

April 9, 2007

## **H.I.S. Ministries April Newsletter, covering March 2007**

**We hope that you had a blessed Resurrection Day this last Sunday. HE IS RISEN (Matt. 28:7) and we praise the Father and the Lord Jesus for our salvation He so freely gave to all who come to Him. (Titus 2:11.)**

**We are sorry that our newsletter is late. We just got back from our 11-day ministry-trip to Kansas City, Missouri, and to Nauvoo and Quincy, Illinois. By the time we arrived back home we had driven 3254 miles. I don't think we are ready for another long car-trip very soon! ☺**

**We had high winds (35-55 per mile) and tornadoes approaching in Eastern Colorado and through Kansas. We asked the Lord to protect us and He did. In some instances we were only about a couple of hours ahead of tornadoes – so we just kept on driving. On our return trip winds were still high, but no tornados, although we had a big snowstorm from North Platte, Nebraska, to Wyoming, but we did just fine. We knew that many of you were praying for us and we want to thank you. God is so good!**

**We had a great time at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where we were able to share and speak on Mormonism. Speakers during this conference were President of the Seminary, Dr. Phil Roberts, Sandra Tanner of Utah Lighthouse Ministries, James Walker and Kelly Salmon from Watchman Fellowship, and a former pastor from Community of Christ (RLDS), and Dennis and I.**

**Sandra Tanner lectured on beginnings of Mormonism up to 1844, to the death of Joseph Smith and also on LDS scriptures, mainly on the Book of Mormon.**

**Dennis had prepared a long paper on history of the LDS Church, from 1844 till current, 2007.**

**My main topic was “living prophet” and what it means to a Mormon to follow their prophet. Later that night Dennis and I explained the Mormon temple ceremony. James Walker and Kelly Salmon, from Watchman Fellowship, both did a great job on various Mormon teachings and scriptures and how they contradict biblical doctrines. It was very interesting to hear from a former Community of Christ (RLDS) pastor who explained beliefs of that church. They are very different from the Utah LDS church's teachings of God, Jesus and afterlife. For example, they do not teach that God was once a man, or that Jesus is a spirit brother of mankind, angels and Lucifer. They do not do work for the dead, nor do they teach that men can become Gods. They do not believe in polygamy or eternal families and temple rituals. In many issues they are much closer to Christianity than Utah-Mormons, even though we would not consider them Christians since they reject salvation by grace alone, and Jesus of the Bible as the Only Way to the**

Father (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.). They also use and revere other scriptures in addition to the Bible. Not only that but *their Bible* is Joseph's Smith's "*Inspired Version*" that is not a true Bible for Smith added to it, changed and took away from it, and in so doing violated Deut. 4:2; 12:32 and Rev. 22:18-19.

On our way from Kansas City, MO, to Nauvoo, Illinois, we stopped at "*Adam-ondi-Ahman*", which is a large area in Gallatin, MO, where the Mormon Church believes that Adam lived about 900 years after he was cast out of *the Garden of Eden*. [We took several pictures and we are going to put them on our website as soon as we can.] The Mormon Church teaches that *the Garden of Eden* was not in the Middle East as we have learned from the Bible, but in *Independence, Missouri*, and that after Adam left the Garden, he and Eve moved about fifty miles North (now known as Gallatin), to the area Mormons call *Springhill* and *Adam-ondi-Ahman*. (See *History of the Church*, vol. 3:35-40.) [They also teach that Noah built his ark in ARKansas!!]

From Gallatin we drove to Far West and took pictures of the "*Millennial Temple site*", and other places important to the LDS Church.

We continued to Carthage to visit the Jail where Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were killed. A tour guide (an older LDS lady-missionary) called the upstairs room, where Joseph and Hyrum were killed, "*a martyrdom room*". She showed where the bullets had entered the room and shot Hyrum and Joseph and where John Taylor (who later became a third president of the church) was also wounded. It was interesting that she did not say anything about the gunfight that Joseph participated in and that Joseph Smith had shot two men dead and wounded a third one... Across the street from the Jail is the County Museum. We made a brief stop there, and bought a copy of the paper, *Nauvoo Expositor*, that had been the reason for Joseph and Hyrum Smith's imprisonment. (*Nauvoo Expositor* was a new newspaper published by William Law, who had been a counselor in the First Presidency with Joseph Smith. William Law did not approve the illegal practice of polygamy, and other criminal activities that were taking place in Nauvoo, and he left the Mormon Church and wanted the public to know what was happening in that city. Joseph Smith [who was also the Mayor of Nauvoo, and his apostles were City Councilmen] got very angry, declared the *Expositor* a nuisance and ordered the press to be destroyed and building burned. That destruction led to his and his brother Hyrum's arrest and placement in the Carthage Jail, and eventually to their killing.) - A care-taker in the Museum was conversing with another couple when we went in. We over-heard a lady asking about shooting of Joseph and Hyrum and if Joseph and/or Hyrum had guns. He answered saying, "*Yes, they had guns, but their guns did not have any bullets.*" He also said, "*They were not prisoners, they were there voluntarily.*" Both bold-face lies.

*The History of the Church* has a report of the gunfight, written by John Taylor, who was there, even though he himself was not a prisoner – only Joseph and Hyrum were. He wrote, "...I said, 'Brother Joseph, if you will permit it, and say the word, I will have you out of this prison in five hours, if the jail has to come down to do it.' My idea was to go to Nauvoo, and collect a force sufficient... Brother Joseph refused. Elder Cyrus H. Wheelock came in to see us, and when he was about leaving drew a small pistol, a six-shooter, from his pocket, remarking at the same time, 'Would any of you like to have this?' Brother Joseph immediately replied, 'Yes, give it to me,' whereupon he took the pistol and put it in his pantaloons pocket. The pistol was a six-shooting revolver, of Allen's patent; it belonged to me, and was one that I

*furnished to Brother Wheelock when he talked of going with me to the east, previous to our coming to Carthage...Sometime after dinner we sent for some wine. It has been reported that this was taken as a sacrament. It was no such thing; our spirits were generally dull and heavy, and it was sent to revive us...I believe we all drank of wine...Soon afterwards I was sitting at one of the front windows of the jail, when I saw a number of men, with painted faces, coming around the corner of the jail, and aiming towards the stairs...the mob, who had come upstairs, and tried to open the door, probably thought it was locked and fired a ball through the keyhole...almost instantly another ball passed through the panel of the door, and struck Brother Hyrum...he fell flat on his back, crying as he fell, 'I am a dead man!'...[Joseph] instantly arose, and with a firm, quick step, and a determined expression of countenance, approached the door, and pulling the six-shooter left by Brother Wheelock from his pocket, opened the door slightly, and snapped the pistol six successive times; only three of the barrels, however, were discharged. I afterwards understood that two or three were wounded by these discharges, two of them, I am informed, died." (History of the Church, vol. 7; 100-103.) It is evident that Joseph Smith did not die as a martyr, he died in a gun-fight. His gun had bullets, enough to shoot three men, killing at least two of them.*

After Carthage we drove to Nauvoo, Illinois, and took a lot of pictures of the LDS Temple that was rebuilt 2002. [We plan to put them also on our website.] We were amazed at the occult symbolism all around it. Even though we had seen pictures of them before, seeing them in person was very shocking.

We counted *thirty* "sun-stones" [sun-faces known from Masonry and occult as the face of Baal, *sun-god*] and next to each of them were *pentagrams*, [known from occult and Masonry as sign of Lucifer]. The round stain-glass windows around the temple display *twenty six more pentagrams*, and below all that are *thirty moonstones* [known from occult and Masonry as the symbol of *moon-goddess*]. On top of the temple, of course, is a statue of *angel Moroni*, that *Doctrine and Covenants* Introduction page [prior to 1981 editions] acknowledged as *an angel of light*. [2. Cor. 11:14 says that it is *Satan* who appears as *an angel of light*, and even *Mormon Doctrine* (p. 35) agrees that the *devil is an angel of light*.] Our hearts hurt for the blindness of the Mormon people. We pray that the Lord would open their eyes and cause them see what they are involved in, before it is too late! We found it very interesting that just about all historic buildings in Nauvoo, including the *Nauvoo Mansion* (home of Joseph and Emma Smith) and even the "*Red Brick Store*", where Masonic rituals and LDS endowments were first performed, belong to the *RLDS or Community of Christ* rather than to the LDS Church. *Community of Christ* (RLDS) also owns *Joseph Smith's homestead* and the family cemetery behind it where Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and Emma Smith with her second husband Bidamon are also buried, along with Lucy Smith and Joseph Smith Sr.

It seems that all who were not into polygamy, and who did not follow Brigham Young, were able stay and continue living in peace in Nauvoo. They were not "persecuted" as Mormons say they all were.

After we had had our "tour" of Nauvoo, we met with Rocky and Helen Hulse, a brave, wonderful couple who operate "*Nauvoo Christian Visitors Center*". They are receiving threats, even death threats, from Mormons. [One of latest ones, very serious one, had come as an email from Utah.] We had a long talk and a very nice visit and dinner with them that night. - Hulses had made reservations for us in a "*Bed and Breakfast*"- for Monday night. It

was absolutely a delightful place. It is located about 7 miles out of town, and is an actual old Town Hall building that the owners had bought and brought to their property, then restored and remodeled it into a charming *Bed and Breakfast* place. We had a very good rest there and lovely breakfast before leaving to go with Hulses to Quincy, ILL, to tape two TV programs to be aired sometime in June. Rocky and Helen Hulse have a weekly TV program discussing Mormonism. It goes all over the nation and even overseas – to Europe and to South America.

We are committed to pray for them and their safety daily and we ask you to pray for them also.

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As to other reports, Edward is doing well in Uganda. His radio program has gained many listeners and his efforts are making a difference. He has been able to again get a couple more articles into “The Redpepper”, the main Newspaper in Uganda. Please keep him in your prayers. We have received other good reports from many former Mormons, now devout Christians, and we thank God for allowing us to be part of their transition from Mormonism to a new life in Christ. They encourage us.

Please pray for Bruce. He is having serious health problems caused by injuries he received a couple of years ago in a car accident, very soon after he had become a believer in Christ. He has not been able to work from then on. He still has not received a settlement from his Insurance Company.

Please pray also for Judy, Lisa, Jay, Sharon, Jennifer, Sonia and her family, Vicky and her family – all former LDS, now born-again believers in Jesus of the Bible. Our friend Chris needs prayer for his son who is being raised by his LDS mother.

There are many, many others we are currently sharing with, who need courage to stand for truth and take a final step in accepting Jesus of the Bible, who is God.

Please pray of us too. We lost two weeks of work while on this ministry-trip, but our bills still keep coming as usual. We trust that the Lord we serve is able to make it up. (Phil. 4:19.)

Thank you for your partnership in this work. You have demonstrated it in so many ways. We send our love, and we want you to know that we pray for you also.

In Christ,

Rauni & Dennis Higley  
2890 E Willow Bend Dr.  
Sandy, Utah 84093

You may also contact us email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com) or by phone: 801.943-5011

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