

July, 2007

H.I.S. Ministries July Newsletter, covering June 2007

Summer is going fast. We have been so involved in the ministry that we have not had a time to even think of a vacation, but we know we must, and soon! If we do not take time off, we will not be able to continue much longer – there is wisdom in RR, rest and relaxation. Even the Lord Jesus took time off. He went away from people to spend time alone. Our idea of relax-and rest-time is to go to the mountains, sit by some nice lake – away from everything, and spend time walking together, talking, reading, studying and praying.

We actually would have wanted to leave by the 1st of July, but Dennis has one more wedding to perform – on the 7th of July. We hope to be able to take off right after that. Going to Idaho wilderness is what seems to relax both of us the most – so we will head that way.

When we do not have salaried income nor paid vacations, etc. taking off from work is a hard thing to do, but Dennis has been trying to “get it all done ahead of time” by working 6 days a week, 8-12 hours a day from the first part of April, or since we got back from Midwestern Seminary, which now should give him “two weeks off” from his work. Praise be to the Lord for that “earned vacation”.

When we got back from Kansas City, MO, almost three months ago, we were far behind in funds for this work, but thanks to many of you who helped us financially to get back up and catch up with the ministry expenses, we are fine for now. Our work is the Lord’s Work, and we know that whom He calls, He will make sure He will provide. God is faithful and He works through His people, which you all are! Thank you very much!

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Last month I wrote about Mitt Romney and his proposed US presidency. I have received more questions on this matter, but I do not intend to keep on writing about him after this, so I hope my answers here will suffice.

I still believe that he is as good of a man as any man can be, but what worries me is his influence in the growth of the Mormon Church. If all, 54 thousand plus LDS missionaries world-wide, could be saying that ***“our president is an active member of this church, he himself a former LDS missionary and a bishop”***, that statement would open a lot of doors to the homes of those who do not know what Mormonism is – and is not. Most Americans do not have any idea that Christian words and terms used by Mormons means something totally different to them than

to us as Bible believing Christians.

Examples: **Jesus of Mormonism** is a created being, an elder brother of all mankind, one of the billions of sons of God, and a rival brother of Satan from their so called “pre-existence”. **God the father** or “**Heavenly Father**” to Mormons is not the eternal God, from “*everlasting to everlasting*” (Ps. 90:2), but a former mortal polygamist man, who progressed into godhood, and with his many wives gave birth to all mankind and angels. They were born to him and his wives as his spirit children, Jesus being the eldest of them and Lucifer/Satan one of the next ones. Later this Father-god came to Mary and sexually conceived Jesus, whom they then **can call** “*the only begotten son of God in the flesh*” and yet not mean anything at all what the Bible says and Christians believe. The biblical “**Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh**” is the Son of God, **God who is Spirit** and had nothing sexual to do with Mary, thus Mary remained a Virgin through the birth of Jesus. Not so in the Mormon terms. **The Holy Ghost** in Mormonism is another spirit son of God and his wives, and a spirit brother of mankind, angels and Jesus. **Salvation** in Mormonism is “partially” obtained through Jesus, who earned **resurrection for all**, but in order to inherit the celestial kingdom and become a god like their heavenly father, there are many conditions to meet. They have to be first “**born again**” **by being baptized into the LDS church**, then continue to live according to “**all the laws and ordinances of the Mormon gospel**”, **marrying in a temple for “time and all eternity**” and obeying the rules, laws and commandments of the LDS Church to the end of their lives. This is just a partial list of huge differences between Mormonism and Christianity, but because they talk about “**Jesus Christ, our Savior**”, being “**born again**”, the “**gospel**”, the “**Heavenly Father**”, the “**church**”, the “**Gift of the Holy Ghost**”, and of their “**wonderful family life**” [as if they were the only people who value family] - and of living a life free of drugs, alcohol, coffee, tea, and tobacco - they seem to be the prime examples of Christian living – and in many ways they indeed are. **If there was no after-life**, no eternity, no heaven or hell, if “religion” was just for “here and now”, for this life only, I think all should be Mormons – **but because it is not so, we must know who Jesus is, who the Father is, who the Holy Spirit is and how to be saved**, otherwise we, and they, will end up in Christ-less eternity, which is hell.

I understand that our mission has nothing to do with politics, even though I believe that everyone needs to be aware what is going on so that we can cast our own votes based on correct information and on our conscience. The only reason I have written about Romney at all is **his potential influence in advancing the growth of the Mormon Church, and our mission is to inform people about that church**. I do not have anything against Mitt Romney, the man. But I do worry about his

temple-oaths – for **they will take a precedence** over his future oath of office, should he be voted in as the President of USA.

What I wish most is that Mitt Romney would be honest, *come out of the closet*, so to speak, and honestly and firmly explain both in writing and in his speech how Mormonism is different from biblical Christianity – rather than make uninformed people think that he as a Mormon believes the same that Christians believe, when he does not. He said in a recent TV debate/interview that he *believes in God, in the Bible and that Jesus Christ is his Savior. Period!* Sounds like a biblical Christian, right? **He did not inform his listeners that he, as a Mormon, believes in a different god**, who is a former man, like he is now, and **in addition to the Bible, he believes in three other ‘Standard works’ or scriptures** that he accepts unconditionally, but **he accepts the Bible only with a qualification, “as far as translated correctly”**, which means that the Bible is a “lesser scripture” of those four books. Neither did he say that Jesus is **his elder brother** and that salvation Jesus provides is not complete **without his own works and the LDS Church, as the LDS Church says, “there is no salvation outside of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”**

He obviously assumes that future converts to Mormonism will learn all that after they have been baptized, and those who are not joining the Mormon Church, do not need to know anyway.

What he did not say is where his deception comes in. He must know that Christianity believes in a God who is **the Only God, God “from everlasting to everlasting”** (Ps. 90:2) and that **God of the Bible is Spirit**, as Jesus said (John 4:24). Romney does not believe in the biblical God, but instead he believes in a God who has not always been a God. He did not say that he too is working to become a god, “heavenly parents” with his wife, and create spirit children, who will worship him as their god, according to their “heavenly pattern”.

Mitt Romney’s religion is going to remain an issue as long as people do not know what his faith is and where his loyalty belongs. **If he would honestly tell what all Mormons are supposed to know and believe**, then those, who will vote for him, would know that they are voting a believing Mormon into this highest office in the nation and in the world. Does it matter, is a question for all voters.

Andrew Longman, about a month ago, asked me to elaborate and add some to our June Newsletter’s article on Romney. He wanted to see if he could get the article to the *Christian World View Net Work*. I wrote an article. He edited it quite a bit (it is not all my words any longer), and he got it accepted. You can still view it there: http://www.christianworldviewnetwork.com/article.php/2125/Andrew_Longman If you have read it or can read it still, let me know what you think.

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What makes “religions” so confusing, and what allows counterfeit faiths to be accepted as genuine, is that they **seem** to be speaking of the same “God”, stressing the similar good works and advising how to live a “purpose driven life”. It may be a good thing for this life, but it does not save anyone from God’s wrath. “*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”. (Romans 3:23.) “*All our righteousness is as filthy rags.*” (Isa. 64:6.) How do we become clean from our sins is not often even mentioned. Jesus is hardly ever spoken of and “God” has become a generic term, and anyone’s “God” is accepted as the same biblical God. We hear all the time that “God” of Islam is the same as God of the Jews and Christians, when the fact is that “God” of Islam is Allah, a moon-god. Likewise, we hear that God of “*you-name-it-religion*” is also the same God, when it is absolutely not true at all. Can just any “God” or just any “Jesus” save? Of course not.

Many of the leading evangelical pastors have joined the crowd using these generic terms, without clarification who God is, who Jesus is, and **not** noting that it was Jesus who stressed that ***knowledge of God, and Jesus Christ is the most important matter, equal to having eternal life.*** (John 17:3; 8:24; Matt. 7:22-23.) These pastors also speak of the “Gospel” as if it meant just accepting “God’s purposes for our lives” and being “good”. An acknowledgement that we as individuals have sinned and deserve the wrath and curse of God, is not talked about. That kind of “gospel” is not the Gospel at all! Paul warned that changing the Gospel in any way will bring God’s curse to those who preach it and/or accept it – changing makes it “another gospel” (Gal. 1:8-9.) **The Gospel that saves is a message for sinners** (1 Cor. 15:1-4) - **that Jesus Christ, as God in human flesh, went on the cross, died, was buried and rose again on the third day. Receiving that message into our hearts by faith is the only gospel that saves. He is the Way, the Truth and Life. (John 14:6.)** We need to repent and become more clear in our proclamation of the true Jesus and His Gospel that saves sinners.

From our mailbox:

This long letter is somewhat typical from a believing Mormon. Many of you who talk to Mormons often can recognize their common arguments and perhaps you can get some help out of what I said to him. (*His comments/arguments are in Italics*, I will insert my answers below his comments, in plain text.)

He wrote: “*1. You are clueless...you do not know what you are talking about! Perhaps someday you’ll get it! I am a priesthood holder [in the LDS church] and I would like to tell you that you have been definitely brainwashed in your new found faith. It is too bad that you left the church because of the pretences of man. First of all, your biblical comments are false and that is why the LDS church does not bash or try to put on internet accusations of any faith, or say that they are*

wrong.”

1. You only think you are a priesthood holder! You are not. Levitical (Aaronic) Priesthood was abolished, i.e. it ended when Christ paid the penalty of our sins on the cross. Priesthoods' duties and function was to be mediators between God and men and offer blood sacrifices for sin. (See the Book of Leviticus.) Christ's death on the cross ended all blood sacrifices. (Heb. 10:10-18.) As to the Melchizedek Priesthood, there was a person, Melchizedek, during the time of Abraham, who was a prophet, priest and king – a type of Messiah, Jesus, who is our Prophet, Priest and King, but **there never were any other Melchizedek Priesthood holders**. In Israel they had one High Priest at a time, but he too was an Aaronic Priest. Jesus Christ is the only one who holds the Melchizedek Priesthood. His Priesthood is “*unchangeable, un-transferable*” (Heb. 7:24), meaning that it does not pass from one to another. Jesus is the only Mediator between God and man. **“For there is one God and One Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Tim. 2:5.)**

2. *“You say that Mormon beliefs are not biblical – that is showing your apostasy right there. The Book of Mormon was not written by Joseph Smith – it was translated by him with the Power from God! The **Book of Mormon has been proven** to be from the era of 600 B.C. and down on the line. There has been studies **from all over the world** that prove that it truly is from other profits (sic) of God...The Book of Mormon only compliments the Bible, and not contradict it. Your ignorant statement that Joseph Smith had told us **in the Joseph Smith History that all churches were an abomination**, is false, and that we were the only true church was also misinterpreted by you. JS History 1:19 reads, **‘I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt’**...That means that there were **‘those’ who were arguing in his town, back and forth, who was right and wrong, not that all churches were wrong.**”*

2. The Book of Mormon “profits” are no prophets of God. The book has been proven FALSE.

Joseph Smith, and after him the Mormon Church, has claimed that there had been a world-wide total apostasy from the truth, not just “*some locals arguing back and forth*”. Smith said, **“those professors were all corrupt”** and that **“their creeds** (i.e. confessions of faith of those who **professed to believe** these creeds) **were abomination”** to God.

3. *“You also say that you chose the Bible because it is historically, archeologically and spiritually a proven record – so is the **Book of Mormon proven**”*

archeologically, historically and spiritually ...”

3. No, that is not so. The Book of Mormon is not a proven record at all. Nothing has been found in Americas that is even remotely related to the Book of Mormon. DNA research has proven that American Indians are not Hebrews from Jerusalem, but Mongoloids from Siberia. If you'd send me your postal address, I will send you scientific documentation for that fact.

4. *“It was Lehi of the Levite family in Jerusalem that was run out of their homeland because **ROMAN CATHOLICS** – they (RC) were also calling Lehi, who was a profit (sic) of God, a teacher of false doctrine. God has chosen many profits (sic) over many thousands of years. Do you think that the Bible is the only truth out of their writings? If that is the way you view scripture that means that you are truly blissfully ignorant. The Bible as we call it, means a book of stories. So when you said that the Bible is the only truth, you contradicted what the Bible is here to do. The Book of Mormon is of a lineage of a family that traveled long distances to produce that book as we know it today. “*

4. This what you say here is quite incredible! Your “profit” (maybe you meant “prophet”/) **Lehi was not run out of town by Romans Catholics!** There were no Roman Catholics for another almost 1000 years. The BoM says that Lehi left Jerusalem 600 B.C., meaning **600 years before Christ**. Roman Catholic church came to be after Constantine, or in about 337 A.D., **337 years after Christ**. There, of course, were no Christians either – not anywhere - before there was Christ, which is the Greek word, translated from a Hebrew word, Messiah, and that not until the New Testament era. Followers of Christ were **first time** called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26), which was about 64 years after Christ. **“Ignorance can be blissful”**, for you obviously do not have the facts straight. Joseph Smith had a problem with facts too. There are countless time-line problems in the Book of Mormon. As an example: In the Book of Mormon, Jesus Christ is mentioned by name 545 years before Christ, (2 Ne.11:3) and even in the book of Ether (Ether 3:14), Jesus Christ is talked by name about 2000 years before there was Jesus Christ. “Jesus” is a Greek translation of a Hebrew name Y’shua, which name means “Jehovah-God is salvation”. Greek language did not even exist at that time in history, so there could not have been any Greek names either. We now know the name “Jesus Christ”, for the New Testament was written in Greek. However, no one knew His name before it was given to Joseph and Mary (Matt. 1:18-23). From the Old Testament we know that coming Messiah will be God, Immanuel, with us, (Isa. 7:14), but His actual name is not found in the Old Testament at all. Joseph and Mary spoke Aramaic and Hebrew, from that we know that when the angel gave His name to them it was Y’shua, which was later translated to Jesus. I hope that this will start you thinking. Joseph Smith copied much from the Bible to his Book

of Mormon, but his lack of education caused him to make many bad errors, just like the one I mentioned. The Book of Mormon is a “testament of another Jesus”, not of the Jesus known of in the Bible, regardless of the stories that Smith took from there and applied to his “Jesus”.

5. *“The Book of Mormon has been proven to the word of God as well. There is no way that an 18-year old boy with little or no education could write a book so elaborate in its narrations with different styles of authorship. Why don’t you look up **FARMS** research Foundation who have Archeology degrees, Divinity Degrees and History Degrees! I think you would find them very interesting. “*

5. By the way, Joseph Smith was 25, not 18, when he published the Book of Mormon in 1830. (He was born in 1805.) I am very familiar with FARMS, and with FAIR too. They both are apologetic sites that try to defend falsehoods of Mormonism. They do say a lot, but their information is not correct nor factual. They give a disclaimer so that the church cannot be blamed for their misinformation.

Quoting from FAIR’s site, ***“FAIR is not owned, controlled by or affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. All research and opinions provided on this site are the sole responsibility of FAIR, and should not be interpreted as official statements of the LDS doctrine, belief or practice.”***

You mention degrees of the people who give these unofficial statements and opinions. **Degrees do not guarantee honesty.** One former FARMS contributor once admitted to me that they “lie a lot” there, because that way they can keep people in the church, when truth would drive them away. There is even an often used term in the church for that – it is ***“lying for the Lord”***, meaning their lord.

6. *“You have also said that **we Mormons teach** that we will someday be Gods. Let me point this as your mistake as well. Ps. 82:6 says, ‘I have said, **Ye are gods**, and all of you are children of the most High.’ **This is God talking, by the way.** “*

6. Please read all 8 verses of Psalm 82. **These are not Gods!** These men are judges, and are only “called gods” (John 10:35), because their position as judges in Israel gave them power over peoples lives.

In England their High Court judges are still called the “Lords” (gods), but only because of the high power vested in them. Late LDS apostle James Talmage, in his book “Jesus the Christ”, on page 501, notes also that Ps. 82 was referring to judges of Israel – not that men are Gods!

7. *“You also have said that God the father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost are one. Well, that is true, we believe the same thing, but you teach that **God and Jesus Christ are of one body, and that is wrong.**”*

7. Please read John 1:18; John 4:24; Col. 1:15. The Bible teaches of Triune God – three eternal, co-equal Persons, but One God. God the father is invisible Spirit. Jesus, as God, who became a man (John 1:1, 14), is an *image of the invisible God* (Col. 1:15). We are made into God’s image, which is not physical, but spiritual. Jesus, eternal God, who became a man, revealed God to us. **God is Spirit and Spirit does not have flesh and bones.** (John 4:24; Luke 24:39.) The real you is not your body, or is it? You have misunderstood the issues. God is one – but three Persons. Perhaps reading carefully 1 John 5:7 might help you to see that better?

8. *“Genesis 1:26 God said, ‘Let US make man in OUR image; after OUR likeness...’ This is God saying ‘us’ and ‘our’ – I do not think that God would have said that and have us mistake himself as **two people in one**. You quote Isaiah 43:10, ‘Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.’ This is Jesus Christ talking. This means that Jesus is the only Savior that died for our sins. There will be no other Savior after him.”*

8. This, “us” and “our”, speaks of Trinity, Triune God. Even though it says “us” and “our”, verb in Hebrew is in singular – it would be grammatically incorrect if it was speaking of more than one God, same as if we’d say, “we is”, rather than “we are”. There is but One God, anywhere. [When we read in the Old Testament “God”, it is translated from a Hebrew word **Elohyim**. “Elohyim” indicates plurality of Persons in One God [- “im” ending in Hebrew indicates plurality of persons]. [Another example of how it works in Hebrew is Cherub – only one Cherub. **Cherubim** is more than one.]

When we see in the OT the word LORD, all capital letters, in Hebrew it reads YHVH (Jehovah), name of God. We read many times there “I, the LORD God” – in Hebrew it reads “I, YHVH Elohyim” [not “we”, YHVH **and** Elohyim!!] The verb is always in the singular when God speaks of Himself as Elohyim, plurality of Persons in One God. He is indeed **LORD God Almighty, Jehovah Elohyim**. This One God has only One Name, YHVH (in English, Jehovah). He, the “LORD God” (i.e. Jehovah Elohim), revealed His name, only One Name, in **Exodus 6:2-3**. I hope this clears this up some.

In Isa. 43:10, both words, the LORD and God, are used. **LORD God is one God. He is God of the Bible.** Think a little!

9. *“Another thing you need to know is that **born again Christians have no authority to baptize anyone. You must have the Aaronic Priesthood.** For that read, Numbers 18:1-8. This scripture is just one of Authority to be able to perform ordinances upon this earth – one and the most sacred of them all is baptism.”*

9. Aaronic (Levitical) Priesthood, as it was in Old Testament times, was abolished, made obsolete when Christ made His ultimate sacrifice for sins. No more sacrifices were needed. Thus the Priesthood ended. (Read Hebrews chapters 7-10.) There were Levitical priests up to and during the time of Christ – but they all had to be from the Tribe of Levi, through his son Aaron. Even if there were still Old Testament priesthood, which there is not, you'd have to qualify for priesthood under the Levitical rules and be a Levite from the House of Aaron. Are you a Levite?

All **born again believers** in Jesus Christ of the Bible have the authority, “*the royal Priesthood*” (1 Peter 2:9), meaning the believer’s right to approach eternal God through Jesus Christ in any matters without any other Priest representing him/her. (1 Tim. 2:5.)

10. “*You and all other religions ask us why we baptize for the dead, which is done in the temples. Why do you think that is? No other religion does that!! The purpose is simply that the plan of salvation requires that all be baptized in the flesh by immersion. By the Aaronic Priesthood we hold, we perform ordinances for the dead as God has asked us to do. Read 1 Cor. 15:29, and see for yourself. It is what God wants us to do.*”

10. There is no such a thing as a second change for salvation after death! Notice that Paul was not speaking of himself, or of anyone with him, when he asked “*why are they then baptized for the dead?*” (1 Cor. 15:29) Paul, or others with him, did not baptize for the dead! The LDS Church has taken this verse totally out of context! **The context** in 1 Cor. 15 **is resurrection**, not baptism at all!!

Hebr. 9:27 says that **after death comes judgment of God, not a second change!** This life and the decisions we make now for Jesus of the Bible determines where we will spend eternity – in heaven with Jesus, - or in hell. Read what Jesus said about “*life after death*” in Luke 16:19-31. No preaching or converting there, no crossing the gulf that it fixed...

11. “*Instead of warning us, **why don't you make yourself better in the light of our Savior as we do**, and do not continue preaching **false doctrines you profess** – move on and make an impacts by setting an example instead of pointing out someone else's beliefs. The reason why **the LDS church is the true church is because we follow commandments** – not just the ones we pick and choose, **to make us feel like we do not have to work to redeem our own sins**. We do everything with the power of the keys of the priesthood, same as it was done when Jesus Christ was on earth. We take Jesus Christ into our hearts, we are baptized by immersion and have the Holy Ghost confirmed to us, and that means we are saved, but we still have to continue working for our salvation, obey all the*

commandments and do what is asked of us...

These are some of the reasons WHY I WILL NEVER CHANGE MY FAITH. I have seen more than 25 years of false teachings, same as you are professing to believe. That is why we have been warned about the false priesthoods and false witnesses. Good luck to you and your faith."

11. Salvation is **the gift of God, not of works**. (Eph. 2:8-10.) Jesus alone is the Way, the Truth and Life. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) There is no salvation outside of Him, and **Him alone!** After we receive our salvation by simply confessing our sins, repenting and asking Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, we want to do good works, not to be saved by them or that they may add to our salvation – we do good works from our love for our Lord who provided such a great salvation we could not earn. **He alone paid it all – all to Him we owe.**

I'd be glad to help, but you have to do your own studies and have a desire to know. If you have honest questions, I will be happy to answer them. -- Sincerely, Rauni Higley

Please pray for a new believer, Chad, a former Mormon, who just about three weeks ago accepted Christ. We have together struggled since February, writing back and forth, about issues in Mormonism – and praise God, he humbled himself before the Lord. One more in the Lord's kingdom! Please pray also for his sister that she too would come to Jesus of the Bible.

There are several other Mormons to whom we have recently presented the gospel, but so far, they have rejected Jesus of the Bible and are clinging to Joseph Smith and his "gospel of laws and ordinances".

Pray for John, Karen, Scott, Landon, Al and Jason.

Judy, Bruce, Margaret, Dave and Sandra also need prayer – they are believers now, but have various problems with life. The Lord knows their struggles, but if you just mention their names, He will take care of their needs.

We have been able to send dozens of "Lifting the Veil of Polygamy" around the country and to overseas. We are hearing good reports from those who have viewed it. Many say that "it was the best"!

We have also sent many books, as *Studies of the Book of Mormon*, by B.H. Roberts and *Insider's View of Mormon Origin*, by Grant H. Palmer, along with our booklets, to several Mormons, who have expressed interest in knowing the truth. We hope that they will read them and start thinking...

"Our Edward", in Uganda, is continuing a good work. He has now had his weekly radio program a full year. We thank Brenda & Gregg who stepped in to help funding it when we had run out of money for that "extension of our ministry" at

the beginning of the year. We hope that we will be able to continue to help him. Edward's "group" of former Mormons has now 25 members. They are meeting weekly to study the Bible using Chuck Missler's Bible study tapes – (Edward has over 100 ninety minute study tapes to use!) Edward himself has been a biblical Christian only about 16 months, but his knowledge of the Bible, due to his diligent studies, seems to be even greater than many seminary graduates I have known. It is all because his deep love for Jesus and his desire to know Him more, and be guided by the Holy Spirit. Keep Edward in prayer – there are many dangers for him in Uganda.

Thank you again, our prayer-partners and supporters. You encourage us and give us strength to carry on.

We pray for you all every day, as we know that you pray for us too.

Love in Jesus, Rauni & Dennis

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