

March 30, 2006

H.I.S. Ministries April Newsletter, covering March 2006

In about two weeks we will celebrate our Lord's triumph over death and our salvation He so freely gave to us. We all should be rejoicing and thanking Him, not only during this season, but every day of our lives. He died for me and He died for you.

It is sad that regardless of the Good News of the Gospel of Christ, we see more and more confusion and departure from the truth. Apostasy is in full bloom. Spiritual apathy and desire to tolerate everything and anything is sweeping like a tsunami and entire denominations have been swept under this tide. The Word of God is not taken seriously any longer. Even those Christian leaders and pastors who were previously solid in their teaching and preaching have turned to paraphrased Bibles like Eugene Petersen's *The Message*, rather than the real Word of God. People want to be entertained rather than learning what God is saying to them. They are literally "driven" by all kinds of winds of doctrine and "purposes". Let us wake up and set our eyes on the Lord and His soon coming. We might not be able to change this "wind" for many others, but we can surely change our own walk.

The Bible warns sternly that it is possible that even previously devoted believers can drift from the Lord. (See Hebrews 2:1-3.) Paul marvels in his letter to Galatians that they had already so soon moved from victory in Jesus' and His cross and turned to "another gospel", their works of flesh. In the Book of Revelation, the Lord tells us that churches that were once strong, ended up wandering off. In Rev. 2 the Lord was grieved because the Ephesian church had left their first love, that is Christ. Laodicean church (Rev. 3) also departed from the Lord and became lukewarm, rather than being on fire for the Lord. Paul wrote also to Timothy about those who have "*cast off their first faith*" and that "*some are already turned aside after Satan*" (1 Tim. 5:12, 15.) They were believers, but they turned away. In 1 Cor. 10 Paul reminds us that the same thing that happened to Israel, can happen to us. He wrote, (10:11-12) "*Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*" This falling is not falling from salvation, but he is talking about falling from faithfulness to the Lord, to please men rather than God.

Peter sounds the similar warning, "*...beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*" (2 Peter 3:17-18.) Peter's goal, as was also Paul's, was to warn about a possibility that the Lord's own could fall away from diligence in following Him. It is true that once we are saved, we will remain saved, but we need to examine ourselves to make sure that we have been saved. If we have received salvation, our desire naturally would be to be close to Jesus. That desire to be close to Him motivates us to study His Word and pray without ceasing. If we do that, then we do not become vulnerable, and

wander off from His presence. This is our desire that “me and my house” we will serve the Lord, all the days of our life. We pray that it will be your desire also. Let us worship the Lord and be found in Him, together.

About two years ago I had many, many conversations with Lisa, a temple-married Mormon with 4 children. We talked via emails, we also spent hours talking on the phone. She came to know the **true Jesus of the Bible** and tried to share her commitment to Jesus and her conversion from Mormonism to Christ of the Bible with her husband and children. She visited a few Christian churches and found one that she liked the best - Calvary Chapel. (By the way, I have found that most former Mormons are so hungry for the pure Word of God that they prefer to go where the Bible is taught “book-by-book, verse-by-verse”. That is Calvary Chapel’s teaching style.) She found a friend there, Trish, who is in the Music Ministry. **But things were not going well for Lisa at home.** Her husband refused to look at any information that could help him see the error of Mormonism. Eventually, about a year later, he asked for a divorce and they separated. Lisa was devastated, because she loves her husband and she wanted her children to have both parents present all the time. To make a long story a little shorter, her husband agreed to cancel his plans for divorce, move back home, if she would cut all her ties to me and to all Christians in her life. I’ll share excerpts from her letter to me last fall, when this took place. She wrote:

“Hi Rauni, I have been having a very difficult time as of late. Life as a "single" parent sucks!!! And this is certainly not the life I want for myself or my children...

*I am trying to repair my relationship with my husband and somehow restore what we once had and felt for one another...**I am asking that you remove me from your mailing lists, e-mail and snail mail. But that you never stop praying and keeping us on prayer lists, is still a good thing.** Who knows, perhaps five, ten, fifteen years from now you will hear from me that the Lord worked a miracle in my husband’s life after all and in the end it will have all been well worth the wait...**You have been a great resource for truth, Rauni, and I cannot begin to tell you how important** (even though very painful to Mormons) **your work in spreading the truth really is.** I do believe though, as you are also well aware, that **the best "defense" against the cults is to educate people before they get involved.** I am living proof that afterwards, with so very much invested as far as family goes (I was the only LDS member in my extended family - I cannot even begin to imagine how it must be for the generational Mormons) **there is so much pain that it can become intolerable,** and that is when LDS must become numb (most likely a great cause of the so many and varied mental illnesses within the LDS community). **The pain has been so great to me that at times I feel I would rather be dead than to be going through what I am going through in this separation and what would be an eventual divorce and then who knows what?** I have been taking great comfort in the Lord and will continue in Him for eternity but can only do the best I can do and then I will be expecting that Jesus will take up the slack and have mercy on my soul...**Again, thank you for your friendship and for the work you do. I will continue to pray for your ministry and your family and all those lost souls in search of truth and hope somehow they find their way.** And I will also pray that one day - in the not too distant future - our paths will once again cross and that time will be under happier circumstances. **I love you my friend and sister. God Bless you always. Lisa”***

It was a sad time for me and I also talked about this with her friend Trish, who likewise was heartbroken for Lisa. One comment that we both made is that we knew that Lisa was truly a born again Christian. We also agreed that the Holy Spirit will not allow her to be

part of or be supportive of the LDS church, even if she wants to try to mend her marriage relationship by attending the LDS meetings for his sake. We can find instructions from the Word of God that we can apply to our situations. Paul counseled those in Corinth who had come to Christ from their background of worship of false gods, and urged them not to go back, but instead to separate themselves from idol worshippers. He said:, “*Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial [Satan]? Or what part hath he that believeth with infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*” (2 Cor. 6:14-18.)

Praise be to God, for He did not allow Lisa to stay long - she only endured a couple of months of LDS meetings. She wrote to me about 2.5 weeks ago, the 9th of March, 2006 and said,

“Rauni, - Hello dear sister.

I hear Trish filled you in on my circumstances. I am glad she did so as I had started a message to you but just didn't know what to say so I deleted it. I suppose it does not come as a huge surprise. I guess I was the only one who held out hope as so many told me it probably would not work out... I fully intended on biting my tongue and just going along to the LDS chapel and was just hoping - or rather fantasizing that all would work out. I knew almost from the first time I stepped back into the LDS chapel that there was no way I was going to be able to live this way. The children were also miserable going to the LDS church. And what really broke the camel's back for me was on the Sunday before Christmas all the services were about - yep you guessed it - Joseph Smith!!! They have been celebrating him all year long. It's just ridiculous!.. Anyway, I just couldn't stand it... I was directed through a man who came to inspect something at our house (by the hand of God, no doubt) to check out a church called The Chapel... I went a couple of times prior to Christmas and then again with my mother, father, sister, niece, and three older children to the Christmas Eve service. Wow was it beautiful!!!! Like night and day compared to the LDS service - naturally. Afterwards, I joined the woman's Bible study... I have I learned a lot and have grown tremendously. Thank you God!!! ... I crave the Word and just cannot get enough.

Anyway, my husband again began to be distant and unhappy and dissatisfied. It did not come as a surprise this weekend when it all came out and he moved out yesterday, 3-8.

Nevertheless, it still is painful - BUT GOD!!! So many blessings have come my way. I have made friends with a circle of women from the Bible study. I have my children wanting to go to church with me - in a wonderful youth group... I will be keeping the house and all the belongings... We were able to pay cash for this house... he will be paying satisfactory support, but there will not be much of anything left over after all the household expenses are paid. But I am grateful for that much. I will probably have to look for employment but not right away - I want the children and myself to have time to settle into this new arrangement first. Also, my family is only a couple of miles away. So many blessings indeed. I am doing well. A bit sad to be seeing an end to this chapter of my life but hopeful that God has a plan for my life. I will just continue to believe Him.

So that is what is going on with me. How are you and Dennis? How is your health? How is the ministry? I would love for you to send me all the past 6 or 7 months of your newsletters I have missed so I can get caught up with what is going on in the world of ministry to the Mormons. And most definitely I want to get caught up with you. Please do e-mail me. I always enjoy hearing from you and again, I appreciate your prayers... I love you Rauni, and so glad to be able to be back in touch. God Bless, Lisa.”

We have continued to be in touch and I praise God for her new found happiness in the Lord. She was tested and she passed the test. We all know that the Lord hates the divorce, but it was not Lisa, who asked for divorce, but her husband.

I asked Lisa if I could quote from her letters in our Newsletter, because there might be others in the similar situations who could find courage from her words.

She wrote back and said,

“Rauni, Of course you may quote me and use my name as well (L. Baker). I think it is important to be supportive to others who are also suffering as they attempt to leave Mormonism. Also, if you would like to add my e-mail I would also be willing to communicate directly with anyone who is struggling in this area.

I have read through the newsletters you sent. Wow. Some interesting stuff going on and the one about the "born-again Mormon" [January Newsletter]- what a deception and tool for Satan. I remember long ago (when I was a strong Mormon) when I was working in a supermarket, a woman came through my check out and because I am always smiling and cheerful, she asked me if I was "born again" - honestly I was taken aback. I really hadn't considered that question before... I now KNOW I AM "Born Again" and should I die this day I am confident that I will be in heaven with Jesus - and that through Jesus, and because of what He did - I am made acceptable to God!!! What a wonderful thing that is!!

Also, this past fall I remember sitting in a Relief Society meeting in which the Bishop was teaching a class on "fear". He asked the ladies what some of their fears were. I put up my hand and quoted the Bible saying "God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and of a sound mind". My comment was not given much thought but quickly passed over. Another lady raised her hand and said one of the things she fears is in not knowing if she had done enough and whether or not she would be found acceptable. I just sat there thinking "how sad". I wanted so bad to just take that lady in my arms as Jesus would and share with her the beauty of the truth about Jesus. But, I could not do that. That was the last RS meeting I ever attended. (Interesting, the Bishop did not have a reply for her either.) - Rauni, I think it is wonderful what you are doing and I have never stopped praying for your ministry. I am real interested in this new video about the Bible vs. the BOM... Thanks so much and also for your continued prayers. I know I am stepping into the unknown as I become a divorced mother of four but as my Baptist family physician pointed out to me, perhaps God is closing one door and opening another and there will be a whole new life of opportunities ahead of me. I'M BELIEVING GOD!!! Love and Blessings, Rejoicing in Jesus - Always and Forever - Lisa”
(Lisa's email is: lbaker@gmail.com)

God is good and He will lead His own “*out from among them to be separate.*”

When we stand for Jesus, regardless of the cost, then we can be an encouragement to others in similar situations. I am sure that God will use Lisa mightily in the future.

She has already sent her “exit letter” to her bishop, asking that her name be removed from the LDS church’s records.

In our last three Newsletters we have mentioned a Returned Mormon Missionary from Uganda, who started writing to us this last December, saying that he has left the LDS Church and wanted to talk to someone who understands and who has an LDS background. - We have been in constant communication with him, answering his doctrinal questions on Mormonism and helping to clear his confusion in what the Bible actually says, since his understanding of the Bible has been tainted by Mormon misinterpretations and twists. After we mailed him our little booklet (66 pages long), “*The Truth About Mormonism*”, we asked that he would read it carefully and see if what we suggest on page 51, would be something he would desire to do. That page reads: “*God’s way is very simple. If you would like to receive the truth, may we suggest that you go to God in prayer and tell Him that you want to denounce all false ways and false views of Him, which you may have even promoted, and that you now accept Him and His ways, and ask His guidance in understanding His Word, the Bible. Ask God to search your heart and help you to understand that you cannot earn your salvation, but that you will accept it as a gift from God, as Ephesians 2:8-9 says. Recognize that you are a sinner worthy only of the judgment of God and that you now want to receive the true Jesus Christ of the Bible into your heart and life, for you now believe that Jesus has paid the penalty for all your sins, past, present and future, when, hanging on the cross, He declared, ‘It is finished’ (in Greek, literally meaning: ‘Paid in full’), and that you now want to serve Him. Ask God to help you to grow in the grace and knowledge of the true Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Amen.*”

He replied saying that he did exactly what we had said there. He received forgiveness and salvation. **Praise be to God. He is now our brother in Christ.** He wants to inform other Mormons in Uganda, and help them not only to see that Mormonism is false, but that there is truth about God to be found and received through the study of the Bible. **He has written to me 2-3 letters every week with many questions.**

He had told us that there was going to be a district LDS conference in Kampala, Uganda, on the second weekend in March and that he would like to have our booklet, *The Truth About Mormonism*, printed so that he and his friends can pass them out. We wired him enough money to print 500 copies of our booklet. He wrote:

“ Hello Rauni, Thank you for helping us having the booklets. I printed 657 copies of those booklets. I added on some little money of mine for 167 of them. The Kampala district conference was held this past weekend; Saturday was for the priesthood session/Auxiliary training meetings while Sunday (yesterday) was for the general session of the conference. We gave out those booklets to each individual that was coming out of the conference, i.e. members and investigators. The mission president looked at me with a very mean face. I am not sure what they will do to counter our campaigns. I know this will impact negatively on their work or rather lies. We’ll see what happens.

Some time back I wrote an article about the church and sent it to two newspapers but they didn’t print it in their papers. I called the editors and they told me to go there personally and meet with them for more clarification. I left my colleague in Kampala to meet with them since I had to get back to my work here in Jinja. I will send you a copy of that article once it runs in the newspapers...

I am going to post mail you a copy of that [your] booklet tomorrow. Thanks for helping us in our efforts to expose the numerous lies of the Mormon Church. Can you imagine black Africans were long regarded by many of many Mormon "prophets and apostles" as a subhuman species. President Brigham Young infamously counseled "death on the spot" (that is, without trial or other protections afforded by legal process) for a black man who marries a white woman. Was this guy (and his colleagues) lunatics or what??? When I read about statements that these so-called Mormon "prophets" have made in regard to Africans, I really get puzzled and am at loss of words as to what kind of people these fellows were. I once again thank you and your ministry for helping us. God Bless you, Edward "

The local Mormons are already challenging his faith in the Bible and what it teaches. I will copy one of his letters here as an example of what kind of arguments he is receiving. They are very much the same challenges there as here and around the world. These issues must be answered in order that he and others coming from Mormonism can grow in confidence of the biblical truth.

"Hello Rauni,

Thanks for your e-mails and prayers for me. It's my strong desire to be the means of helping Ugandans know the truth about Mormonism.

I posted [mailed] the booklet to your home address yesterday. Let me know when you receive it. I should tell you that one printer was concerned with the copyright, so he was asking a letter from you first. I had little time, so the second one accepted my explanation.

Please go ahead and send me that information that you have about Blacks and the Mormon Church.

I should tell you that I burnt several copies of the Book of Mormon that I had and left myself with only one copy for reference purposes.

LDS Anthropologists Thomas W. Murphy and Will West that were featured in those DVDs you sent to me were right on when they referred to it [the Book of Mormon] as a 19th century religious fiction. By the way I should ask for permission [from the video makers] to let me copy those DVDs to a Video Cassette so that I can show them to my friends at home.

I have again questions for you:

1. When Mormon Patriarchs give Patriarchal blessings, they purport to be acting under inspiration. Do they just guess a tribe of Israel that person belongs to or what? We now know that the Lord doesn't actually use them.

2. What do you have to say about these verses in the Bible that Mormons claim are talking about them: Isaiah 62:2 (New Jerusalem), Isaiah 29:11-14 (BoM & Joseph Smith), Isaiah 2:2 (SL, UT. temple), Ezekiel 37:15-17(BoM), John 10:16(Nephites)

3. Mormons justify their baptisms for the dead by using the scriptures in 1 Peter, 3:18-19; 4:6 and 1 Cor. 15:29. What is the true meaning of these verses?

4. In Genesis 1:26, it reads; And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness..., please help me understand what that "us" means in that verse. Who was God speaking to?

One of the Newspapers I wrote an article about Mormons told my friend that it will run in tomorrow's issue. If you would like to have a look at it, send me your fax number so that I can fax it to you. God Bless, Edward."

(I have answered these questions, but I do not have room to print them here. I can do it next month.)

We have received many letters from many people all over the world. One of them is a Mormon man in Denmark, who wrote to us about 2 months ago concerning our website. He questioned us, because he was having a hard time believing that what we are saying can be documented from an authentic source. I asked for his mailing address so that I could send him the proof he was asking for. We have been writing back and forth ever since. In addition to what he has asked, I have mailed him all three DVD's, "*The Bible vs. the Book of Mormon*", "*DNA vs. the Book of Mormon*" and "*The Book of Abraham*". I have also mailed him books and other written materials, and he is amazed that this information is available, because he has not known about it. Please pray for him and that he will not only come out from Mormonism, but that he will come to know the true Jesus of the Bible. (His name is Soren.)

Our ministry, through the Internet, has expanded to cover just about all continents and English speaking countries. Please pray that we can manage the growing demands and expenses. Dennis is working hard to cover our personal living costs, but it is getting a bit difficult due to our health expenses. That happens when we grow older, but we trust that God will take care of us. We also believe that as long as we are doing His work, He, through His people, provides for the ministry. It is sometimes hard to see ahead of time, but our trust is in Him and that He will raise up helpers who He wants to be our partners in our ministry work.

Two weeks ago we spent a weekend of teaching in Cedaredge, Colorado, and Dennis preached also on Sunday morning service there. That church is like our "home church", for we have been invited there many times since 1989. Their membership is less than 200 people, but from their small budget they send help to 17 missionaries around the world. **They are true servants of the Lord, with a heart for the lost. We thank God for them.**

We continue our *Understanding Mormonism* class at Calvary Chapel, Salt Lake City. We have been teaching there since September 2004. Our emphasis is to make sure that Mormons come to know the **Real Jesus, who He is**, for **He said that it is [equal to] eternal life to know Him.** (John 17:3.) In the Mormon church people have learned about "*another Jesus*" (2 Cor. 11:4), who is a spirit brother of all mankind, angels and even Lucifer. They teach that we all lived together in a heavenly kingdom with our heavenly father and mothers. That Jesus indeed is "*another Jesus*", he does not exist, and thus he cannot save anyone. **Jesus of the Bible is the Creator, not a created being like we are, and like Satan is. Jesus of the Bible, our Savior, is Emmanuel, God with us**, as Matt. 1:23 and John 1:1, 14 say. **We are not from heaven as He is.** He said, "**Ye are from beneath; I AM from above: ye are of this world; I AM not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins; for if ye believe not that I AM HE [meaning God Almighty], ye shall die in your sins.**" Jesus stressed that we must not only know His name, but we **must know who He is, and believe that He is the Great "I AM", God who became a man to die for us, and by His blood He saved us.**

Please pray for Bruce, Judy, Andy, Jay, Mickey, Lisa, Edward and others who are fairly new believers, that they will continue to grow in their faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus of the Bible. Please pray with us also for John, Christopher and Michael, who are still sort of "angry Mormons", that they will have courage to check things out and learn to reason, think and listen to God's Spirit rather than false spirits that "testify" of falsehoods. Pray also for Soren in Denmark, I mentioned earlier. There are others with whom we are beginning to have a dialogue - please pray that we will have God's Spirit guiding our words to them, and that we will be firm, uncompromising and kind.

Again, we thank you, our friends, prayer partners and supporters for your encouragement,

assistance and prayers. We could not do this, sometimes very overwhelming work, without your help and prayers.

We pray that you will have a Blessed Resurrection Day, joining together in God's Spirit to thank Him for His love for all of us.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16.)

In His service,

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