

Shawn McCraney

Biblical philosopher, author, artist and teacher

Salt Lake City, Utah · meetshawnthebaptist.com · yeshuans.faith

MEET SHAWN THE BAPTIST — FALL 2026 UTAH SERIES

In an effort to unite all individuals in mercy, patience, kindness, longsuffering, and the fruits of selfless unconditional love, Shawn the Baptist will spend six consecutive Saturdays in September and October 2026 going into remote desert locations across Utah. Shawn invites all individuals of *any* faith or non-faith, especially students of Weber State, the University of Utah, UVU, Utah State, Southern Utah University, and Utah Tech, to hear his public message, have a conversation with him, and if they so choose, get baptized in the name of “faith and love” alone.

In a world where religion lies to suggest that we not only should hate the person standing next to us for their differences, but to also take up the sword and divide with them, Shawn the Baptist aims to **unite**. Shawn comes to encourage all individuals from any religious disposition, that this lie is the single greatest barrier to a meaningful life with God, and the single greatest barrier to progress in our world.

At the desert meets, attendees will have the opportunity to get baptized in *unity with all people* in the name of faith and love (however they want to define faith and love), not doctrine, not the Trinity, not any institution. Each person baptized receives a numbered T-shirt, tracking the cumulative count across all six events.

These events are open to anyone, require no prior belief, and carry no expectation of affiliation. They are designed specifically for people who are spiritually curious but alienated from organized religion — a population that research consistently shows is growing fastest among 18–30 year olds.

ABOUT

Shawn McCraney, 65, is a Salt Lake City-based author, broadcaster, and independent biblical philosopher who has spent nearly three decades researching and publicly presenting the intersection of institutional religion, personal faith, and individual liberty. He is best known in Utah for hosting Heart of the Matter, a live call-in television program that aired on full-power broadcast television from 2006 to 2013 and still continues on YouTube today, and for his 24-year-long weekly verse-by-verse teaching series through the Bible. He has written and presented over 10,000 hours of teachings and content examining religious doctrine and practice (specifically Mormon and Christian) from the lens of spiritual liberty through a completely direct and independent relationship with God through Christ.

Never affiliated with or funded by any religious institution, Shawn researches, writes, produces, and distributes his findings entirely independently in order to remain open to new information. Across his theologically evolving body of study and work, he has arrived at the “fulfilled perspective”, which suggests that all prophecy in the Bible has been fulfilled, and we live in an age of direct relationship with the Spirit of Christ.

Upon this foundation, he and his family structured Yeshuans: an educational and media network built around what they call the Yeshuan Model of Subjective Faith; through School, TV, “Psychics” and Discussion, they present the historical, biblical, philosophical and experiential justifications for spiritual maturity through a direct appeal to the Spirit of Christ for all individuals. The goal of Yeshuans is *greater liberty for all* through *increased love for all*.

Shawn now breaks out from his regional role in the atmosphere of religious critique to reach the world through his heart of hearts, under the moniker “Shawn the Baptist”. He aims to invite all people no matter the religious affiliation, to be baptized how they want in the name of “faith and love”, rather than in the name of any doctrinal position. Rather than promoting division through doctrinal certainty, he aims to unite all individuals through unconditional acceptance of one another.

RELEVANCE TO YOUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

Shawn's work touches directly on some of the most active areas of contemporary religious studies, sociology, and philosophy:

- The sociology of religious disaffiliation — particularly the post-Mormon and post-evangelical experience in the American West
- Fulfilled theology (sometimes called full preterism) and its implications for Christian eschatology and ecclesiology
- The philosophy of individual religious experience vs. collective religious authority
- The psychology of deconstruction — how people leave institutional faith and what happens after
- New religious movements and their critics in the Utah context

He is not a scholar in the institutional sense — and he would be the first to say so. But his body of work represents 20+ years of sustained, independent inquiry into questions that academic departments study from the outside. He has lived these questions. That combination of intellectual rigor and lived experience tends to generate exactly the kind of conversation that students find genuinely valuable.

BODY OF WORK

Books 43 published titles + a 22-volume chapter-by-chapter biblical commentary. Topics span fulfilled theology, Mormon doctrine, Christian deconstruction, subjective faith, and biblical philosophy. All self-published and independently distributed.

Heart of the Matter Live broadcast television, 2006–2013. Full-power station in Salt Lake City. 400+ hour-long episodes. Subject matter: Mormon doctrine, biblical Christianity, and the nature of institutional religion. Seven series now archived on YouTube.

Yeshuans Current platform — structured educational and media network including verse-by-verse biblical teaching, structured courses, and the Yeshuan Educational System (YES Program). Available at yeshuans.faith.

Theological training School of Ministry under Chuck Smith (Calvary Chapel). Supplemented by decades of independent study across theology, church history, philosophy, and religious criticism.

Background Raised in the LDS church in Los Angeles. Full-time mission (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania). Left Mormonism after seventeen years of independent inquiry. Born-again experience in 1997. First book: *Born Again Mormon* (2002). Relocated to Salt Lake City in 2006 to begin television ministry.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Shawn will be near your campus on [DATE]. We are looking for one of two things — whichever fits your context:

1. A guest lecture or informal Q&A with a class or student group — Religious Studies, Sociology of Religion, Philosophy, or any adjacent department. He is happy to be challenged, questioned, and disagreed with. That is the environment he works best in.
2. An introduction to any student organizations — interfaith councils, philosophy clubs, deconstruction or spiritual wellness groups — who might want to attend the outdoor event or simply meet Shawn informally.

There is no fee, no affiliation requirement, and no expectation of endorsement. He is not recruiting for anything. He is interested in the conversation.

A NOTE FROM DELANEY MCCRANEY NORRIS

I am Shawn's daughter and the co-producer of his work. I grew up watching him ask the questions that got him thrown off television and estranged from religious communities — and I have spent the last several years helping him build a platform that lets him keep asking them. What he does in the desert on these Saturdays is not a performance or a campaign. It is exactly what he has always done: show up, say something true, and see who it reaches. We believe the students near these campuses are exactly the people who are ready to hear it.

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