

Letters to the Editor

Mormon Church structure

This is a note of complaint about an item appearing in the "National News" section of the Nov. 29, 1991 edition of your magazine.

The article is entitled, "Satanism investigated within Mormon Church."

The terminology used: "... a member of the three-man episcopate that rules the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" is a grossly distorted explanation of Elder Glenn L. Pace's position in the Church, the nature of the Church's organizational structure, and a misspelling of the proper name of the Church.

Elder Glenn L. Pace is (at this time) the Second Counsellor in the Presiding Bishopric of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (please note the correct spelling). The Presiding Bishopric consists of a Presiding Bishop and two counsellors. They do not "rule" the Mormon Church. Their responsibility is, basically, to administer the *temporal affairs* of the Church.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not "ruled," except by Divine Law. The leadership of the Church consists of the First Presidency and the Council of Twelve Apostles. The First Presidency (a President and two—or infrequently more—counsellors) *presides* over the activities of the entire Church and is guided through Divine revelation and prophecy. The living Christ is the only "head" of the Church, the First Presidency and Council of Twelve Apostles merely serving as His earthly agents. The Presiding Bishopric serves under the direction of the aforementioned leadership.

The leadership of the Church is not "elected." Leaders are *called* to their positions through Divine revelation by those having authority to do so; they must, however, be subsequently sustained in their callings by invoking the Law of Common Consent to the membership of the Church.

Further down in the article, wherein Satanists are being identified by their positions in the Church, another error has occurred: The article says, "bishops, a state president. . . ." The correct term is *stake president*. A *stake* is an administrative group of individu-

al congregations (Wards and/or Branches). There are usually about 5-8 units in a Stake, and somewhere in the range of 3,000-6,000 members. A Stake is contiguous in its geographic boundaries. A Stake President serves with two counsellors in a *Stake Presidency*.

Leaders of the Church are not professional clergymen. Local leaders (Bishops, Stake Presidents, etc.) serve without pay. All earn their livelihoods in conventional types of employment. Some are even magazine publishers/editors like me. (I have a Church calling of minor responsibility in a suburban Maryland Stake.)

I am disappointed to find errors in *EIR* of the type I have mentioned. This has all been offered in the spirit of constructive criticism. I hope that it is of help to you.

Ross McMullen
Silver Spring, Maryland

South Africa not in Commonwealth

[In] *EIR* issue July 26, 1991, Vol. 18 No. 28, on page 8 you are *incorrect* in stating that "... Kenya and South Africa, both of which are members of the British Commonwealth. . . ."

Dr. Verwoerd took South Africa *out* of the British Commonwealth in the early sixties!

In the sixth paragraph you refer to President Botha. I am not sure whether you are referring to the previous President Botha or to the Foreign Minister Mr. Pik Botha, or to President De Klerk.

Similarly on page 9 in the sixth paragraph you write, "We have to start talking straight," declared President Botha in a May interview. If you are referring to May 1991 then Mr. De Klerk was the President.

It is such a pity because one welcomes a different point of view based on facts that in themselves cannot be challenged although their interpretations could vary.

Y.D. Asmall
Pietermaritzburg
Republic of South Africa

The Editor replies: We appreciate these corrections of minor factual errors, and note that neither reader appears to quarrel with our general account of the events in the cited articles, events which require serious response from anyone in a position to influence the institutions named. Reader Asmall is referring to a two-page article, "Will South Africa Choose Regional Development or IMF Austerity?" Despite the editorial lapses he cites, the article clearly identifies De Klerk as the President and Pik Botha as the foreign minister of the Republic of South Africa, in the first two paragraphs. The thrust of that article was to challenge South Africa not to fall into the trap of Thatcherite looting of Africa. Albeit, as he points out, South Africa is no longer formally in the Commonwealth, in economic policy it has regrettably acted as the City of London's stooge, with tragic results.

Missionary appreciates anti-genocide information

Christian greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I visited America in June this year and at New York airport J.F. Kennedy I met some of your group who were selling your information magazines, especially your American genocide in third countries. I will appreciate you if you can start sending us your magazines.

Thank you.
Rev. Shadrick T. Kachazah
Missionary
Ndola, Zambia

The Editor replies: Thank you for your letter, and we would also like to express our gratitude to an *EIR* subscriber, who has donated \$490 to pay for one full-year subscription to the magazine to Reverend Kachazah's Life Tabernacle mission in Zambia.

We welcome your comments and queries. Letters for publication must be signed and include the writer's address; names may be withheld on request. Mail to: *EIR* Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390.