

July 1, 2006

H.I.S. Ministries July Newsletter, covering June 2006

Many greetings from Utah. It has been very hot, but we are not complaining...it will be cold again sooner than we think and wish. Summer in Utah is short.

Generally speaking summer months are slower in a ministry perhaps because people have so many outdoor activities to attend, gardens to plant and take care of, vacations and more, but this summer requests for answers have not slowed down. It is a good thing, because it shows that many are thinking about their eternal future and want to investigate the claims of Mormonism and compare what the Bible has to say about that and what Christianity is all about.

I received a letter from a Mormon who attacked the Bible on many points, saying that even the name of Christ is not correct in the Bible!. He said, "*Christ was not named 'Emmanuel' as Matthew 1:23 says, but Jesus, instead of Emmanuel He was prophesized to be called.*"

Jesus is a Greek translation of a Hebrew name Yehowshuwa or Joshua, which literally means **Jehovah is salvation**. The late Dr. J. Vernon McGee answered this question in His "*Edited Messages on Matthew*". I will quote him here, "...*He is called Jesus because that is His name. He was given this name because He shall save His people from their sins. Christ, by the way, is His title; Jesus is His name. But is says here that He shall be called 'Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.'* Friend, here we have one of the most wonderful things in the entire Word of God. Emmanuel means 'God with us'. He can't be Emmanuel, God with us, unless He is virgin born. That's the only way! And notice, unless He is Emmanuel, He cannot be Jesus, the Savior. The reason they call Him Jesus, Savior, is because He is God with us. The truth about the One who came down to this earth is one of the most wonderful things in the Bible. 'But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.' (Hebrews 2:9) He had to be a sacrifice that was acceptable. I couldn't die for the sins of the world. I can't even die a redemptive death for my own sins. But He can! How can Jesus be a Savior? **Because He is Emmanuel, God with us.** How did He get to be God with us? Because He was virgin born. I say again, He was called Jesus. He was never called Emmanuel. **But you cannot call Him Jesus unless He is Emmanuel, God with us. He must be Emmanuel to be the Savior of the world.** That is how important the Virgin Birth is. I consider this to be all-important. I want a Savior who is able to reach down and save Vernon McGee. If He's just another man like I am, then He's not going to be able to help me very much. But if He is Emmanuel, God with us, virgin born, then He is my Savior. **Is He your Savior today?** He took upon Himself our humanity in this way so that He might taste death for us, that He might die a redemptive death on the cross for us."

We are so very grateful that He is our Savior and Lord, and we pray that He is yours too.

From our mailbox: (This letter is from a former Mormon.)

"Hi, I was sent your newsletter today and found it to be a great and concise witness against Mormonism. My wife and I were very active members for 20 years. We had three children and brought them up in Mormonism, embracing all the tenets and doctrines it offered. I held many positions including Gospel Doctrine Teacher, Bishopric Member and Elder's Quorum President. I had to tell you that we began to have doubts over two issues. The first was the fact that we each had BOM and they were all printed at different times. We would read every night sitting around the table and always someone would say, "That's not what mine says". Many times it was trivial, but sometimes the meaning was completely different. I am sure you know this. Secondly, I was very disturbed at the so called "blessings" administered by the "Priesthood". I never saw anyone healed ... I did see a lot of LDS men very

uncomfortable having to perform these blessings.

*I thank God for the internet because when it came along and I could search "Mormonism", boy did we get our eyes opened. We left the church after all those years and to this day they claim we left because we were "offended about something". .. For many, many years the idea of organized religion was more that we could take, however I am attending a small Lutheran church and really like it. I don't know what you think of Lutherans. I do know I now know that my salvation is a gift and not anything I had to work for. To [think that our works add or contribute to our salvation would mean we negate what Jesus did on the cross for us. I have talked to Mormons about this and you can show them the proof of fraud in Mormonism (as the Book of Abraham fiasco) and most will just go their happy way. It scares me. We used to go to Utah every summer on vacation. I love the country but seeing your address, it must be hard to live there. Well, I just felt compelled to write. Take care.
R_____."*

Our reply:

Thank you for your letter and comments.

It is typical of Mormons everywhere to say that if someone leaves the LDS church, it is either that they were offended by others or that they have committed adultery or something like that, and that they could not live according to the high Mormon-standards.

Active Mormons generally do not want to talk to people like us who have been there and are considered "apostates". They are told to avoid "apostates", those who have LEFT the church. Most Mormons do not listen to reasoning nor do they want to see facts. They depend on their feelings and "burning in the bosom" as a test for "truth". The Bible warns about our feelings - they come and go and cannot be trusted. (Jer. 17:9.) Mormons have been lulled into a false security about "following their prophet", who, they say, could not lead the church astray. (See D&C , p. 292,1981 edition.) They do not fear hell or eternal punishment either, for they are now taught that "hell has an end". They are told that "hell" is a sort of "purgatory", a "spirit prison", and after the last judgment all will end up in some degree of glory, in one of the heavenly kingdoms, but not in hell. Hell or "outer darkness" is only for us, apostates of the true church. They have forgotten that the Book of Mormon speaks of an eternal hell of fire and brimstone more than even the Bible does. Today's Mormon doctrines are not found in the Book of Mormon, but in the D&C and other LDS leaders' writings.

As to what we think of Lutheran churches, I have to say that it depends on their pastor. Generally speaking Lutheran churches are way too liberal and most of them do not any more take the Bible as the absolute truth. (I, Rauni, come from a Lutheran background.) However, we knew years ago a Lutheran pastor in Utah who was a spirit born (born again) believer and a wonderful pastor. He ended up leaving Utah - because he felt that it was too difficult to minister here.

We would recommend that you'd check out some Baptist churches or Calvary Chapels for your edification and leaning. Ask them to show you their statement of faith and find out if they teach from the Bible, or from some other books. That should help you to discern where they are doctrinally. Keep searching till you find a fellowship that is biblical. There is no such a thing as the "true church", but there are a lot of true believers in many denominations. (I would stay far away from Roman Catholic and Episcopalian churches and others that ignore what the Bible teaches.) Salvation is not from any church, only from Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) We must be born again as Jesus said (John 3:7) to become sons of God (John 1:12).

The Bible says that we must be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11. They tested all teachings from the Word of God before they accepted them into their hearts and minds. We are told to test and prove ALL THINGS (1 Thess 5:21). We are commanded to prove the spirits and all teachings by the Word of God. (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.)

Let us know if you need any help or if you just want to vent some things and talk to others who have been through the same. Our website is: www.hismin.com Our story is there at www.hismin.com/AboutUs.htm
God bless, Rauni and Dennis Higley

A Mormon man wrote:

*"You know you have way too much time on your hands? You even pointed out ovals [on your website]. I drew ovals when I was in kindergarten, I must be pagan, huh? Secondly, if you were Mormon then you KNOW why the church doesn't use the cross and you wouldn't be sitting there trying to spark controversy over it. I am an atheist but at least I know that a true religion spends time building others up, not destroying others, which is exactly what you are doing. Mormons are not bad or evil, if you were a Mormon, you would know that the church has only good intentions. There's no massive pagan cover up and you know that. What's the matter? **Did you get caught cheating on your wife and got ex-communicated so you're bitter about it?** What's gives? And what makes you so right? Somehow YOU think you've found the infallible truth? Don't be so self-righteous. These people are just trying to get through life and the Mormon church helps them to do so. Why are you so intent on destroying what these people need to believe in? Why do you want to smear their good name? Personally I think that God is just a pretend friend for grown-ups but I don't go around trying to destroy people's sense of belonging, comfort, hope, and religion. Doesn't feel good to be personally attacked, or does it? Well, what goes around comes around. Oh wait, that's Buddhist Karma! Oh, I'm such a pagan! **Get a life.**"*

Dennis' answer:

Hello, Mr. No-name. I thank you for your letter.

There is a saying that when you throw a rock into a pack of dogs, the one that gets the hit, yelps.

What made you cry so loud? And what "ovals" are you talking about? We do not have "ovals" on our website. We do have a "point within a circle", which is a fertility symbol, used by fertility cults, and of course, by the Mormon church. And yes, of course **we know** why the Mormon church does not use the cross. **The Cross is a symbol of Christianity** (1 Cor. 1:18).(See below.)

Our website is there for information for anyone who wants to know. It is not there to attack anyone. Anyone going to our website, goes there voluntarily, just as you did, right? We do not force anyone to read. Do you consider all corrective information on any subject as an attack on people who are ignorant of the issues in question? We have put information on our website to explain why Mormonism is not a Christian church. If one still wants to choose Mormonism after knowing what it is and is not, it is perfectly fine with us. We are only doing what God commands that **everyone who knows the truth, and has been warned, must warn others.** We are not responsible of whether you accept the facts we present. You are responsible of that. We encourage all to check them out for themselves. That is why we document all we say - to make it easier for our readers. **God says that if we do not warn, He holds us responsible (Ezekiel 33:7-9)** - so all I can say to you is, **you have been warned.** You can remain a Mormon, an atheist, or Buddhist or whatever - and I am fine with your decision. In other words, we are not denying Mormons their right to believe what they want to believe, but we are not in agreement that they try to pass themselves off as ones teaching biblical doctrine and being a Christian church. Neither one is true. The question is: **What is Christianity? Who is a Christian? - Christians and Christianity believe in the Bible as the only [and infallible] Word of God.** Mormons do not believe that. **Christians believe in Trinity: which is One God, Three Eternal, uncreated Persons.** Mormons do not believe that. **Christians believe, as the Bible teaches, that there are no Gods before God, nor will there be other gods after God of the Bible** (Isa. 43:10). But the Mormons believe that their god was once a mortal man, who had a god before him, and so on for eternity past. Mormons also strive to become gods like their god has done, and gods before him. The LDS "prophet" Lorenzo Snow declared: **"As man is God once was. As God is man may become."** **God of the Bible, God of Christianity, is eternal God, "from everlasting to everlasting"** (Ps. 90:2). **God of the Bible is not a former mortal man**, as Mormonism teaches. (Numb. 23:19; Hosea 11:9) **Jesus of Christianity is Emmanuel, eternal God with us** (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14). Jesus of Mormonism is an elder brother of all mankind, a spirit brother of Lucifer and all angels. **Jesus of the Bible is the Creator of ALL THINGS, including Lucifer, and thus could not be his or mankind's brother.** (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.) There are more differences, but the main issue or question to ask is: Can a false god or a false Jesus save? If one believes in a false god, in "another Jesus", and in "another gospel" and has "another spirit", as is warned of in 2 Cor. 11:4; 13-15, that one cannot be a Christian. Christians believe in Christian doctrine taught in the Bible. Why not admit what you are, and what Mormonism is? Wanting to be something that you are not is not honest. Mormonism contradicts all major doctrines found in the Bible. However, I say it again: Mormons are free to believe what they want to believe, but it is not right and it is offensive that they say they are Christians, when their doctrine is not Christian doctrine! Simple logic would help anyone to see this. "Are you a Christian?" is a theological question. **Those who do not believe in theology believed by Christianity and taught in the Bible, logically cannot be Christians.** Christian doctrine has been taught since the time of Christ, or about 2000 years. Mormonism has existed in one form or another for only about 170 years. All Mormon doctrines are inventions of Joseph Smith. You are free to believe them - but the one thing you cannot say on judgment day is that you did not know that there was a difference.

Let me ask you a hypothetical question: Would you agree if I said that I am a Mormon, but I do not believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet, nor do I believe that there has been any true prophets in the Mormon church after him. I do not believe in the Book of Mormon, D&C or PoGP. I do not believe in gods of Mormonism nor that there was a pre-existence, or that men can become gods, etc. Would you say that I am a Mormon? I do not think so. So why should Christians accept Mormons as "Christians" without believing Christian doctrine?

You mentioned something about the cross and symbols. The Mormon church does not use the cross, **but they do use sun, moon, stars and many other Masonic and occult symbols.** The sun-symbol is an ancient representation of Baal, the sun-god. Moon is an ancient representation of the moon-goddess, known in different cultures by different names. Pentagram is a symbol of occult and Satan. Obviously the Mormon church has chosen their symbols to represent what they believe, their gods and religion. It is fine, but they should acknowledge what they represent and where they originated and not try to explain them away as some sort of "Christian symbols", which they are not.

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition, 1998, explains why symbols are used and what symbolism is - as follows:

Symbol: 1. "An authoritative summary of faith or doctrine. 2. Something that stands for or suggests something else by reason of relationship...a visible sign of something invisible ... an object representing in the unconscious mind that what has been repressed".

Symbolism: "A practice of using symbols...a method of revealing or suggesting immaterial, ideal or otherwise intangible truth...use of traditional signs in representation of divine beings and spirits... system of symbols or representations."

Pentagram: "A figure of a 5-pointed star...used in magic or [as a] occult symbol."

Cross: "Used as a Christian symbol [identification] of Christian religion."

I hope this cleared your confusion.

Life as we have it now is short. Eternity is endless. It might be a good idea to figure out where you'd want to spend your eternity. **We all will live eternally** - in one place or the other - whether we believe it now or not. **To ignore the facts does not change the facts.** It is just a suggestion to you that you'd seriously check this out. It's, of course, up to you.

Also, since you accused me of "*cheating on my wife*" and getting myself excommunicated for that, I want to tell you that I did not "cheat on my wife. **We left the LDS church together**, not because of any wrong-doing. Both we and our daughters, wrote a letter to the church, which we all signed. **We asked that our names be removed from the records of the LDS church because we considered Mormonism to be a non-Christian, counterfeit religion.** We have a letter from the LDS church confirming that **our names were removed only because we asked it**, and that we were not excommunicated for any wrong-doing.

You told me to "get a life". Just so that you'd know, we do have a life, a great life, that started when we separated ourselves from the Mormon church and became born again believers in Jesus of the Bible.

Best wishes, Dennis Higley - www.hismin.com/AboutUs.htm

A former Mormon, who still has some clearing up to do on some LDS interpretations of the Bible, asked us to explain:

Question: *Isaiah 29.* The Mormon church says Isaiah is referring to the Book of Mormon in this chapter and also to professor Charles Anthon (vs. 11-14) Is that so? And what about verse 18 - what book is that?

My answer:

This chapter begins with "*woes to Ariel*". Ariel is a parallel name for Jerusalem, "*city where David dwelled*". This chapter talks about worship of God that David had established in Jerusalem. Their worship had become meaningless and heartless formality and God was not pleased with Israel. God is saying that He will bring judgment upon Jerusalem though simultaneous invasions of Assyria and Babylon. God is not interested in formality of worship, but what is in our hearts. **Jesus referred to this** (Isa. 29:13) **in Mark 7:6**, and said that they only honor God with their lips, but their hearts are not in it. They were just doing things to please men. What God wants is our total surrender to Him. We must worship God "*in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). Mankind's tendency has always been to impress people, who cannot see their hearts, only outward actions, but God sees our hearts! This chapter ends with Isaiah's admonition that those who have erred in

spirit must come to an understanding by **learning doctrine** (in Hebrew, *leqach*, teaching). **Notice that the Scripture makes it clear that a proper knowledge of God must rest on proper and correct doctrine of God, who God is.** (Mormonism has a false god (actually gods), and when their god is false, so is all else too .)

As to what the Mormon church has said about Professor Anthon is **ridiculous!**

(Isa. 29:11.) First of all, there were no "sealed books", meaning something that is "bound shut". "*Sealed book*" simply means that they did not understand the meaning of that book. **Verse 12 explains it.** It says that those who had not studied, are not learned, and therefore could not explain what was said. They had the words of the book, but because they had not studied and were in unbelief, it appeared to them as "sealed". (Sealed in this, as in many other cases too, is synonym for *lack or understanding*.) Mormons claim that Prof. Anthon had said that translation of "*characters*" copied from the "gold plates", and given to him by Martin Harris, *were correct* and that he later had changed his statement. **That is a lie** - this same professor, after Mormons started to circulate this lie, wrote and published his letter saying that **he never said that what he saw was written in any understandable/translatable language.** Those characters on Harris' paper meant nothing at all. Any Mormon who has read the Book of Mormon, would have to agree that **Anthon could not have understood them anyway. Mormon 9:32-34, in the Book of Mormon, says that no one else could understand their language,** so how could Prof. Anthon? Their "*letters were altered*" and in "*reformed Egyptian*". It is/was a fictional language that simply does not exist. So how could professor Anthon say that "*translation was correct*"...? Nonsense! You asked about Isa. 29:18 and said, *what book is he talking about?*

The book is the Book of Isaiah. As people turn their lives to God and what God says, they start understanding, which is referred to as, "*in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and eyes of blind shall see...*" It does not, of course, mean, that they were physically deaf and blind, only spiritually. They did not understand. Chapter 29 deals with the judgment of God that came through Assyrian and Babylonian invasions to Israel as a result of disobedience and unfaithfulness to God.

Question: *I found in the Mormon Doctrine, p. 29, quoted from the Journal of Discourses vol. 2, p. 342, that says, "that the angels are little lower than man". Does not the Bible say that man is lower than angels. What do you say?*

My answer:

Yes, the Bible, in Ps. 8:4-5, says that God has made man "**little lower than angels**". It is re-emphasized in Hebrews 2:6-9. The reason why the Mormon church teaches that **man is higher than angels** is that they teach that angels are spirit children of God, who **have not received their physical bodies yet**, and thus are "lower than man", who has a physical body and is on his way to godhood. (See Mormon Doctrine, under Pre-existent Spirits, p. 35.)

King David (Ps. 8) recognized the greatness of the Lord, and his own smallness. Even though **God has made man lower than angels**, He has a greater plan for man's future, and that is what David is also in awe of. Learning and understanding God's Word has greater value than riches of this world. Even Solomon, who was the richest man and wisest man that world has ever seen, recognized that. (Prov. 16:16.)

Question: *The Mormon church has taught that the Mountain of the Lord and the Zion, spoken of in Isa. 2:2-3, is in Utah and that the New Jerusalem will be in Missouri. "...for out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem". What is the meaning of Zion in this context?*

My answer:

Zion and Jerusalem are synonyms - they are the very same place. (See 2 Samuel 5:7.) **Zion** was the name of the ancient Jebusite fortress, southeast hill of Jerusalem. After David captured "*the stronghold of Zion*" by defeating Jebusites, he called **Zion "the city of David"** (1 Kings 8:1;

1 Chron. 11:5; 2 Chron. 5:2). After Solomon built the temple on Mount Moriah, and moved the ark of the covenant there, the word "Zion" expanded to include also the Temple and the Temple area. (Ps. 2:6; 48:2, 11-12; 132:13.) After that time, Zion was interchangeably used as a name for the city of Jerusalem, it was also used as name for the **land of Judah** (Israel), and for the **people of Israel** as a whole (Isa. 40:9; Jer. 31:12.) The prophet Zechariah spoke of the "sons of Zion" (Zech. 9:13). By this time the word *Zion* had come to mean the entire nation of Israel. Thus we can see throughout the Word of God, the Bible, that *Zion* is used to mean *Israel as God's people, their dwelling in Jerusalem/Zion* and its meaning continued in the New Testament (Hebr. 12:22; Rev. 14:1.) In summary : **Zion and Jerusalem are the same place.** This verse (2:3) refers to Millennial Reign of Jesus. "*Mountain of the Lord's House*", refers to **Mount Zion, also known as Mount Moriah**, where the Temple of Solomon stood. When Isaiah wrote this, Solomon's temple was still standing. (After it was destroyed, it was rebuilt **on the same place** - and **will again be rebuilt in the future.** That place is known even today as "*the Temple Mount in Zion - Jerusalem*".) This verse teaches that when the Lord Jesus will reign as the *King of Kings and the Lord of Lords* from Jerusalem, the temple that will be rebuilt there, will serve as a focal point of worship of Jesus Christ during His reign on earth. Both **the law** (*torah*) and **the word** (*debar*) are pictured as continually coming **from the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem.** This is the time when He will rule 1000 years with a "*rod of iron*" (Rev. 2:27) upon the earth and when all nations will practice justice toward one another.
Note: Utah and Missouri, or any state in USA for that matter, have absolutely nothing to do with biblical prophesy.

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Again, our deepest thanks and appreciation belongs to you, our fellow workers and supporters of this ministry. Please keep on praying for the many souls we are ministering to, and that God will give us health and means to continue. Please mention especially Tracy, Bruce, Judy, Soren, Frank, Lisa, Jason and Darlene in your prayers.

As to Edward in Uganda, he is doing a fantastic work there. He has brought many already out of Mormonism. We have helped Edward the best we have been able to, but we have no more money to send him now. We are asking your prayerful help. I will quote parts of his letter just 2 days ago, June 29th:

"I finished reading the Old Testament last week and have embarked on the New Testament. Thanks for your continued help in understanding it. Some books like that of Isaiah I had to read again and again to fully understand the context and historical background of it. This week on Saturday, Tom and I are will be sharing our experiences in Mormonism at the Baptist Seminary located on the outskirts of Jinja district. I am anxiously looking forward to it... At my end here, it seem I am also giving the Mormon mission president sleepless nights. My good friends who are still active in Mormonism told me that he convened a special meeting to see how they can respond to the articles I had written that the newspaper ran last week. I am told he was visibly worried that the continuous "bad press for the church" may impact negatively on the missionary work in Uganda. He is yet to see more... I am working with the radio people to set me up on the Sunday evening program, but the money I currently have is not enough to enable me appear twice on Radio. Last time you sent me money you indicated that you will try to talk to some people with more resources than you have and see if they may want to help with my cause here. I hope this doesn't make me appear like somebody who is just asking for money all the time, but its my strong desire to reach a wide population and help more people. I understand your ministry has little resources but if possible let people or ministries with more resources know about my work here and see if they may want to help. Appearing on a radio program once a week in Jinja will cost US \$100 for an hour. For two months (8 times) it will amount to US\$ 800. In Kampala it costs US \$150 to appear once a week (preferably on a Saturday or Sunday) for an hour. That amounts to

US \$1200 for two months (8 times). Note: it's more expensive in Kampala because its the capital city of Uganda. If we, Tom and I, are to appear in both districts that would amount to US \$2000. The programs will be recorded so I can send you copies for your records.

I will send the articles from local papers to you tomorrow. We will be going to the Baptist Seminary on Saturday this week. Thanks a lot for your continued support and prayers.

God bless you. Edward."

If any of you would consider helping Edward, you can send your contribution to H.I.S. Ministries and mark it "For Uganda", and we will wire the funds to Edward.

I have pictures of Edward and Tom by my computer, on my little bulletin board. He is such a bright and beautiful young man. He has sent me also photos of a Ugandan couple with 3 children who he and Tom have ministered to and who have just left Mormonism. Adding to those 6-7 others who have left Mormonism in just the last 2-3 months there, success rate is fantastic. You may recall that I wrote in our April Newsletter that Edward had printed there, in Uganda, over 600 of our booklets, "*The Truth About Mormonism*", and he, with some of his former LDS friends, distributed them in March 12th to Mormons leaving their district conference. Considering that Edward is a new believer himself, who came to know Jesus of the Bible just about 5 months ago, he is doing a fabulous job in sharing Jesus with Mormons. We have been in contact with him since December of last year. While he was a Mormon missionary there, he was raised to the position of Assistant to the Mission President, which is a position of honor given to only the brightest and most intelligent of missionaries.

We will be taking a camping vacation in July. Good thing about camping is that it does not cost much - and time there gives us what we desperately need - that is rest and time to study. May God bless you and give all of us the discernment of our times.

*In Christ and His service,
Rauni & Dennis Higley*

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