

November 1, 2006

H.I.S. Ministries November Newsletter, covering October 2006

I am asking the Lord to give me His words and counsel as I report what has taken place during the last 2-3 weeks. I have been very troubled and saddened. Let me explain:

If you read our last month's newsletter, you read 3 letters I received from an LDS lady on 26th and 27th of September, and my answers to her. I did not give her name then, nor where she lived. Her name was Anne and she was from Belfast, Northern Ireland. After she had written to me, she left on the 28th of September with her LDS friends on holiday, and came back on the 5th of October. After she came back, in the following ten days, between Oct. 5th and 15th, she wrote to me 26 more letters and I answered everyone of them. She wanted to know the truth about Mormonism and the truth about God and Jesus of the Bible. Space will not allow me to copy all her letters or my answers to her, but I am going to give a few excerpts from her letters and her questions and let you know how quickly she came to see the truth. I sensed the urgency in my spirit that I was to answer her letters immediately, even though at times I was in the middle of answering other letters. I answered 2-3 of Anne's letters every day for these 10 days, and I am thanking the Lord that I did not wait, for Ann died on the 16th of October under mysterious circumstances. There is an on going police investigation about her death. She had fallen to her death from a third floor balcony. They do not know if it was an accident, or if there was foul play or if she had committed suicide. Suicide does not seem possible, for she did not leave any notes, nor was there any indication in her 29 letters to me nor in a long phone conversation I had with her that she wanted to end her life, even though she had told me that her friends had put a lot of pressure on her, saying that if she leaves the Mormon church, they will not have anything to do with her.

She had been questioning Mormonism for awhile and she had even tried to leave it before. To straighten her out, her bishop had demanded that she again take the missionary discussions, otherwise she would be excommunicated.

When she came back from her holiday on Oct. 5th, she wrote:

"Dear Rauni, I am back from my holiday. It was great. My two friends and I did nothing but shop. We now need another holiday to recover.

On Sunday morning (while on holiday) we went to a relay of the Mormon Church General Conference which I did not enjoy. The church was in the grounds of Preston Temple . So I had my first and last look at a Mormon Temple. I have never been to the Temple as I don't have a temple recommend. As a surprise for me, my friends had arranged this. They thought that if I could see the Temple from the outside it would give me a goal to aim for. When on holiday I

bought a cross which was frowned upon by my friends. One of my friends (Sylvia) is the Relief Society President in my Ward. I am going to her house tomorrow night to talk about the atonement. I don't know if this is wise... I was to have the missionary discussions again with the Zone leaders and go back into Gospel Principles class then. I am to see the Bishop again after I have had the discussions. I am having the discussions at the moment, but I don't think it would be wise to continue. The Church is false and the revelation I got saying the church was true was false.

I don't read my Mormon scriptures now. **I am reading the Bible instead, and as I read I pray for understanding. The truth in the Bible is so very different from the "truth" I was taught in the Mormon Church.** I do have a lot of questions, but will leave those in the meantime.
Sincerely, Anne”

I answered her letter and said that we have a dear friend, Jim, in her home town, who has been in the ministry to cults for a long time, and he had promised to go and see her and help her. Jim then called her and also went to visit her. They had talked over 4 hours during his first visit. **Jim wrote us an email saying that Anne is a very pleasant older lady and excited to learn the truth. She had related to Jim too that her Mormon friends have threatened not have anything to do with her if she leaves Mormonism.** She does not have family and these LDS friends are all she has.

Anne wrote about that and said:

“Dear Rauni, I know that I must leave the Mormon Church as it's a false church, and there is no truth in it... In the past I tried leaving the Mormon Church, but always ended up going back to it. That's why my Bishop has put me on probation. He says this is my last chance. I now know the Church is definitely wrong, but still there's an attraction to it. I love the friendship and the fellowship I have in the Church. My best friends are Mormons, and I don't want to lose their friendship. I live alone and have no family, so I look upon my friends as family. It looks as if I am stuck ... Sincerely, Anne “

The same day she wrote again:

*“Dear Rauni, Thanks for your email. I went to my friend Sylvia's last night where we discussed the atonement of Christ. As we talked about the suffering and death of Christ we were both in tears... One of my questions is that since the **Mormon Christ is a false Christ so therefore, as a created being, he couldn't have atoned for the sins of the world? It had to be God in the form of Jesus Christ who atoned. Also in reading the Bible I see no reference to Jesus Christ atoning for our sins in the Garden of Gethsemane** [which I have been taught in the Mormon Church]. **To me now the Bible points to Christ dying on the Cross for our sins. Is this correct?** Sincerely, Anne”*

I answered:

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your letter... It shows that the Holy Spirit is giving you understanding as you read God's Word, the Bible, and He is answering your prayers...

You are absolutely correct, **ONLY GOD CAN ATONE FOR OUR SINS**, not a "brother" or any created being. Only God Himself can pay for our sins, but since God is Spirit, He, Christ, the Second Person of the Triune God, had to become a man to take our place, for **the Bible says that wages of sin is death** (Romans 6:23). To atone our sins, to pay for them in full, Christ (who is both man and God), **had to die for our sins. In the Garden of Gethsemane** Jesus suffered tremendously, **but He did not die there, thus the atonement, or payment for our sins, was not made there.** He suffered in the Garden because He knew what was ahead of Him on the cross. It was not just pain and death on the cross why He asked, "if it be possible that this cup would pass" (Matt. 26:39), but He prayed and asked because He knew that God would have to make Him "who knew no sin [to be made] sin in our place" (2 Cor. 5:21) and that would cause the

Father to turn away from Him. A Holy God cannot look at sin, and when Jesus was made sin in our place, God had to turn away from Him. We do not have any capacity to fully understand the depth of horror that it caused, but we know that it was terrible for He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me." (Matt. 27:46.)

Throughout the Old Testament Israel was taught that only by the blood of an innocent can our sins be covered - thus the animal sacrifices. As the letter to the Hebrews says, the blood of animals could only cover our sins temporarily, but not take them away permanently. (Hebr. 10:1-4.) **But Jesus' offering, His atonement, payment on the cross, took the sins away from all who come to Him, once and for all, permanently.** (Hebr. 10:10-18.) That means that all who come to Jesus Christ, who is God, confessing their sins to Him and asking that their sins be forgiven, **are forgiven - their past, present and future sins are all forgiven.** (Romans 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 John 1:7-9.) That is the very reason that **the gospel message is THE CROSS, nothing else.** Paul said "For the **preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are the saved, it is the power of God.**" (1 Cor. 1:18.) **The Gospel is the message of death, burial and resurrection of Christ.** (1 Cor. 15:1-4) **There are no laws or ordinances in the Gospel of Christ** (Gal. 2:16-21). **"If anyone preaches any other gospel** (if anything is added to or changed in it), **let him be accursed.**" (Gal. 1:8-9.)

(To more understand the old law and its sacrificial system that was pointing to Messiah, God, who was to come to take our place on the cross of Calvary, read Hebrews, at least chapters 7-10.)

Anne, please keep reading and keep asking - I'm here for you! **The Bible is God's Word.** Jesus said that even heaven and earth will pass away, but His Word never will. (Matt. 24:35). Not even "one jot or tittle" (smallest portion of a letter in the Hebrew alphabet) will not be taken away from His Word until all is fulfilled. (Matt. 5:18.) God is the protector of His Word, and we can trust it. It was the devil who caused Eve to question what God had said in order to make her listen to him. (Genesis 3:1-5.) The devil's methods have not changed. He still first tries to cause people to doubt what God has said in His Word, or he challenges God's Word and says that it is not correct - and if we believe that, then he can present his twisted false doctrines, as is done in all cults!

That is why it is very important that we know the truth about what God has said in His Word about Himself, Jesus and salvation. Knowing the truth is our protection against error. **We are commanded to study the Bible.** (2 Tim. 2:15; John 5:39 etc.) Hosea 4:6 says, "my people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**: because they have rejected knowledge, I will also reject them..." ...Keep on studying! God is faithful. He comes to all who seek Him with all their heart. (Jer. 29:13.) God bless you, Anne. - Love, Rauni

The next day she wrote:

*"Dear Rauni, I know that I have to leave the Mormon Church. I went this morning as I had people to see. The Relief Society lesson was on Follow the Prophet, and I could see how false it was. My belief now is that **people should follow Christ, not a man.** In John Christ says "**My sheep hear my voice and they follow me**". Also a man could not lead and guide the Church, it is the Holy Spirit that leads and guides. The hymn "Praise to the man" was sung. We should not give praise to a man. **It's Jesus Christ that should have all the praise.***

*Last Sunday was General Conference so this Sunday (8th) was Fast and Testimony meeting. I think people are brainwashed, because one hears the same testimony over and over again. In the end people come to believe what they hear. I couldn't even stay until the end of the meeting. I just wasn't able to listen to any more. I walked out in the middle of the meeting just as a sister started to bear her testimony. I realized **Jesus Christ is never uplifted or talked about.** As I have said **I know the church is false and I need to leave it.** But at the moment I haven't the courage...**Hope you don't mind all these emails.** I still have a lot of questions... Sincerely, Anne "*

After I had answered her, in her next letter she said:

"Dear Rauni, ... Thank you for your answers...I don't now believe that baptism is necessary for salvation. I have been reading in Acts that people were being baptized with the Holy Spirit before they were baptized with water, and that couldn't have happened unless they were believers. Yet in John 3: 5 would indicate that baptism is necessary if we want to enter the Kingdom of God.

Can this verse be explained? What about pre-existence?... I still have questions, but I leave those to a later date. Sincerely, Anne “

Her next letter said:

*“Dear Rauni, Thank you for the answers to my questions. **I read and reread your answers and took a note of the scriptures you quoted** which was just as well as I accidentally deleted your email. **Your answers definitely gave me a new perspective on baptism and the pre-existence...** I still have questions, but at the moment I want to think about what I have learned so far... I was talking to my best friend Sylvia (she is the Relief Society President of my ward). I told her I was in contact with you. **She said if I kept in contact she would have nothing more to do with me, and she would report me to the Bishop...** **But I am going to keep in contact. I wish I could talk to you, but unfortunately that's impossible.** Sincerely, Anne*

I wrote and said that talking to me was not impossible. I sent her my phone number and she called the next day. We had a very nice conversation and I could agree with Jim that **Anne is a very pleasant lady**. She had questions about the Trinity. (I had emailed her our paper on that, which she had started to study it immediately.) We talked almost 1.5 hours. She was so sweet and teachable. When we finished, she asked if she could call again and what time would be the best time to call, noting the 7-hour time difference between Utah and Northern Ireland. She finished her call with words, *“I love you, Rauni”*.

Her letters and questions kept coming. The next day she wrote again:

“Dear Rauni, Just to let you know I have finished with the Mormon Church (this time for good). I am very upset as I have lost my best friend Sylvia, and I suppose I will lose my other friends as well... I was supposed to have another missionary discussion at Sylvia's on Friday night (13th). I telephoned her to cancel it, and told her I wanted nothing more to do with the church. To cut a long story short we parted on very acrimonious terms. Sincerely, Anne “

On the 13th she wrote:

*“Dear Rauni, ... Just to say I have found the perfect letter of resignation. I typed in "Mormon resignation letter", and **Concerned Christians** site came up. Their sample letter is very good. I have telephoned Jim here and asked him if he would print me 3 copies of this letter, one to be sent to Gordon B. Hinckley, one for the Bishop of the Ward and lastly a copy for me... Love, Anne”*

The next day, the 14th, she reported:

*“Dear Rauni, Thanks for your email. As usual I was on the computer when it arrived Today I posted my letters, one to Salt Lake City, and a copy to my bishop... I sent them recorded delivery, and the one to Salt Lake was airmail. I also left a note through Sylvia's door telling her what I had done. (As Relief Society President I felt she should know). **I know I have made the right choice** and I should be happy, but I 'm not. A whole chapter of my life has closed, and I don't know what lies ahead. **Hoping to hear from you soon.** Love, Anne.”*

Immediately after I had answered this letter (14th), she wrote:

*“Dear Rauni, Thank you for your second email. It has helped... **I have prayed and denounced Mormonism...** There is a verse in the Bible that says **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved”**. **I believe in the Christ if the Bible**, is that not enough ? ...I telephoned my now ex- friend Pearl, for she had called for her suitcase (I had borrowed it from her for our trip)... You had said that I should not attend Mormon meetings any longer, but is it okay for me to have Mormons in my flat to come, or me to visit any of them? I*

have a Mormon lady coming to visit me on Monday night (16th)... Should I cancel her visit?
Love, Anne. “

(I wrote to her that it was fine to meet with her Mormon friends at her home, but that she might be better off if she did not discuss Mormonism with them, but if religion became a topic, she could talk to them about the Bible.)

The next day, the 15th, I received two more letters from Anne. The very last letter I received from her was dated in the late evening of the 15th, 36 minutes before midnight (she sent it to me at 11:24 PM). It said:

*“Dear Rauni, I have read your last email, and especially the part in which you told me how you came to Christ. ... I need to think and pray more, and also I have questions to ask you about salvation. At the moment I don't want to talk to anyone, **but I will be in contact soon. Thank you for all of your help.** Love, Anne.*

*P.S. After my letter of resignation has been received at Church Headquarters will I be given one month's grace to change my mind? That's what always happens here in Rosetta Ward. **If that's the case I don't want it. I don't need a month's grace.***

I wrote two more letters to her after this, but did not hear from her again. Obviously she did not receive them, for before this she always had answered immediately.

On the Sunday morning, 22nd of October, at 7:10 AM, I received a call from Northern Ireland, from one of Anne's cousins, informing me that **Anne is dead.** She had died on **the 16th of October.**

Anne's cousin said that they had found my phone number among the papers on Anne's desk and wanted to give me a call to let me know. This cousin and her mother live in another city, about 2 hours away. She said that Anne usually called her mother, who is Anne's late mother's sister, if she was sad or in any way troubled, but she had not called now, which to them meant that she had been OK. Anne lived in an “sheltered living place“ (an apartment building). We called Jim in Belfast and told him that Anne was dead. He was as shocked as we were, and could not believe it. Jim went the next day (23rd) to see what he could find out from the warden of the building. He was told that there is a police investigation going on, and **they are looking to find out who had visited Anne that last day, or evening.**

If the warden knew more he did not say, or he was not allowed to reveal anything else, because of the on going police investigation. Our prayer is that this investigation will be thorough and that the truth of what happened to Anne will be found out.

Since we learned about her death, we both, Dennis and I, have read her letters several times and we cannot see any indication in them that she wanted to end her life - quite the opposite. She was sad for losing her friends, which is natural, but for sure that could not be enough to end her life so suddenly. Jim had said to her that she will soon find new friends among Christians, and that he and his wife will be her friends too.

Romans 8:28 says that *“all things work together for good to them that love God and are the called for His purpose.”* As sad as it has been for me to learn that Anne is gone, I am trusting that her death was not in vain and that something good will come from it. I know already that all Anne's letters to me and my answers to her are now being read by the police investigators, by her cousins, and who knows how many others will also see them! Mormonism is exposed in them, and the truth about the Word of

God and the way to salvation is shown. My heart is heavy, but on the other hand I am also happy that Anne is with the Lord now. There was such an urgency in her letters. I have never seen an LDS person understand and accept God's truth so quickly, while at the same time discovering falsehoods of Mormonism, and have such a determination to separate herself from it that fast. Most of the people we have known during our 24 years of ministry, who have come to see that Mormonism is false, and who have left it for Jesus of the Bible, have taken months and some even years before they were ready to ask that their names be taken off from the records of the Mormon church. Anne wanted to have it done immediately, not later. Think about it: If she had not sent her letters on Saturday, the 14th of October, she would have died as a Mormon, at least in the eyes of everyone who knew her.

These 29 letters of questions I received from her and 32 letters of answers I sent to her, required staying on my computer "talking" to her 8 or more hours almost every one of those days. Her questions ranged from the fall of Adam, pre-existence, Trinity, work for the dead, priesthood, if animals are going to heaven, and everything in between, and she wanted detailed answers. I believe that it was the Lord who kept me focused on her, even when I had other troubled souls I was writing to at the same time.

Anne's case has taught me again, that we must act when prompted by the Holy Spirit and we must not put it off for a "more convenient time". Not that in every case it is a matter of days a person may have left on earth, for we do not know, but the Lord does. We must listen to Him. I can only imagine how much more sad this would be for me, if I had not followed through with Anne and explained to her who the real Jesus is, that He is not Lucifer's brother as in Mormonism. I had explained the gospel to her, Jesus died for her and that He wants to save her now.

Neither one of us had any idea that her time was near for her to meet the Lord and that there was such an urgency for her to know who Jesus is.

Jesus had prayed for her when He said, "*This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*" (John 17:3.)

During her last few days Anne learned that Jesus is God and because of that she is now saved! Praise be to God for His Word and Truth in Jesus. (John 14:6.)

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We have to leave it for next month to give a more detail report of a young lady who had studied with the Mormon missionaries for almost a year, and then, on 10/13/06, she wrote and said, "*by accident I stumbled to your website*". She wrote to us asking for more information. Several letters later, back and forth, she wrote saying that she is through with them and that **she will not join the LDS church**. Her story is an informative story for all of us in a ministry to Mormons and I will report more of that next time.

Following is the latest letter from Edward in Uganda, who now has 20 former Mormons in his group!! We are so proud of him and his hard work for the Lord Jesus.

"Hello brother Dennis and Sister Rauni,

Thanks for the email. Its good to hear from you and more so to learn that there are lots of Christians praying for us. Prayer is a significant tool in the building of God's kingdom

and impacting the lives now and into the future. The challenges here are enormous, as we don't have any nearby supporting structures besides you guys. We continue to be very appreciate of your continued financial, moral and spiritual support to our efforts.

*I and a few of my friends are **establishing ourselves at a local Calvary Chapel in Jinja. They have wonderful services every Sunday.** In the course of the week, they also have various activities and outreach ministries. Whenever we attend any of their activities for the first time, we are always invited to give our testimonies and stories about Mormonism. It feels good sharing my story about Mormonism with others and knowing that what am sharing with them will harden and strengthen their resolve **never to join the Mormon church or any other cultic group.***

We continue to have one-on-one discussions with Mormons here. Sometimes I bump into them in the streets, and they say, we heard you on radio or something like that and then we start off from there.

Those two videos you sent on DNA vs. BOM and Bible vs. BOM are also a great tools in reaching out to Mormons. I wish one of these days a TV station will accept to play one of them on a Sunday. I tried contacting one TV called WBS but they declined to play it. I am yet to approach another TV station and see if they accept. Pray for me.

Love and many blessings from the Lord, Edward. “

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Thanks to you, our friends, we have received just enough assistance this month so that we can send Edward some money to help pay at least one more month of his radio-ministry there. Edward's plans to prevent the growth of Mormonism in Uganda are at the top of our list, and we want to help him as much as we can. Please keep him in your prayers. Please pray also for your *Understanding Mormonism* class at Calvary Chapel here in Salt Lake City. We have about 60 people attending, and there are many among them who are struggling with their relatives and friends who are Mormons.

We have been invited to go to Las Vegas at the end of the month, after we finish our class here at Calvary Chapel, to teach a 4-day seminar on Mormonism there. If that works out, we need your prayers for that also.

Please pray for all the new people we are working with, and we also ask you to remember especially *Deanna, Bruce, Jay, Judy, Grace, Sharon, Kelli, Susanne, Tammy, Bob and Vicki, Lisa and Andy* in your prayers. Coming out of Mormonism is emotionally and spiritually hard thing to go through, and it is helpful for these people to know that they have your love and prayer-support.

We love all of you, our friends, and we pray for you and thank God for your prayers, support and involvement in this ministry and in our lives.

In Christ Jesus,
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