

January 1, 2007

H.I.S. Ministries January Newsletter, covering December 2006

Happy New Year to all!

May God give us all a clear vision of His will and direct us in His ways so that we may be able to rescue and bring many lost souls to Him.

Time is short!

Paul wrote how the last times will be characterized. *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”* (2 Timothy 3:1-5) Apostle John also wrote to the believers and said (1 John 2:18), *“Little children, it is the last time; and as we have heard that antichrists shall come, even now there are many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”* It has been over 1900 years since he wrote those words. We can easily see how applicable these words are now. Twisted and false doctrines abound even among those who present themselves as believers in Jesus Christ. Violence and unrest are present everywhere. There is talk of “peace”, but there is no peace. Paul warned (1 Thessalonians 5:3), *“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”* We must not to be lulled into a false security, or thinking that the Lord may not come yet, but as we read the Bible and compare its prophecies to current events, we cannot help but see the end times approaching. Nearness of the end must motivate us all to be even busier with the Lord’s work than ever before, while we still have time. This is not our time to rest.

In the above quoted scriptures both Paul and John were referring to those who are giving an impression that they are believers in Jesus Christ, but yet they minimize the Word of God, bring their own agendas and programs to replace the Word, and lead people step by step further away from the truth. Spirit of the anti-Christ is presented with these twisted scriptures, and when the Antichrist himself will appear, he will give the impression that he is Christ, the son of God, and that he is bringing peace to the world – but soon enough all will see that he is the “son” and the agent of the devil.

What we see happening in our midst now are signs leading to the Tribulation. But the main stage for that coming *“Jacob’s trouble”* (Jer. 30:7) is being set in the Middle East. The world has turned against Israel to the point that they are not allowed to defend themselves even when attacked. Iran is the power behind the attacks on Israel, whether these attacks come from Lebanon, Syria or Egypt. Iran has plans to take over the entire Muslim world, and if it succeeds, it will own most of the oil needed by the world, and thus it will have all the money to build up armies to destroy Israel, America and all the rest of the non-Muslim world. If we keep our eyes on Israel, we can see how close that time is, even though most of Bible prophecies relating to Israel and 7-year

Tribulation will not be fulfilled until after the Rapture, which itself has no preceding signs, but it could happen at any moment. What is happening in the Middle East is a final build-up that leads to the Tribulation, and that means that the Rapture is even closer, for the Lord has promised to take His church, all born-again believers, out of here, before He will come to try Israel and punish the whole world as He has said He will. (See Isaiah 24:1, 6, 26:21.) The Word of God is true. We can trust that Jesus will come and take us, as Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, *“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (raptured) together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”* Paul gives us a reason why we are taken away before the time of punishment. *“For the Lord has not appointed us to wrath...”*; *“...Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:9; 1:10.) Jesus promised, in John 14:1-4, that He will take us to be with Him and that at this very moment He is preparing a place for us. (See also Isaiah 26:20-21.) Praise God for His great salvation and love.

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We also praise God that this last year has been very productive for this ministry. We have seen many new people entering eternal future with Jesus of the Bible, and many have escaped from the bondage and trap of Mormonism. I'll give you just a few highlights here.

A year ago, in December 2005, we received our first letter from a young man, [name hidden for security], in Uganda. We have talked about him often in our newsletters. You may recall that he is a former LDS missionary, who was the assistant to the mission president while on his mission. While still on his mission, he had come to question the truthfulness of Mormonism and after his mission he expanded his research on Mormonism to Internet and found our website. We wrote back and forth, several times a week, discussing the Bible vs. Mormonism. In February of 2006 he accepted the Jesus of the Bible into His heart and life, and started in-depth Bible studies. He wanted to know the truth and know it well. We sent him videos, *“DNA vs. the Book of Mormon”*, *“The Bible vs. the Book of Mormon”* and *“The Book of Abraham” DVD*, in addition to many books on Mormonism. We also sent him *NKJV study Bible* and study tapes to help him grow in the Word faster. The first tape-set we sent was the *John study* (22 ninety minute tapes) by Chuck Missler, and after that, we have sent him the *Daniel study*, *the Revelation study* and *the Isaiah study*, total of about 100 study tapes. He read the entire Bible in just a few months, asking a lot of questions along the way, especially about Old Testament, mainly concerning LDS misinterpretations.

I took time to pray over every question and answer I gave to make sure that my answers were correct for he was going to share them with others that he was guiding out of Mormonism. I verified my answers by consulting several good Bible Commentaries. [Name hidden] is an eager student who is anxious to share with other misguided Ugandans the truth of the Bible and error of Mormonism. Already in March 2006 he had arranged printing of over 600 copies of our booklet, *The Truth About Mormonism*, that he, with help of couple of his friends, distributed to the LDS church members who were leaving their district conference that was held in Kampala March 12th. He wrote articles on *Mormonism vs. Christianity*, and arranged a major Ugandan newspaper to publish them. He also has had weekly 1-hr. radio programs in Jinja since July, where he answered questions on Mormonism. All this cost money, but with the help that we have received from you, our supporters and friends, we have been able to send him money to cover the cost of all this. His

last radio-month was December. We hope to be able to continue helping him this new year. In other words, [Name hidden] has been very busy. A couple of months ago he said that he has already 20 former Mormons "in his group".

He has now received an invitation from this major newspaper to write weekly articles on Christian beliefs. What a blessing and encouragement he has been to us, and hopefully to all of you who have read about him in our newsletters. As you can see, if we plant a seed, God takes care of the conversions, and an increase that each true conversion will bring. The harvest is ready, workers are few. Lets continue to pray for more.

We are very thankful that we have been able to work with several people this year who, as a result of our hard work and prayers, did not join the Mormon Church. The Lord led them to investigate more before joining and write to us asking about LDS teachings. One young lady had been studying with LDS missionaries for over a year. When she wrote, she was just about ready to be baptized into the LDS Church. She wrote and said that she had, "*by accident, found our website*". (Hmm...hardly an accident!) After about two months of writing and investigation, she, in October, discontinued her meetings with the missionaries, and declined to become a member of the LDS Church. In her Christmas card to me she added words, "*Thank you! I will never forget you.*" We will never forget her either.

It was a very scary time for me too, because it was obvious that she had already accepted most of the teachings of the LDS Church, as well as their interpretations of the Bible. She had invested so much time into it, and even though she was asking questions, she wanted Mormonism to be true, after all. We continued writing for another month or more after she had already made her decision not to join, mainly to clarify Mormon interpretations of the Bible and help her see what they really meant in context.

We just recently spent a long time with a young college student who was about to join Mormonism after falling in love with an LDS girl. When he wrote to us, he had been meeting with missionaries about 1-2 months already. He had been raised a Christian, but even after learning that Mormonism is not a Christian religion, he had a hard time rejecting it for a fear that his girlfriend would not want to continue dating him.

We receive many similar letters every month from parents whose son or daughter has fallen in love with a Mormon, asking what they should do now.

Our advice to all parents is not to wait till that happens, but early in their children's lives teach them clearly the biblical doctrine of God, Jesus and salvation so they will not be confused or tempted to accept falsehoods. Parents must warn their children not to subject themselves to that kind of danger – i.e. not date those of another religion, but only share the true Christ with those who do not know Him, but have accepted "*another Jesus*". (2 Cor. 11:4.)

Perhaps what has been the most troubling to us this year was what happened to an LDS lady, Anne, from Northern Ireland, who wrote to us 26 letters in a ten day period, asking questions about Mormonism and the Bible. In her last letter to me she said that she has denounced Mormonism, and that she now believes in Jesus Christ of the Bible.

She wrote to me and said that she had told her Mormon friends that she had written a letter to the bishop (and mailed it to him on the 14th of October) asking that her name be removed from the records of the LDS Church. Less than two days later (on the 16th of October) she was found dead under suspicious circumstances. The coroner, who did her autopsy, found reasons to order a

police investigation, which, we have been informed, is still going on, more than two months later. It may be a difficult case to prove, but at least we know that she is with the Lord. (If you want to read more about Anne, go to our October through December Newsletters on our website, www.hismin.com.)

Anne was willing risk all, and do what the God of the Bible commands in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, *"Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers... WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU, AND I WILL BE A FATHER UNTO YOU, AND YE SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAITH THE LORD ALMIGHTY."*

Anne separated herself from the Mormon Church, as far as she could. We are sad of loosing her now, but we know that she is going to be with us for eternity.

We always hope that those coming out of a cult would have time to prove their faithfulness to the Lord and later receive rewards from the Lord, but we are comforted by the fact that even the thief on the cross who died next to Jesus, was also promised heaven, even though all he could offer was his faith at that crucial moment. (Luke 23:42-43.)

There are many others that we have worked with that we want to mention and say that they too are in the Lord and sound in their faith in His Word now. One of them is the Archibeque's family of five in Cortez, CO, Kelli H. in Nevada, Tammy and her family in Texas, and several others in Salt Lake City, Utah.

May we all be willing daily to take our crosses and follow Him, who is the Lord.

From our mailbox:

An LDS lady wrote:

"I have question about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am LDS, I have served a mission, married in the temple and I have had many callings of leadership. I have also received my patriarchal blessing. I read today my blessing again .It promises that" if [I] live worthily" certain blessings will be mine. It says nothing about conditions...[or does it?] In our Relief Society meeting this Sunday a sister teaching the lesson said that God's blessings and promises come with conditions and she also said that God's love is conditional upon laws and our obedience to the laws. I have always believed that God's love is unconditional, but if what she said is true, this means that if we do not obey in all things, he won't love us. I am confused and bewildered. Is this so?"

My reply:

The Mormon Church teaches that "... when we obtain any blessings from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated." (See D&C 130:20-21.) That means that everything (as is taught in LDS scriptures and theology), including God's love, is conditional. Word "if" indicates condition, does it not? When someone says to you, "IF you do such and such, you will receive such and such..." The word "if", and what follows it, spells out on what condition you can expect to receive something...

The Patriarchal Blessing, however, according to LDS Church's own teachings, is God's revelation of that individual's future, and thus it should not be conditional, but based on God's foreknowledge.

If these blessings were from the True God of the Bible, He would not say to you, "*if you live*

worthily” you receive “*certain blessings*”, for an all-knowing God, who knows the end from the beginning, would not be giving you predictions that depend solely on you, and not on what God already knows. In Romans 4:17, God of the Bible says that He “*calleth those things which be not as though they were.*” If your patriarchal blessing had come from the true God, He could say for certainty what your life is going to be, but we can conclude that LDS patriarchs are not speaking for the true God, and thus they can only make conditional predictions that depend on you to bring them to pass, and if they do not come to pass, then the fault is entirely yours.

When the LDS church still had *the Patriarch of the Church*, it was a position of “*prophet, seer and revelator*”. He was a General Authority, directly below the First Presidency and Council of the Twelve. This position was first given to Joseph Smith Sr. and after him to then oldest living brother of Joseph Smith Jr., Hyrum Smith, and it was supposed to continue from “*father to son*” (see D&C 107:39-40-51; 124:91-94) till the end. In the late 1970’s, without an announcement, this position was discontinued. The last Patriarch was Eldred G. Smith, who was “retired”, or put in “*emeritus*” status.

By the way, I had received my Patriarchal Blessing from Eldred G. Smith. I was a Finnish translator and language coordinator for the LDS church for over 14 years. In early 1970’s, before Finland had a Stake and their own stake Patriarch, Eldred G. Smith, as the Patriarch of the Church, made a trip to Finland to give patriarchal blessings to “worthy members” there. They were taped and he brought back ninety blessings for me to translate.

They ended up being a shock and disappointment to me, for they were all alike, and just like my own blessing I had received a few years earlier. I could see that the God of Mormonism did not have anything for me, or for anyone else for that matter, and that my “future” was the same as everyone else’s, and conditional to what I did or did not do.

I would like you to know that God of the Bible knows you and loves you, unconditionally. He sent His Son to save you. (John 1:1, 14; 3:16; 8:23-24; 17:3.) He is Eternal God, and He is asking that you give your life to Him, and He will forgive your sins and be the Lord of your life. (See: Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10.)

Please write again, and let’s talk.

In Christ of the Bible, Rauni Higley

[We will give you more Q/A letters next month when we get our computer working normal again.]

We had a huge problem about 3 weeks ago. We had to change computers and in that process I lost several my emails that I had not had an opportunity to answer yet. We do not have names or addresses of these people that wrote from the 4th of December till about 14th of December. I am sure that most of them think now that we did not care and for that reason we did not answer. I had not even had a chance to read them through, but I recall seeing in one of them a Mormon lady’s plea for help. We have been praying that God would touch the hearts of that all of them who wrote during those days and impress upon them to rewrite to us so we can answer them.

We finished, just before Thanksgiving, our 3rd year of teaching 12-week courses, “Understanding Mormonism”, at Calvary Chapel in Salt Lake City. At the end of November we went to Las Vegas Nevada, where we were asked to speak. They asked us to come back there some time in March-April to do a 2-3 day all day seminar.

Our classes at Calvary Chapel will start again in mid January. This time it will have to be only about 7-week course, for we have been asked to go and speak at SBC’s Midwestern Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO, in the beginning of March. This will be our second trip there. We

plan on driving instead of flying, and also going to see some Mormon sites while in that part of the country, perhaps even going to Nauvoo, ILL.

During this year we have again mailed a lot of materials, literally around the world: books, tapes, DVDs, CDs etc. We sent them without cost to those who have asked, and we have been able to help [Name hidden] to carry on in his work in Africa.

We have not directly asked contributions from anyone, for the Lord has done it for us. He has impressed in the hearts of His people to share as He has directed and that has been enough. We thank Him, and we thank you for responding to Him.

I have not done much in my professional work simply because the need for the ministry work has been so pressing. The Lord has taken care of us by giving Dennis enough work to take care of most of our personal needs.

In a week or two you can expect your tax-exempt year-end receipt for your contributions to H.I.S. Ministry. We are very grateful to everyone. May God reward your faithfulness to Him.

We ask your prayers for our continued health and strength. We also ask your prayers for all “our” new believers the Lord has blessed us with. It is such a joy to see a person, many of them this year, come to know Him. We thank the Lord Jesus that He has given us these opportunities to be a part of their release from bondage to Mormonism and after that, their growth and understanding in the Word of God.

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

In His love, serving Him with gladness,

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