

BIOGRAPHY

Leslie Reynolds has dedicated a lifetime to personal growth-both her own and others. She has been a spiritual seeker/finder and an adventurer, while at the same time having a commitment to sharing what she has discovered. She left college, where she had been a graduate teaching fellow in the department of mathematics, when her husband received his PhD. (She will be returning to that career in June of 2006.) After rearing three children she returned to school and eventually turned to writing. Her first attempt, "Prince Charming Isn't Coming," was accepted with qualifications by Wilshire Books, but as Reynolds says, "I was too immature to make it through the editing process." Her second, on Domestic Violence, was accepted by Health Communications' editorial staff (pre O.J. Simpson) but was nixed by the company's hierarchy because, "There isn't a market."



In the meantime, Reynolds had completed a Masters Degree in Alcohol and Drug Studies (Loyola Marymount) and a Ph.D. in Substance Abuse Counseling (Columbia Pacific). Turning to spiritual matters, she completed a Masters Degree in Applied Theology (Regent College, Vancouver, B.C.). She simultaneously published *Mormons in Transition* (1996). Both InterVarsity Press and Baker Books inquired after reprint rights. Baker printed the Second Edition in June 1998.

Reynolds completed two additional books, *Spiritual Maturity: The Whole Elephant*, which accents the similarities in spiritual and religious practices rather than the differences, and *Street People*, in which she interviewed fifty-two people living on the street and eleven of their service providers. Both were placed with POD publishers.

For *Mormons in Transition*, she was able to get reviews and/or interviews in the major newspapers in Ogden, Las Vegas, Tucson, and Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Boise, as well as Salt Lake's *Catalyst* and one of each in the University of Utah *Chronicle*. She has also done numerous radio and television interviews and has appeared twice on the *Dr. Phil Show*. A speaking engagement on *Street People* was covered by the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

Reynolds has published two cover stories, "Kids on the Street," and "Helping the Hopeless, in *Salt Lake City Weekly*, an op-ed piece, "Utah Justice System Treats Young Minorities Unfairly," in *The Salt Lake Tribune*; an article, "Women In Recovery," in *Recovery Magazine*; an article, "Disaffected Mormons Need Open Dialogue" in *Citizens, Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret News*; as well as *Expand: I'm OK_Because I Exist, Books 1,2 and 3*, three 28-page manuals for a high school drug and alcohol prevention program she created.

Reynolds, an ordained minister, has lived in Utah, California, North Carolina, Texas, New York City and Yelapa, Mexico. She has three children, eight grandchildren, and married her ministry companion and best friend, Robb Benns, in 2000. She and her husband operate a business, Gratitude@First, in which she teaches classes to court-referred clients, as well as providing individual clients with coaching and spiritual direction. She ran for City Council in

2005 and for State Representative in 2006 to have a platform for her ideas. She also performs weddings. She is at her best in front of an audience.