1999, Lynn was completing a doctorate in education with a focus in emotional/behavioral disorders, when she interviewed for a job at Brigham Young University, then graduated in July, and secured the job. The family moved to Utah in August. Lynn worked hard at BYU, rank advanced to associate professor a year early, and earned tenure the following year.

Sons' Mormon Missions—

Josh's mission to Russia – November 2001 to November 2003

Matt's mission to Denmark – July 2002 to July 2004

Micah's mission to Florida – February 2004 to January 2006

The Turning Point—

Lynn discovers racism and Mike polygamy within the Mormon culture in Utah. Gradually, they begin to make connections between racism, polygamy, and Mormon history and scripture.

Fall 2004 – Josh excommunicated for relationship impropriety, his membership/Mormon baptism removed but after an arduous repentance process is reinstated in October 2005.

June 2004 to December 2005 – Micah's conversion in Florida while on his Mormon mission. This process took about 18 months of reading the Bible. Amazingly, his girlfriend Alicia also read the New Testament and converted to the biblical Jesus about the same time back in Utah.

January 20, 2006 – After bearing testimony of the biblical Jesus to sixty Mormon missionaries and his mission president, Micah is interviewed, loses his temple recommend, and is sent home to Utah from his Mormon mission three weeks early.. After 48 hours in Utah, he returns to Florida to work and quietly marries fiancé Alicia. He encourages his parents back home to simply read the New Testament. At BYU, Matt and his fiancé, Nicole, begin reading the New Testament, as well as sister Katie, Mom and Dad. We begin to share with Josh.

April 2006 – Micah and Alicia have public marriage ceremony in First Baptist Church, Winter Garden, FL.

June 2006 – Fearful of being found out, Mike and Lynn drive two hours away from their Utah home to visit a Protestant church..

July 2006 -- With BYU colleagues (and some family members), Lynn travels to China at the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Education. In Florida, Micah and Matt Wilder, Jay Graham, Joseph Warren, and Steve Kay form the Christian band, now known as Adam's Road (www.adamsroadband.com).

Late August 2006 – Matt & Nicole marry in the Seattle Temple – join Micah & Alicia working at the Historic Edgewater Hotel in Winter Garden, FL. Matt and Nicole continues devouring the Bible and uncovering deception in the LDS Church.

October 2006 – Lynn surrenders her will to the biblical Jesus that begins a very long process of transformation. By Christmas, she starts wearing a cross, removes her temple garments, quits attending the LDS ward, and stops tithing. In Florida, Matt and Nicole join Micah and Alicia and others from Adam's Road in a firm decision to live their lives for Jesus in full-time ministry.

Leaving Utah—

January 2007 – After a year of reading the Bible, daughter Katie becomes bold and public in her faith in the biblical Christ. Mike follows soon after with a resolve to know the biblical Jesus.

March 2007 – Lynn and Mike decide she will not return to BYU. Katie and band member Joseph Warren begin phone conversations across states about their newfound faith in this amazing Jesus.

June 2007 -- Lynn is offered a one-year teaching job at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida, and takes a one year leave of absence from BYU. The next year the job becomes permanent. Mike continues his Utah employment from the web.

July 2007 – Michael, Lynn, and Katie leave Utah for Florida.

August 2007 – Katie is engaged to Joseph, a member of the Adam's Road band and former Mormon missionary in the same mission as Micah..

September 2007 – Mike & Lynn baptized into the body of Christ; their daughter Katie is baptized three days later.

October 2007 – Katie and Joseph marry.

Just after Christmas 2007 – Josh & Mandy meet and later marry on the beach.

January 2008 – Lynn resigns from BYU, and then she and Mike resign from the Mormon Church in March. Their letter is officially stamped received at 11:10am on April 11, 2008.

May 2008 – Adam’s Road leaves on their first tour to the Eastern U.S. giving concerts in churches and telling their journey from Mormonism to the biblical Jesus. Their wives stay back to run the Historic Edgewater Hotel. The band begins to be interviewed on radio, TV, in the newspaper, and develops an active website and social media ministry. Mormons questioning their faith reach out to them. They produce an album every year and tour every year thereafter.

January 2009 – Lynn bears testimony publically on a TV show called *Heart of the Matter* out of Salt Lake and her conversion becomes public, appearing in the paper, on blogs, and websites.

March 2011 – Main Street Christian Church in Brigham City, Utah, produces a DVD of Adam’s Road band members’ and Michael and Lynn’s testimonies available at http://www.sacredgrovesonline.org/videos/unveiling_grace.htm

December 2011 – Michael and Lynn launch Ex-Mormon Christians United for Jesus ministry and www.unveilingmormonism.com website, and a radio show with Dave Mitchell, *Next Steps*. They teach Christians about Mormonism and help Mormons find the biblical Author of Truth.

April 2007—March 2012. Michael and Lynn are blessed with 7 grandchildren.

2013 -- Josh and Mandy decide to officially relinquish their membership in the Mormon Church.

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***Unveiling Grace:
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Available from: Zondervan

Release date: August 20, 2013

Price: U.S. \$15.99

Format: Paperback / softback

Pages: 352

ISBN13: 9780310331124

BISAC category: Religion / Christian Life

Review copies, reprint permission and interviews are available.
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