

September 5, 2006

H.I.S. ministries September Newsletter, covering August 2006

Many greetings to you from Utah. We are sorry that we are late with this newsletter, for we took time off to spend this last weekend of the summer up in the mountains with our friends, who are also former LDS and whom we were blessed and privileged to help out of Mormonism and into biblical Christianity. We had two other couples also drive up there to spend time with us. It was a very nice time for all of us. We were at Duschesne Overlook plateau, about 9600 feet high. The air was crisp and clean, days were warm and sunny and nights were cool for sleeping. We ate well, made crapes for breakfast and ate all "other good stuff" all day long ☺. What more can you ask than that, and to be with good friends and enjoy the goodness of the Lord? We also had time to do some planning for this coming fall. We have lots and lots of work ahead of us and we thank the Lord for that.

Our trip to Finland for the temple opening there this month is not going to happen. We simply do not have enough money to go, even if our time would allow it. We have prayed and prayed that God would show us His will and plan, and we trust that **this is His will.** For me it would have been lovely to go and at the same time visit my home-country, but we have so much work to do, that taking 2-3 weeks off would hurt our ministry here. We are in the middle of teaching and counseling several Mormons, and we feel that their advancement in the knowledge of truth is more important at this time.

As you already know, I have translated into Finnish four excellent pamphlets written by the ***Institute for Religious Research*** (www.irr.org/MIT/Finnish-page.html) . They are named, 1. *Ovatko Mormonitemppelit Kristillisyyteen kuuluvia rakennuksia?* (*Are Mormon Temples Christian?*) 2. *Onko Mormonismi Kristillinen Uskonto?* (*Is Mormonism Christian?*) 3. *Mormonin Kirja Tanaan* (*The Book of Mormon Today*), 4. *Uutta Valoa Joseph Smithin omaan kertomukseen ensimmäisestä näystä* (*New Light to Joseph Smith's First Vision*).

The Institute for Religious Research has printed ten thousand copies of each of these high quality pamphlets, and they are already on their way to Finland. I was able to get the name of a Christian to whom they are sent and who lives in the area where the new Mormon temple is located. Not only that he was willing to receive these to his home address, he is also eager to help in their distribution, along with several other people. I am confident that the most important issue is that the information in these pamphlets gets into the hands of Finns who want to visit the Mormon temple, and that does not require that I am in person handing these to them. They can contact me after they have read them if they have further questions. Please be in prayer for this event so that God's Holy Spirit will prevent anyone of the visitors becoming a victim of this false gospel of Mormonism that can only lead to damnation. (Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 11:4.)

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From our mailbox:

An LDS man wrote:

"Hi Rauni,

I have read your history of the church with interest. I have been a member for 30 years or so, have served a mission etc.

*I have from my early years as a member interacted with Christians of all faiths. **I am Christian** and have my own experiences from a very young age from which my testimony of Christ grew. Consequently when I read most anti-Mormon so called Christian propaganda I can only be grossly disappointed with the lack of true belief they offer.*

*I have always had some areas of doubt about various relatively minor points. Minor from my point of view. To some they may be major, but we are all different. I have always felt that the papyrus could not be what Joseph said, nor that various other teachings he gave were correct, but by and large they are not important. I struggle, always have and probably always will, with the way men are treated in priesthood. It is as though we are of no worth without it! I have always been worthy, however the sentiment is concerning. On my mission whilst in Provo the temple pres glorified the sisters, vilified the elders, then hugged each sister and refused to even shake our hand! Personally I blame polygamy. Its bad news for women, even worst for men! The problem is the men always think of themselves as the one with more than one wife, not the majority of men who will be ministering angels! I think this president thought all the sisters as potential wives and we elders as his slaves! Of course I am rather cynical here, my apologies. Anyway, more to the point, I am a seeker of truth wherever that may be. **I do not expect anyone to be perfect, even a prophet, so I do not believe or expect every deed or word to be perfectly right.** Consequently much of your evidence against the church is too specific to the idea that even minor mistakes cannot be made.....at least minor to me. I understand we all have the right to establish our parameters. You have raised questions however that are new to me. I did not even know that the papyrus was found till very recently. Not living in SLC or the US we don't get to know this stuff. That doesn't overly bother me since its what I had always felt anyway so gives me more confidence in my own ability to discern the bits that are true and those not. So much of what Joseph said could only have been written by someone who knows what inspiration from God is like. He had to have experienced it at some time in his life. For myself I also know how this perception is dulled by sin. Therefore learning more from you about **polygamy and its origins is a problem to me.** Joseph surely could not have married an already married woman and not be affected spiritually. Apart from the fact its plain wrong, he would have been rendered incapable of receiving further light! I am left wondering about the authenticity of your claims. I don't know you, so I don't know whether you are so bitter you would twist the truth a bit to suit your argument---many do, in fact most of us only tell the bits of truth that support our argument, omitting the rest. No matter how I try not to do this I have gradually learned its just human nature, its just a question of degree. Are you really trying to tell the truth? I feel I need to get to the bottom of this polygamy thing. You obviously have done a lot of work on it. Would you help me to find the truth on it and where to find it so that at least in part I can find out from genuine sources? With kindest regards and best wishes , _____”*

My reply:

Thank you for your letter. I will try to help you to see that it is not personal "perfection" that we are looking for, not even in a prophet - for all are sinners (Romans 3:23), but **when a person claims to be a prophet of God and says that he speaks for God, saying "thus sayeth the Lord" or says "a revelation of Jesus Christ, unto his servant Joseph Smith", as in D&C 84:1, he has to be 100% accurate. If he is not 100% correct, then we know that it was not God who gave him that "revelation", but he lied - he is not a prophet of God.** (See Deut. 18:20-22.) It is not a "hit and miss" issue - it means that **when a man speaks for God he must be 100% correct, 100% of a time.** Our website (www.hismin.com) has a list of 53 false prophecies of Joseph Smith (and that is not even all conclusive list, there is more), but even **one false prophecy** would have been enough to show that Joseph Smith was a pretender and a false prophet. Deut. 13:1-5 warns about a "prophet" who does some "miraculous things", and because of that, gets a following, but after that he leads his followers after other gods - **penalty**

for doing so was death.

Let's look at what Joseph Smith said about God. He had taught for the first 10 years of his church that God is Spirit and that only the Son, who became a man as we are, has a body of flesh and bones. (This doctrine was part of D&C from 1835 until 1921, when it was removed, without notification.) In 1844, just about 2 months before his death, he changed his teaching of who God is and said, "**WE HAVE IMAGINED that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil so that you may see...God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man... You have got to learn how to be Gods yourself...the same as ALL GODS have done before you.**" (Teachings of Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346). **The Bible disagrees with all that.** God of the Bible alone is God - **He has always been God and He alone will remain God for eternity.** "*From everlasting to everlasting thou art God.*" (Ps. 90:2). **God of the Bible says that there are no Gods before Him, nor will there be Gods after Him, meaning that men will not become gods!** (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8 etc.) **God is Spirit** (John 4:24). **Jesus said that Spirit does not have flesh and bones.** (Luke 24:39) (Which one do you think is correct - Jesus or Joseph Smith?) ... Smith changed his teachings and said that **God the Father is not Spirit, but has a body of flesh and bones.** (D&C 130:22) The Mormon church also teaches that Jesus of Mormonism is NOT the same Jesus as is taught and believed in by Christians. Gordon B. Hinckley's statement to that affect is on our website, quoted in an article titled, "**Thank you, Mr. President**", written by Dr. Phil Roberts (the President of Midwestern Theological Seminary, in Kansas City, MO). (I have an original copy of Hinckley's statement from the Church News, June 20th, 1998, p.7.) The Bible warns about those who teach "*another Jesus*" and "*another gospel*" and have "*another spirit*". (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9.) Mormon gospel is "*another gospel*" based on "*laws and ordinances of the LDS gospel*". There are no laws and ordinances in the Gospel declared by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. It is a message of what Jesus had done to provide us with salvation as the GIFT of God (Eph. 2:8-9.)

We are commanded to test the spirits and all things. (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1; 1Thess 5:21.) How do we test them and all things? By the Word of God, the Bible. We must be like the Bereans spoken of in Acts 17:11. They heard the message Paul and Silas preached, they liked what they heard, BUT they checked first if what they had heard agreed with the scriptures, before they accepted it. We must Study the Word of God to be acceptable to God, and know what HE has said. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) Our own experiences and feelings or testimonies do not prove that they are truth.

These are not minor issues as you imply, but issues that have eternal consequences.

False gods, and false "Jesus" cannot save anyone, no matter how sincerely one believes in them...

You questioned my honesty, and asked "*Are you really trying to tell the truth?*" Of course I am. Why would I not? I have documented all doctrinal issues, that is to suggest that you, or anyone reading what we have said, will be able to check them out for themselves. I hope that you do not just take my word for these things, but indeed search and see for yourself. Seeing the facts in their own books caused me to separate myself from Mormonism. *Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but no one is entitled to wrong facts.* That is where most Mormons are - learning about "opinions" of men, but not having correct facts.

As to Joseph Smith and his polygamy, it is a well documented matter. Even the Genealogical Records of the Church (Family Archives), show that he had dozens of wives, and 11 of them were married to other men. Average Mormons were told as a reason why they had to have polygamy was to "raise seed", to grow as a church faster. The fact that Smith married also other men's wives proves that notion totally false. Brigham Young, and other leaders later in SLC Valley, also married other men's wives, saying that if a man had a higher "priesthood" position, he had a right to take wives of those who were below him...

If you want to read a well documented book of Joseph Smiths marriages (33 of them), go to

Utah Lighthouse site, www.utlm.org or to www.amazon.com and order a book, "In Sacred Loneliness", written by an LDS professor Todd Compton (1998). He is not an "anti-Mormon" but very pro-Mormon writer. He is also a contributor to "The Encyclopedia of Mormonism", LDS Church's publication, published just a few years ago. He has received honors from Mormon History Association and much more.

As to other information on Mormon history written by Mormons, check with Utah Lighthouse or Amazon.com - they may have a book written by a retired LDS Institute Director, Grant H. Palmer, called "Insider's View of Mormon Origin". He taught for over 34 years in LDS Institutes of Religion. He, of course, had to know the history and doctrine in order to teach there. You might want to check the availability of "Studies of the Book of Mormon" written by LDS General Authority and well respected historian, B.H. Roberts from the above mentioned sources. (This book was edited by two LDS professors, Sterling McMurrin and Brigham Madsen in 1985.)

A good website to go to is The Institute for Religious Research, and read some of their researched articles, www.irr.org/MIT

If I can help you more, please write again.

May the True God of the Bible help you. Rauni.

Questions from a Mormon:

"Is it true that Mormonism has similarities to Islam? Islam is scary and violent religion and oppressive to women. Can you shed some light on this?"

My answer

The vice president of BYU, Noel B. Reynolds, said some years ago, in his speech in BYU that *"there are many important elements of Mormon thought in which **we would feel closer to the followers of Muhammad than to the contemporary Christian culture** in which we have been located since our beginning."*

The beginnings of Islam and Mormonism parallel. Mohammed said that he received his holy book, Koran, from an angel of light. Joseph Smith also received his Book of Mormon through an angel of light. Islam teaches polygamy as does the LDS church. (See: D&C 132.) Muslim women are required to veil their faces when in view of others. Mormon women were to veil their faces in their temples (until 1990). When Mormon women, who have received their temple endowments die, their faces are veiled in their caskets. They cannot face God (or their husband) in resurrection without that veil. In exaltation Mormon men are expecting to continue their sex-life with multiple wives, procreating spirit children, just as they think their God and his wives are doing. Muslim men believe that there is a lot of sex waiting in heaven and **if they commit suicide**, i.e. kill themselves for the cause of their god, Allah, they will get 72 perpetual virgins of their own in paradise. **Joseph Smith was also suggesting suicide**, saying that if people only knew how wonderful even the lowest heaven was, people would kill themselves to get there. **The Patriarch of the LDS church, Eldridge G. Smith**, said, in his speech in BYU (3-10-1964), *"The Prophet Joseph Smith told us that if we could get one little glimpse into the telestial glory (lowest degree of LDS heaven) the glory is so great that **we would be tempted to commit suicide to get there.**"*

The History of the Church, vol. 3, p 167, records that Joseph Smith had said that, *"**he would yet tread down his enemies, and walk over their dead bodies; and if he was not left alone, he would be a second Mohammed to this generation, and that he would make it one gore of blood from Rocky mountains to Atlantic ocean, that like Mohammed, whose motto in treating for peace was 'the Alcoran or the Sword'. So it be eventually with us, 'Joseph Smith or the Sword'.**"* There is more, but perhaps this will help you to see the similarities between Islam and Mormonism.

In addition to all this, Joseph Smith was obviously aware that he was leading people **to hell**, for

he said, "**And if we go to hell, we will turn the devils out of doors and make a heaven out of it.**" (History of the Church, vol. 5, p. 517.) - Let me know if this helps.

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An other Mormon wrote insisting that "polygamy was approved by God, and under God's command after Saul's death, King David married his wives. Abraham was a polygamist, and so were many other Old Testament prophets."

My answer:

In 1 Sam. 18:20-21 we learn that **Saul's daughter Michal became David's wife**. Her mother's name was Ahinoam. 2 Sam. 12:8 says that Saul's "wives" had become David's after Saul's death. According to the Bible, **Saul had only one wife, Ahinoam** (1 Sam. 14:5) and one concubine, Rizpah (not a wife!) (3:7). **Ahinoam was David's mother-in-law (mother of his wife Michal). David could not have taken her as his wife, for the law prohibited that** (Lev. 18:17). A Hebrew word "*ishshah*", translated here, in 1 & 2 Samuel "wife" or "wives" is the same word used of any female, not necessarily a wife. The same Hebrew word is in some cases used also of female servants. There is no indication that David **married** either one of Saul's women - and again, **law would have prohibited him from doing it**. However, it was the rule in Israel that in a case of death of a husband, closest relative had to take care of his widow. **Abraham was not polygamist. He married his second wife, Keturah, (Gen. 25:1) after Sarah's death** (Gen. 23:1-2). It was Sarah's lack of faith that caused her to give Hagar to sleep with Abraham, and Abraham listened to his wife. (Gen. 16:1-2.) Hagar was Sarah's maid (or slave), owned by Sarah. Everything of a slave belonged to her owner - to Sarah, in this case. Sarah wanted to have a child, one way or the other. (See: Gen. 16: 2). **That Abraham did not consider Hagar his wife**, but only "*Sarai's maid*", is recorded in Gen. 16: 6. After Hagar had conceived there was a dispute between Sarai and Hagar, "*Abraham said to Sarai, Behold, **THY MAID** is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee...*" We have to consider these things within that culture and within their legal system. They had no earthly laws against these things as we do. By the way, there was a law in Illinois against polygamy, when Joseph Smith started his multiple-"wiffery" system!

Some things may be lawful in the eyes of the world, but they still are against God's will. In the Old Testament God had forbidden having multiple wives. (See Deut. 17:17). Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, et. al. should have known that, and if they had read the New Testament, they would have also known that God did not want His people to give a wrong impression of His will during the new Christian era, and He said through Paul (Titus 1:6) that those in leadership (bishops, etc.) must not have more than one wife, even though their culture and law allowed more than one! How much more clear can God's Word be than that?

The LDS church tries to distance themselves from polygamy and from the Fundamental Mormons (FLDS), who still practice polygamy as God's law. Where did that "law" come from? Not from God of the Bible, but from the wicked mind of Joseph Smith. These Fundamentalists practice exactly what Joseph Smith taught and practiced. There is not any difference between what he did and what today's Fundamentalists practice. Among Joseph Smiths three dozen wives were many young girls from 14-17 years old, in addition to **eleven women who were already married to other men**.

Where does the responsibility for this wicked doctrine ultimately belong? It belongs to Joseph Smith Jr. and the Mormon church. Command to practice polygamy is still in their scriptures, Doctrine and Covenants, Section 132, that both FLDS and LDS church members are supposed to study. It (in verse 4) pronounces damnation to those who do not practice it. Joseph Smith even threatened his first wife, Emma, with destruction if she did not go along with "*this commandment*". (132:54) However, it was not Emma who was destroyed, but Joseph. He was killed within less than a year from this "*revelation*".

If you have more questions or comments, please write again.

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Last month (in our August Newsletter) I wrote about Mattaniah, king of Judah and said, "Mattaniah became a last king of Judah in 597 B.C. - 3 years after Lehi and his family had left Jerusalem. King Nebuchadnezzar renamed Mattaniah Zedekiah after the Jews were taken into Babylonian captivity, which begun 586 B.C., 14 years AFTER Lehi and his family had left Jerusalem. (See 2 Kings 24:16-17.)"

I would want you to know that I was in error, when I said that **Mattaniah was renamed in 586 B.C. or after that. Exactly when Mattaniah was renamed Zedekiah is not crystal clear from the history.** However, it is possible that he was renamed earlier than when Jerusalem fell to Babylon in 586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar had convinced Mattaniah to be loyal to him and perhaps in that process had renamed him Zedekiah. Babylonians had a custom of renaming people they captured. Daniel's friends (Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego) were also renamed by Babylonians after they were taken into captivity. **At any rate my point was and still is that Mattaniah was renamed Zedekiah after he had become King of Judah, which was not until 597 B.C.,** and which was AFTER Lehi and his family had left Jerusalem. According to the Book of Mormon, the *name Zedekiah* was already engraved in the "brass plates", who knows how long before 600 B.C. (BoM, 1 Nephi 5:10-13), which could not be possible.

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We are starting our **Understanding Mormonism** class again at Calvary Chapel here in Salt Lake City. This begins our third year of teaching this course at Calvary Chapel. This might be our smallest class for we are not sure how many will register now, after this many years of teaching it. There have been several who have taken our class 2-3 times already. They obviously are our "graduate students" ☺ who are preparing themselves to be serious witnesses to Mormons. They encourage us more than we can tell. We thank God for them as well as for all who want to spend 1.5 plus hours every Sunday on Mormon studies. These dear people obviously have a burden for these lost souls and they want to know more and how to help them.

We have heard from some still active LDS people with whom we have been conversing, who have said that they will come too... We'll see if they will show up. Please be in prayer that we can show them love and compassion while being absolutely firm and accurate in all that we do and say.

Edward in Uganda continues to delight us with his hard work and writings. He has sent us several articles he has got published in major papers in Uganda during the last 3-4 months. He and his former Mormon friend are still having weekly 1 hr. call-in radio show, and what Edward says, it is going well. They have many Mormons calling with questions and some with challenges also. He has the rest of September Saturdays reserved and paid for. Please pray that we can send him enough money to pay for at least one more month's worth of time. If you want to help in it, let us know.

Please pray for our ministry's needs also. God is good and He knows what is needed. He is our provider and supplier, but He uses His people to accomplish that.

By the way, when Dennis printed a few months ago our labels for return-envelopes, he had put address as "**P.O. Box 415, Sandy, Utah 84090**". **That is our actual Box number**, but it should have "900" in front of it - **900415**. We just recently learned that our Post Office has been sending them back to the senders if they have had a sender's address on them, if not, I don't know what they have done, maybe they have just disregard them. We had been wondering why we had not heard from many of you during the last several months. Now we know. Of course one cannot believe that our Post Office does not know that it is our box even without 900 (900415)! We have had that box number for many, many years. We received one today (9/5/06)

that was mailed June 15th. Our post office had crossed the address over and written on the envelope "wrong address". This "wrong address" could have been one of those opportunities that LDS postal workers can "get back at us". We are aware that many of them are hostile towards us when we visit the Post Office. It is not a pleasant thing to be considered an "enemy of Mormonism" in Salt Lake City, Utah! Please disregard old envelopes if you have ones with that address and use the ones that have address as **P.O. Box 900415, Sandy, Utah 84090**. We might change our return address to our street address in the future.

May God reward your faithfulness to Him in all you do with your eye to His glory.

We thank you for your prayers for this ministry and for us personally. We thank all of you who assist us financially. As I have said before, we could not do this without your help! We pray for you too, every day.

Please don't forget to pray for the peace of Jerusalem .(Ps. 122:6.) Remember also that God has said, "*he who toucheth you (Israel), toucheth the apple of His eye.*" (Zech. 2:8) Enemies of God are attacking Israel more fervently than ever before, as the devil sees his time running out. "*For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he had but a short time.*" (Rev. 12:12.) **Jesus is coming, but when He comes He comes to Israel and Jerusalem** from where He will rule and reign as King of Kings and the Lord of Lords for a thousand years. **Peace of Jerusalem and safety of Israel are important to our Lord** and they must be in daily prayers of all who are His own!

Please be in prayer next Wednesday (9/13) for pastor **Joel Kramer** who was arrested about a month ago for videotaping a Mormon Pagent in Clarkston, Utah, and for pastor **ChipThompson** who also was arrested 2-3 weeks ago for passing Christian literature at the same place. They did not do anything illegal, but they were arrested, handcuffed and jailed nevertheless. Their court day is on the 13th, and this court is dominated by Mormons. We know that God is good and this arrest, and all that is connected with it, will only show the nature of Mormonism that Mormonism has nothing in common with Christianity!

May God bless and give us all His strength and courage to stand for Truth, and never compromise! God bless you all.

Keep the SON in your eyes!

In His service,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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