



August 26th, 2008

H.I.S. Ministries September Newsletter, covering both July and August, 2008

Happy coming Fall season. We skipped our August Newsletter, as we had “warned” you about in our last letter, dated 1 July, 2008. Some of you missed that, and asked where is our Newsletter of August, as of 1st of August. Actually that made us happy to see that you are expecting our letters to arrive promptly during the first week of each month. This letter will be a bit early for first of September, and it is because we are leaving for our last little “*time-off*”-camping trip during the Labor Day weekend. We will be coming back the 3rd of September. We will not go far – only about 100 miles to Current Creek Reservoir - where we can use our inflatable canoe to fish, if the winds are not too strong. We are looking forward to starting our routine work – teaching about the differences between Mormonism and biblical Christianity, and motivating the body of Christ into sharing with their Mormon friends and family the crucial fact that **without knowing Jesus, who is God** in flesh, there is no salvation. (John 8:24; 14:6.) No church, no ritual, no human “goodness”, nor “love” shared without presenting the truth that saves, will have eternal benefits to anyone. Would you pray with us that we can love as our Lord loves, and do it according to His perfect will and stay in His directive? **Our class will start on the 7th of September, at Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake City.** This time we will teach on Sunday evenings, at 6:00 PM, giving us a bit more time for answering questions at the end – but we encourage all to hold their questions till the end of actual class time. It has been announced as 13-week course, but it might be “only “12-week class so that we can finish it before Thanksgiving. Everyone is welcome. This time we will have our class in the Sanctuary, and thus we will have more room to accommodate more people than before when we have been limited to a classroom.

This summer has been busy, but we have also been able to take time to reflect and study. We took two weeks to go camping in High Uintah Mountains with our dear friends the Stewarts from Vernal. While there, we read two Ray Yungen’s books, “*A Time of Departing*” and “*For Many Shall Come in My Name*”. Very sober reading, for we have noticed our Christian communities falling for heretical teachings, and compromising and departing from the biblical truth, without even realizing that they are headed for the New Age Religion, which is not actually “new” but a return to Eastern Mysticism.

(Please consider putting these books, or at least one of them, on your *must-read list*, as well as Roger Oakland’s 2007 book, “*Faith Undone*”.)

We get reports of evangelicals promoting *Contemplative Prayer* which simply means silencing or emptying one’s mind by “mantra”-type repetitions of a word or phrases, the

very same “*meditation*” techniques that Eastern Religions and their gurus have taught for centuries. They have only changed the name to “contemplative prayer”, rather than saying that they are promoting a practice of transcendental meditation.

Jesus forbid His own from using “*vain repetitions*” when we pray (Matt. 6:7), but instead we are to present our requests to the Lord with thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6-7). We are to **meditate on God’s Word**, which means **thinking about what God has said, NOT emptying our minds of all thought**, as Eastern Religions teach and require.

Since the name has been changed to **Contemplative Prayer from Transcendental Meditation (TM)**, many are not aware that by using these same methods, they are entering into Eastern Mysticism, the very same as was taught by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, many years ago. They started to call it “*the Science of Creative Intelligence*”, **rather than mantra yoga, what it really is**. It came to America in the 60’s and 70’s, but lately it has been made more popular by known preachers who focus on *self-improvement* and “*feel-good*” entertainment rather than on Christ who alone can change our hearts and lives. Yoga is also promoted by many, if not most of the public schools and gyms *as relaxing exercise*, but, during the last 3-4 years, we have been notified, that even evangelical pastors and churches around the country also promote yoga, calling it “*Christian Yoga*”. **There is no such a thing as “Christian yoga”**. **All yoga is a signed prayer to a Hindu deity, whether ones knows it or not.** (Movements and positions that most think are just exercise, in actuality are signed prayer to Hindu gods.) **Hindu gurus adamantly declare that “there is no such a thing as Christian yoga – all yoga is Hinduism”**. Many think that by changing the name somewhat they can make these practices more acceptable. That may be true among those who do not know the facts about yoga and Hinduism.

Similarly you may have heard of *Mormon-Christians*, but **it is not possible to be both a Mormon and a Christian either** simply because **in Mormonism, different gods and “another Jesus” are worshipped**, not God or Jesus of the Bible, but “false gods” and “another Jesus”, **regardless of the name identity**. We, as believers in Jesus of the Bible and His teachings, must learn to ask questions when these teachings are presented to us, and *test all things*, as the Bible commands (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1). **Once a person has truly come to faith in the TRUE JESUS of the Bible, it is not possible for one to remain in a false religion where the True Jesus is not worshipped, for the knowledge and the love of the TRUTH demands separation from falsehoods. We are to “come out from among them and be separate”**. (2 Cor. 6:17.)

We have also been alerted during the last couple of months with questions of and promotions of various “*healers*” and “*prosperity teachers*”, who are drawing large crowds and disciples after themselves from among people who are looking for “*signs and wonders*” and “*feel good*”- experiences without realizing that the enemy of our souls is behind much of this, **regardless that they use name of Jesus**. Remember that Jesus foretold us that “*signs and wonders*” **will be one of the end-time scenarios to deceive even the very elect** (Matt. 24:23-25), and that they will say that these things are of Christ. The Word of God is given to us by God for the very reason that we could and should know the truth so that we’d not be brought to shame by our own ignorance!

“STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth... All scripture is given by inspiration of God,

and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.)

All of us who know the Lord Jesus, and that He is Eternal God who became a man for our sake, **must warn those around us who do not know Him**, but are following, no matter how sincerely, *another Jesus and another gospel.*(2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:8-9.) **There is no salvation in false Jesus and false gospel.** Some think that all we need to do is to be "friendly" and "nice" and not be bothered by what they believe. They say **that is loving them.** They say that truth might offend them, so why bother and upset them when they say they are "*happy in their faith and religion*"? Would that not be like smiling and waving to those passing by us, **heading for a deep canyon and knowing that the bridge is out?!** How would you feel if someone knew that the bridge was out, but did not warn you? Would you not expect that anyone with that information would do anything and everything to stop you if you were heading towards sure death and destruction?

We must stop and realize that **people without the true Christ are headed for eternal destruction**, while they may *be sincerely thinking and hoping* that their own goodness and religion will take them to heaven. They depend on their good works and on their leaders to guide them to safety. **If we have true loving compassion (and boldness) towards our fellowman, we must stop them and tell them that "the bridge is out",** that there is no salvation in following their leaders who do not know the true Jesus either, nor in their own good works, charities etc. **None of that can function as a bridge between a person and God. Only Jesus of the Bible can do that: You must love them (and Him) enough to risk even offending** so that you can point them to Him. Consequences of not warning them can be eternal. If you did not warn, would they consider you a friend when they will find out that you had the truth but that you did not want to risk your own comfort zone to warn them? **Without true Jesus "the bridge" is out forever!** Jesus said, "*I AM the way. The truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by Me.*" (John 14:6.)"*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" "*IF ye believe not that I AM He [God], ye shall die in your sins.*" (John 8:24.)

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We have a great story to tell – story that will encourage you all to take your Bible and challenge Mormons to compare their beliefs to it. We had, while still camping, received this email that said,

*"Dennis and Rauni, What a great story you have. My wife and I also were members of the LDS Church for over 30 years and temple recommend holders for almost that same period of time. My wife was a BYU Professor for eight years and I have served on the HC (High Council) and two Bishoprics. We lived in Alpine, UT, but have since moved to Florida after my wife resigned from BYU and we resigned (03-16-08) from the LDS Church. I would like meet both of you when I come to SLC for business and to see my sons' band play downtown SLC.... **Please see the story below of my son's conversion.** The band will be here for 9 days (Aug 16 - 24). Any promotion on your web site, local churches, etc ... having the band play at local churches would be appreciated. They have a great story to tell and their original music is great. See*

www.myspace.com/adamsroadband. Thanks again. Your Brother in Christ, Michael D. Wilder”

Story of Michael and Lynn Wilder’s son, Micah A. Wilder, and his Conversion from the Mormon Church (while on a Mormon Mission) to a Born-Again Christian in the Lord Jesus Christ:

*“I grew up in the Mormon Church, and moved to Utah when I was fourteen. My mother was a professor at BYU and my Dad was in the Bishopric. I served a mission at 19 to Orlando, Florida. It was there that my life changed forever. As a missionary I was challenged by a Baptist Minister to read the Bible, and he promised me that my eyes would be opened to the truth. I was so angry at him. I set out to prove him wrong. Over the next year and half as a missionary, I began to read the Bible. I set out to show that what he believed was false, and in reality I began to prove myself wrong. As I searched for answers, God slowly opened my eyes to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. I learned that salvation came through the gift and grace of God, not by our works. I learned that believing in Christ (of the Bible) was enough and that I didn't need to believe in a gospel of man to be saved. I learned that the priesthood, temples, ordinances, and Prophets were all fulfilled through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and when He died on the cross the veil to Heaven was torn, and all who believed in Christ now have free access to the Father. God reached into my heart and changed everything I had ever known. I was scared to tell others what I had come to know, because I knew how the church would react. I was a missionary at the time, and actually I was a zone leader, beloved by the mission president and all the other missionaries. I used to write home to my girlfriend in Utah everything that I was learning. She would read it in the Bible herself and tell me she agreed. Needless to say, my newfound faith leaked out to my friends and family. With two weeks left on my two year mission, I was called in to meet the mission president. He questioned my beliefs and for the first time I verbally testified of my true faith in Jesus Christ. I told him I didn't believe I needed the church to be saved, but that salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone. His grace is enough. **He called me evil, said I was following the devil and was not worthy to be a missionary of the Lord.** He called my stake president back home and I had to talk to him as well. **He said I was a servant of the devil, and that my salvation was at stake if I did not repent and rejoin the Mormon Church.** I stayed strong in my newfound faith and said I was not afraid of what they were going to do to me, because my salvation was secure in Jesus. **The irony is that all I did was testify of Christ, and I was called a devil for it. Yet neither my mission president nor my stake president ever testified of Jesus Christ.** I was sent home from my mission the next day, and the church tried to trap me. **I flew back to Florida, married my girlfriend in a Baptist Church, and never went back to Utah.***

*That was 2 1/2 years ago, and much has happened. As a missionary I had a few opportunities to minister to those I felt close to. One of those ended up leaving the church as well due to our talks. My brother left the church, along with three others. They all moved to Florida and we started a band called Adam's Road. **We are a Christian band, brothers in Christ ministering the Gospel through music. All of us used to be Mormon, and have become born again in the Lord Jesus Christ.** We share our testimonies of what*

God has done in our lives and how we came to know the truth. Since the band got together, my sister became born again, my mother resigned from BYU after 9 years of teaching, and my mother and father left the Mormon Church. We have all removed our names from the Mormon Church. Our names are written in the Book of Life, because we have faith in the true Jesus Christ. Though we have been persecuted for our stories, the band has found success in Christ. We recently released our first album, and we just got off a 10 week, 22 state tour. We were invited by some evangelicals to minister in Utah, and we will be doing an 8 day tour in Utah August 17-24. We would love to share our testimonies and music with you and your Church, and perhaps God can use us to reach some of your listeners... God bless you, friends in Christ. You are reaching many lost souls. Micah Wilder". Go to: www.myspace.com/adamsroadband

Micah's mother also wrote to us saying:

Dear Dennis and Rauni,

This is Lynn Wilder. I'm Micah's mom (Adam's Road Band) and Michael's wife. Mike asked me to write you. A year ago I was a tenured professor at BYU. Thank God for the years at BYU and my son that helped open my eyes! What a change God has wrought!!!! I will not come to Utah with the band because Micah's wife, Alicia, should deliver their second son next week and I will help with the new baby and the bed and breakfast they run while he's in Utah. But, I would LOVE to meet you next time we are in Utah.

What a blessing you have been to us already! We are so hungry to get to know others who have tread a similar road. One of the pastors that you contacted called Micah yesterday and he arranged to play there on the 24th of August. He will not be disappointed!...Was that your pastor who called about the 24th? Michael said to tell you that the guys do not have a place to play on Sunday am August 17 at this point. Would you like them to sing a song acapella at your church or bare testimony of Christ or even speak in your Sunday School class? Please fell free to communicate with Micah about specific arrangements.

We have 4 children: Josh, Matt, Micah, and Katie. Micah became born-again on his mission in Florida (2004-06) and eventually felt called to tell the truth through Adam's Road. If you go to www.myspace.com/adamsroadband, and listen to the words to the song, Stone Temples. So powerful! Micah and Matt are both in the band. Matt was a piano performance major at BYU and had served his mission in Denmark (2002-04). Micah helped to convert him to Christ. Katie married a third member of the band, a former missionary with Micah in Florida, Joseph. His family is strong LDS from Sandy and not understanding all of us. Matt and Micah both married mormon girls whose families (from Seattle and from Alpine) are also confused about all of us. Our oldest son, Josh, now attends the Church in SLC called K2 (2100 South). He served his mission in Russia and Belarus (2001-03). God has been so good to us. Such miracles! We could share story after story after story of his grace. Mike and I currently attend a Baptist Church.

*Thank you for your interest. Thank you for what you do. Wish we had known you before we moved a year ago but now is the right time. God bless you for your kindness to us.
Lynn and Michael"*

(All of the above letters from Michael, Micah and Lynn Wilder are quoted with permission.)

Their testimony and musical presentation of songs **they have written about their love for Jesus** is heartwarming and convicting. "***It is all about Jesus***" – **Jesus who is God**

Almighty. We had the privilege and blessing to have them, their father Michael and a friend, Max, come to our home on Monday, 8/18/08, for barbeque and sharing. We had over 5 hours of great time with them. Pastor Terry Long invited them to come to Calvary Chapel's Wednesday night service, on 8/20/08. **These young men made a huge impression on a full-house there. They sang for over an hour and a half, and told their individual stories.** People wept and were visibly happy for their salvation. It was wonderful. After this service, while visiting with people, a young man, with his wife and baby, tapped me on my shoulder and said that **he too was on his LDS mission and knew Steve, one of the former LDS missionaries in this band, and that he and his wife have also received Jesus of the Bible, and have now asked that their names be removed from the records of the Mormon Church. Praise be to Jesus. Adam's Road Band's powerful ministry has just but begun!**

We are asking all pastors and ministries receiving our letter to please contact Micah and invite his band to come and share and inspire your church. They will bless you and your congregation. www.myspace.com/adamsroadband. Email to Micah: Edgewater.micah@gmail.com

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From our mailbox:

An anonymous LDS wrote:

"You both need to re-evaluate your approach to spreading the gospel of our Lord. Your personal attacks against the LDS Church are pathetic and useless. I don't know what happened to you and your involvement with the church but you aren't smarter than God. Your points against Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon are weak and have been used before. If you don't want to believe in Mormonism then don't. Live your own lives and quit spreading false information. I guess being a born again "Christian" is easier for you. No knowledge and no doctrine. Nice belief."

My reply:

The LDS Church's leaders have challenged the world to test their teachings. The 10th president of the Mormon Church wrote:

"Mormonism must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a Prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground. If Joseph was a deceiver, who willfully attempted to mislead people, then he should be exposed, his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines shown to be false..." (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:188-89.)

The Bible commands that we "TEST ALL THINGS" (1 Thess. 5:21). We took the challenge of this LDS leader and tested Joseph Smith and what he had presented to the world as "truth". We are not the only ones who have tested Mormonism and found it wanting, thus what we discovered "has been used before". The fact that this information has been used before makes it all the more, not less, valid.

What we are saying on our website about LDS religion is based on our personal studies, experiences and learning while we were still LDS.

We learned that the "Lord" or "Jesus" of the LDS Church is not the same person as **Jesus of the Bible, who is eternal God, God who became a man** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14). **He is not a brother of all mankind and angels, as Joseph Smith said, but He is God from everlasting to everlasting** (Ps. 90:2). Jesus said that **unless we believe that He is God, we will die in our sins.** (John 8:24.) **We** (mankind), **are not from heaven, but "from this world."** Jesus is the only

one who came from heaven. (John 8:23-24.) As you know the LDS church teaches that Jesus only **became a god**, when the Bible teaches that **Jesus, God, became a “likeness of man”** (Phil. 2:5-8), and took upon Himself our sins and gave His life for us.

We had to *re-evaluate* what we had believed as Mormons, we had to do what Joseph Fielding Smith had suggested, i.e. **we had to expose Joseph Smith and refute his claims**, and let all who care to know, benefit from our research. We document the facts so that you, and anyone reading them, can begin their own research and discovery and “*come out from among them*” (2 Cor. 6:17).

The gospel of Jesus is declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. *Paul warned that anyone that adds to the gospel of God, or changes it in anyway, will be cursed by God.* (Gal. 1:8-9.) He predicted that there will come those who teach “*another gospel*” and “*another Jesus*” and who will have “*another spirit*” (2 Cor. 11:4). Paul continued and said that these false teachings originated in Satan’s mind and were brought to men by his ministers, “*false apostles*” (2 Cor. 11: 13-15.)

When we compared biblical doctrine to Mormon doctrine, we were compelled to leave Mormonism and give our lives to the real Jesus, who is “*God with us*” (Matt. 1:23).

Bible further commands us to **test the “spirits”** (spirits that give *feelings* and *testimonies of false gospels*). This testing has to be done **by the Word of God, and not by our feelings**. (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1; Jer. 17:9.)

What we are doing is **warning all who go to our website. God has commanded His own to warn others.** (See Ezekiel 33:7-9.) What people do with our warning and information is not for us to guess – **all we must to do is let them know, and the rest is between the individual and the Lord.** Jude 3 commands to “**earnestly contend for the faith (gospel) once delivered**”. No re-delivery **or restoration** needed! The Bible is the final and infallible Word of God, “[it] **is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**”. (2 Tim. 3:16.)

Of course **you have a freedom to believe Mormonism**, just as **we have a freedom not to believe it**. After more than 40 years of studying and comparing the Bible and Mormonism, we have found Mormonism to be just a clever counterfeit. The more we study, the more clear that becomes.

As they say, “*the proof is in the pudding*”. Mormonism looked nice on the surface, but after digging into it, it proved to be fake, just like “*whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward*” (Matt. 23:27).

Just because we had spent a lifetime believing it, was not an excuse to continue in it after seeing the truth about it. “**Belief without proof is faith. Belief IN SPITE of proof, is folly.**” **We have the proof that Mormonism is not what it claims to be.** We are sorry for all of those who have no courage to step out from it even after finding it false.

We have talked with many Mormons who admit that **they know it is not true**, but they do not have a spine to step away. One of our very good friends lamented, when we were in a process of leaving Mormonism (even from the start it was proven to be costly for us, both in finances and in relationships), he said, “**I cannot do what you are doing, I have too much invested in it.**”

However, as long as there is life, it is not too late to start studying the Bible – book by book, verse by verse – **and test all teachings by it and make the change, for your eternal life depends on it.** As you know, *Mormonism teaches that God was once a man, who had a God before Him and that men will become Gods after Him.* But **the Bible refutes all that and says that God is not a man.** (Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Isaiah 43:10; 44:6, 8; Ps. 90:2.)

Mormonism teaches that Jesus is a created being, an elder brother of men and angels, a brother even Lucifer. But the **Bible teaches that He is God who became a man** (John 1:1-3, 14) and that **He created all things** – including all angels. (Col. 1:16.)

To be saved, it is mandatory to **know and believe that He is God. If one does not believe that, he/she will die in his/her sins** (John 8:24; 20:28; Matt. 7:22-23.)

The Bible says that **Jesus, our Lord and God, He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life, NO ONE comes to the Father but by Him.** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.)

Mormonism teaches that salvation comes only through the Mormon Church, and by obeying its “laws and ordinances”. They say, “**If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation.**” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 670. 1966 ed.)

The Bible teaches that Jesus alone, not any church, saves, and that there are no laws or ordinances in the gospel of Christ. (Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:16-21; John 14:6.)

If you want to talk more, I 'd be willing to help.

Sincerely, Rauni Higley www.hismin/AboutUs.htm; Email: hismin@xmission.com

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We thank you, our prayer-partners and friends, for your support and encouragement we have received from you. These are financially hard times for **all of us, not just for ministries, but for all**. It is assuring to know that we serve a God who sees our needs and supplies for them. As we have grown older our personal needs have diminished a lot – and thus we can live with less than during our younger years ☺. That is a good thing. Our ministry-needs have grown during the last many years as people have become more aware of our work and what we can do for them – and that is a blessed aspect. We find a God-directed balance there – more work, less personal needs. Please keep on praying – there are many coming out of Mormonism, and if we “*keep on keeping on*”, God will bless us all with joy with all these that come to Him.

Please continue to pray for Heidi. We have no really good news about her illness to share, but we believe that there is nothing that we go through in our lives that God is not aware of – even when it *seems* that He is hiding His face from us. He has promised, that His “*favor is for life; weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning*”. (Ps. 30.)

Please pray with us for our friend Dick Baer, who fell and broke his ankle and four of his toes. His leg, up to his knee, is in cast and he is in much pain.

Please pray for little baby William and his parents in Georgia. When a child suffers, it is even harder on parents.

Please pray for Dave Hunt's and T.A. McMahon's recovery from their surgeries. They are much needed servants of our Lord during these times of growing deception and apostasy that is creeping into the Christian church.

Please pray for our friend, pastor Phil. He has been ill with pneumonia for a long time.

Please pray for Bruce. He will be going to Virginia for several months to receive treatments for the brain injuries he received in a vehicle accident 3-4 years ago. His insurance company is yet to settle with him, which has caused him not only to lose his health, but everything he had.

Paul, the faithful testifier of God's love and goodness, also suffered much. He wrote that he sought the Lord three times on his illness, but the Lord's answer to him was, “*My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of God may rest upon me ...for when I am weak, then am I strong.*” (2 Cor. 12:8-10.) Everything in a believer's life is filtered through God's hands **to give us His strength.** We have several other friends who need comfort and healing, and the Lord's counsel in their troubles. Please pray for them, even if we have not provided their names.

It does seem that the times have become more and more turbulent in the whole world. We hear “*of wars and rumors of wars*”, devastations of all kinds around the globe. (See Luke 21:25-27; Matt. 24.) Could it be because the enemy of our souls knows that his time is growing short? Peter wrote about this in 1 Peter 4:12-18. Let us be found faithful, regardless of our circumstances, for “*our redemption draws near*” (Luke 21:28.)

Many ask, “*Why God allows evil to exist, why does He not just to put an end to it?*” The Bible teaches that one day, very soon, **God will put an end to it**, but after God puts an end to this world, there will be no more opportunities to accept Christ as their Savior. **It is actually out of God's love, mercy and grace that He allows this evil world to exist, because He would that ALL come to repentance and knowledge of the truth.** (1 Tim. 2:4.) In the mean time, we, born again believers in Christ Jesus, are the instruments of God to touch lives for the Lord and allow the transforming power of Jesus change their heart for good.

We thank you again, and pray God's blessings and direction in your lives and in ours.

Serving Him with gladness,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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