



1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2010

## H.I.S. Ministries February 2010 Newsletter, covering January 2010

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After January is over, we start looking forward to Spring. After the dark period of the year (from latter part of October through January) is past, days become lighter and lighter every day, and our spirits are lifted up with a renewed hope.

Jesus said that He is the Light of the world, and He truly is that. As we share His truth, and walk in His light, our hearts are lifted up, even during those darker days of the season - He still is our Light.

We started our new *Understanding Mormonism* class at *Midvalley Bible Church*, and we are delighted with the people who attend. The Sunday (10<sup>th</sup>) when we started, we had about 30 people registered for our classes, but we have had between 50-60 every week. Their faithful attendance evidences their devotion to the truth and willingness to learn how to share God's Word and salvation found only through Jesus of the Bible, who is the Word and the Truth personified, with those who do not know Him. There is an urgency to do this work for tomorrow is promised to no one! We take most days for granted because we think we have tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. The fact is, only God knows that for sure and He said that tomorrow is not promised to anyone! So don't let this day pass, don't let this day just be *another day*. Make it a day of presenting the Truth to someone who does not know the real Jesus. Make this day count!

We must witness, and also be fully aware that it is God alone who can bring them to salvation. But God requires us to give them the opportunity, and after that, it is up to the power of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who are seeking truth.

We are in this ministry not because we chose to be, but because we sensed God's call on our lives. Our prayer is that He will help us to be always faithful to that call, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and that He will bring others to work along with us.

Jesus, God Almighty, said, "*I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life: No man cometh to the Father but by Me.*" (John 14:6; Rev. 1:8.)

Without Him our Mormon friends, relatives and neighbors will not go to heaven.

Hebrews 10:31 warns, "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*"

*Someone has said, “We need to remember that there is an essential difference between the decease of the godly and the death of the ungodly. Death comes to the ungodly man as a penal infliction, but to the righteous as a summons to his Father's palace. To the sinner it is an execution, to the saint an undressing from his sins and infirmities. Death to the wicked is the King of terrors. Death to the saint is the end of terrors, the commencement of glory.”*

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### **From our mailbox: An LDS man wrote:**

*(His arguments/comments/questions in ***italics***, broken into numbered questions, my answers below them in regular text):*

*1. I stumbled upon your website, and I took the time to read through many of your pages. Namely "occult symbols", "priesthood questions", and some of the articles in "What we offer," and to be honest, I'm pretty disappointed. I would imagine an ex-member of the church would be able to come up with better questions to grill your priesthood leaders with than "if the Book of Mormon contains the fullness of the gospel, why doesn't it mention work for the dead, or Heavenly Mother, etc?"....any sound Christian (LDS included) knows the gospel of Christ is simple - faith, repentance, baptism, receive the Holy Ghost.*

1. I am curious, how did you just happen to “stumble” upon our website? But you are right – there are perhaps “better” or more difficult questions to ask than what we have asked on our site, but until those elementary questions are answered, why go further? Isn’t that why we start our schooling in Kindergarten and advance a grade at a time to more difficult subjects after the easier questions/problems are solved?

But if you are a practicing, temple-worthy Mormon, you ought to know that without the temple endowment, temple marriage and work for the dead, you cannot be saved to the celestial kingdom of LDS gods. That means that the “fullness of the LDS gospel”, or what is needed to take one to exaltation in the celestial kingdom, is not found in the Book of Mormon.

2. Or better yet, the question about why does the temple have locks in the locker room? Come on, you can't be serious!

2. I am serious about the locks in the dressing room lockers in the LDS temples. Think about it: Only the most honest people, who have passed their temple-recommend interviews, are able to enter the temple – so why locks? I recall a time when I left my locker to go to the temple endowment session and forgot to take my locker-key, a temple worker ran after me with my key and said, “*Sister, sister, you forgot your key. Temple is not responsible if something is stolen!*” STOLEN? IN THE TEMPLE? Yep – she said that it has happened!!!

3. Or lets take a look at the occult symbols, shall we. First of all, if you believe in the bible, which you do, you know that Adam had the true religion, and throughout time mankind saw it fit to worship differently, hence the flood, etc.

3. You are saying that “*Adam had the true religion*”!!! Adam had a relationship with God – but that is not a “religion”. When Adam fell (sinned), he lost his relationship with God. He did not fall upward as Mormonism teaches, but downward – away from true God, and from

Adam on, all men and women are born as sinners. What do sinners do? They sin and offend God – that is why there were things like the universal flood (Gen. 6), etc.

*4. So, thinking logically, where do you think the masons got their symbols, from the Egyptians? Ok, so where did they get them from? did they conceive of them?.... well one could argue that of course they did - because there is no evidence from before that time. (however an argument like that completely discredits the bible, since there is no evidence of any biblical stories even happening, even up until the time of king David.) So maybe the Egyptians didn't make up all those symbols and mysteries. So where else could it have possibly come from? How about they stole them from the true religion [Adam's] that possessed them in the first place. Just as other symbols and ideology from 'Masonry' have been stolen and included into our everyday life, like three degrees of knowledge at the university, or turning of the tassel at graduation. So why would it be so unbelievable to happen with God's true religion.....*

4. You ask where did the symbols, as used in Masonry and Mormonism, come from. Have you ever heard of the *Tower of Babel*? Of course you have!! Where did you read about it? The Bible! Amazing! Nimrod was the leader there – he started to build a city and a tower to reach the heavens – that is to the sun, moon and stars – and they made images of them, and more than likely worshipped them. God had forbidden making images of anything in heaven – (that includes angels). Where do we read about that? In the Bible – same collection of books that talked about Adam and Eve and the flood etc. - and the Ten Commandments. This particular commandment, about NOT making images of anything that is in heaven, i.e. the sun, moon and stars (or angels), is Exodus 20:4.

Egypt is the known cradle of paganism. Joseph Smith was fascinated with Egypt – the Book of Mormon and its claimed language is non-existent “*reformed Egyptian*” (see, BoM, Mormon 9:32-34), and he “*translated*” the Book of Abraham from *Egyptian Book of Breathing*, which is pagan instructions how to go forth in the underworld, after death – this means that Joseph Smith made up the Book of Abraham from this Egyptian Papyri – because he had no idea what it said. Joseph’s other fascination was Masonry – and he copied their symbols and rituals (i.e. the temple ceremony), all from Masonry. Nauvoo Temple was covered with Masonic symbols, as is SL temple, that a Mason, Brigham Young, built.

*5. So, the whole point of my email, was simply to state the following- if you're not helping, then you are hindering. If the arguments you are posting to try and dissuade people are nothing than empty, nonsensical constructs, it is clear your purpose is not to enlighten, but to frighten, not to guide, but to confuse and cause doubt.*

**5.** I am sorry that you do not see that our purpose is to help you and all who “*stumble*” upon our site, to help you to discover that the Bible is the true Word of God, and that none of the Mormon scriptures are true – and that Joseph Smith and other “*prophets*” after him were and are false prophets. There is life, a great life, after Mormonism, and without fear!

LDS Articles of Faith are the *Mormon creed* – or in other words, they are a declaration of LDS beliefs. Your 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith declares (and you must have repeated it over and over in your LDS wards) that you believe the Bible “*as far as translated correctly*”; meaning that you believe the story of Adam and Eve, flood, Tower of Babel, etc. etc., i.e. all biblical stories from Genesis through Revelation. If your “*creed*”, your own confession of faith, is to be taken seriously – only excusable words or parts that you do not need to believe in the Bible would be the ones “*not translated correctly*”. Which means that the burden to show if there are translation errors is on you and your church. As a former LDS, I took that challenge seriously, and to be sure, we obtained Hebrew text for the Old Testament and Greek Text for the New Testament and corresponding dictionaries and other helpful

historical documents to see if the Bible reports provable history correctly. **It does!! The Bible is correct.** There are many translations available, but they agree in meaning and intent of the original texts while using some different words to express their meanings.

*6. God is one eternal round, his ways are not our ways, his thinking is not our thinking, and yet his ways are perfect, and all knowledge fits together in one great whole. So if you actually have a conscience – you will focus more on building up mankind, and if not, you could at least make your website better with sound, logical arguments.*

**6. Mormon gods** are not “one eternal round”, but many gods that, according to Joseph Smith, “evolved”, “learned to be gods”, having been mere mortal men. False theories about God abound in Mormonism – been there, and even believed that when I did not know any better.

The way to build up mankind is to direct them to the Word of God, the Bible. Jesus said it is TRUTH. (John 17:17.) He is the Word and Truth personified. (John1:1, 14; 14:6.)

I would like to ask you to answer the simple questions on our website and we'll add more difficult ones for you, if you'd like.

With best wishes, Rauni Higley

**This same man wrote again the very next day and our “conversation” continued:**

**I said to him first:**

I was not going to answer this letter since you did not answer my letter of yesterday, but on the second thought, I decided to again try to help you, and see if you are willing to think and learn. I will insert my answers below your arguments, using regular text for clarity.]

He wrote: *I feel it also important to ask the question- How is it, that you two have lost your faith in your previous religion ( by they way faith is a conscious choice we all make to believe or not) based upon holes and unanswerable questions regarding it's history and teachings, only to **remain a Christian** and accept mainstream Christian ideology.*

My answer: We lost our faith in Mormonism simply by studying it and finding out that we had been lied to. Our questions were answered by LDS leaders' writings, and applying reason and logic to what we were reading, just like in any other matters we face in life.

When we were Mormons we were not Christians. A Mormon believes in Mormon doctrine and a Christian believes in Christian doctrine, they are not the same. For example – God of Mormonism is a former man, not eternal God, and Jesus of Mormonism is an elder brother of all men, including Lucifer and not God who became a man, as the Bible teaches.

God of Christianity is not a former man. He has never been less than God Almighty. (See Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Psalms 90:2; Isaiah 43:10; 44:6.) Jesus of Christianity is the Creator of all things, including Lucifer and could not be his or mankind's brother. (See Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; Col. 1:16.) Jesus is God Almighty (Rev. 1:8.). He said that *unless we believe that He is God, we will die in our sins.* Only God can forgive sins. (John 8:23-24; Mark 2:7.) Mormonism is simply a false doctrine. Only fools would follow it after finding out the truth!

He wrote: Are you not aware that Christianity, the Bible and more specifically mainstream ideas of Christianity have even larger holes, unanswerable questions, and easily perceptible flaws in them!? If anything, after your quest for knowledge, you would have become atheist.

My answer: If you are looking at men's religions, you will always find "holes" in them. We did not go after a religion, but after the truth found only in the Bible and a relationship with the God of the Bible. Without truth people perish. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6.) -- I could not have enough "faith" to be an atheist! ☺

He wrote: **Because there is NO evidence that Christ lived. There is NO evidence of the ancient Israelites. In fact the Bible is a mess.** The books of moses were all written by different people, and some didn't even appear until the jews were in bondage in babylon around 600 B.C.

I answered: I am sorry to have to say this, but what you are speaking of is such ignorance that I have seldom seen. You obviously have not studied at all. There is more evidence for Christ, even outside of the Bible, than of any other person in history. Israel has over 3000 years of verifiable history – evidences are all over in current day Israel. You know about Jerusalem? It is in the news almost daily! Have you heard of Bethlehem? Or Damascus? Etc. etc. Pick up a newspaper and you read about them all the time. You must have seen pictures from Jerusalem, right? And Jews praying by the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem – which is a remnant of Israel's Temple, destroyed by Romans in 70 A.D.? One can travel there today and see more evidence of Jews and Israel in an instant than one can learn any other way.

You must have been to "atheists' website"!? They are presenting misinformation for those who are too lazy to check things out for themselves.

The Bible is the absolute truth – it's history is true, archeology and secular history has proven most of it – and the Dead Sea Scrolls, found in 1947, have proven the correctness of the Bible. The Old Testament was a complete Canon 400 years before Christ. It was even translated into Greek language about 270 years before Christ. Historical facts!

He said: *There is NO real evidence of the Creation.*

My answer: Look out of your window and you see evidence of creation! Do you think that all this and the universe just "happened"?

He wrote: So how can someone discredit the beliefs which they held for so long, only to accept others, which by their argument for discrediting the prior faith- also discredits all faiths?!

My answer: You are contradicting yourself in every sentence. You say you do not believe that Christ even existed, you do not believe in creation, you do not believe in the Bible, but you wonder why we left Mormonism that discredits itself!?

He continued: It's like saying I don't believe in Santa, because it's logically impossible what he does, but I believe in the tooth fairy! How can you make those sort of judgments, when it clearly violates all forms of reasoning and argument, both logic, and faith?

**I replied:** You are totally violating your own “reasoning”! Again: We left Mormonism because it is based on lies and imaginations of Joseph Smith – who changed his doctrines over and over again – he simply made up things. Mormonism is full of contradictions – which proves that it is not from God.

**He wrote:** *I am not an apologist- I don't try and excuse away the bad marks in Mormon history, nor do I believe they should be forgotten, But when all is said and done, everything comes down to faith!*

**My answer:** Biblical faith is not based on ignorance – it is based on provable facts. The Bible challenges us to “prove all things” (1 Thess. 5:21.) It commands that people study and not be gullible. (2 Tim. 2:15; John 5:39.) It commands that we test even our own heart, that the Bible says is “wicked” (Jer. 17:9) and test the spirits that give false feelings or “testimonies”. (See 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.) The Bible reports of fulfilled prophecies, written hundreds of years before they happened. Even Israel’s re-gathering to their own land (in 1948) was a miraculous fulfillment of prophecies given by Jeremiah, Zachariah and Ezekiel hundreds of years before they happened (see particularly Ezekiel 36:16-38). You speak of ignorance and that is sad to see when information is so plentiful and available - especially in this day and age.

**He said:** *faith is a conscious choice, a decision to believe in something greater than yourself, because it brings joy, satisfaction and guidance.*

**My comment:** Following false prophets and false doctrines cannot bring real joy nor real satisfaction – and guidance received from false prophets leads only to destruction, just as Isaiah warned “...”*the prophet that teaches lies, he is the tail. For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.*” (Isa. 9:15b-16.)

**He continued:** *Regardless of the lack of proof, or the holes in dogma [in Mormonism]. This is true for all faiths and religions. So why do you take it upon yourselves to be the naysayers, and the oppressors.*

**My answer:** The God of the Bible warns us about false doctrines – we must study to know so that we will not be lead to destruction, i.e. to hell that is the destiny of those who follow false prophets and do not care to test all things by God’s sure Word, the Bible. The Lord commands us to correct and instruct others according to His Word. (See 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16 and also 1 Peter 3:15-17.)

**He wrote:** *Do you honestly believe Christ would have you do this?*

**My reply:** Yes, I do, but just a few lines before this you said did not believe that Christ even existed!?

**He continued:** *or does this stem from other hatreds or offenses, that compels you to find justice in the destruction of someone else faith.*

**My response:** *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* (Romans 10:17.) God warns through Ezekiel that those who have come to know the truth (as we have), must warn others. *“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me.”* (Ezekiel 3:16-17; see also 33:7-9.)

Our purpose is to encourage studying the Bible and thus help to bring them to faith in true the God and Jesus, rather than without warning allow them to follow false gods and “another Jesus”, “another gospel”, directed by “another spirit”. (2 Corinth. 11:4, 13-15.)

He said: I pray you will take that into consideration, as you review your motives, and your purpose in life. Is it to build and make great, or cause doubt, leading only to more and more and more unanswerable questions, which ultimately leads to destruction. May God bless you and keep you.

I replied: All these questions can be answered if a desire to know the truth is there. Gullibility is a dangerous thing. Jesus warned about false prophets and heresies they bring. False prophets are nothing new. Peter wrote in 2 Peter 2:1, “*But there were false prophets also among people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*” We must study the Word of God, for it alone is the Truth. Jesus prayed for His own and said “*Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth.*” (John 17:17.) He also said, “*If ye continue in My Word, then ye are My disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth and the Truth shall make you free.*” (John 8:31-32.)

Sincerely praying for you,

Rauni Higley



**A witch – (a former LDS woman), wrote:**

*You do realize that the concept of the Holy Trinity; e.g. Father, Son & Holy Ghost is, and always has been a PAGAN Concept? Something you might be blind to about Witchcraft is the concept of the Tripple Goddess: Maiden, Mother & Crone... I just wish People in such places of "power" such as your self would do research with UN-biased sources about other religions before you condemn us all ( Pagans-Witches) to being "mislead by Lucifer the Great!. Please take some time to talk to other-than-Christian people about Wicca (What modern witches follow as a religious "label"). You might be surprised at what you find, if your heart is truly open & loving. A couple of tennets we follow from our "Commandments" if you will: Bide the Wiccan law ye must, In perfect love and perfect trust, These eight words the Wiccan Rede fulfill, An it harm none, Do as ye will. How can you get SATANISTS! from that?! Well I guess I'm just trying to say "Love thy Neighbor"... even if they happen to be a Witch. Oh, by the way, that whole "Thou shalt not suffer a Witch to live" nonsense used to say "thou shalt not suffer a prisoner to live" before King James I REWROTE the Bible to suit his OWN needs, Not God's. Sorry if I ranted but it needs to be dealt with before another senseless holocaust (witch trials of Salem) happens again.*

Sincerely, A Witch. Blessed Be... )0(

**My reply:**

**Mankind did not start as believers in a Pagan Concept! It took Lucifer's enticement (Gen. 3:5) to convince them that they could become like God. Lucifer started mankind on that road where Mormonism and many other “isms” are today – reaching to become gods and goddesses..**

**The Holy Trinity is a biblical teaching and concept of God - from Genesis through Revelation. “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Son) and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” (I.e. Trinity) (KJV -1 John 5:7.)**

**After the Fall of Adam, as population of the worlds grew, all kinds of pagan concepts began, little by little, to imitate the Truth - with a twist. Lucifer is a deceiver and he does what all deceivers and his followers do: they DECEIVE – they bring counterfeits. They look good to those who do not know any better.**

Counterfeit-religions deceive because they may seem similar to those who do not have a real knowledge of God and His Word. The same with counterfeit money – it may look very authentic, close enough to deceive those with *not very good eye sight*, or who do not check carefully what they accept as a *real thing*. Bank tellers are trained by carefully studying real money so that they can spot the counterfeit.

To spot counterfeit religions and their false gods, goddesses and “scriptures”, one must study and know the real Word of God, and God who gave it.

**“Study to be approved to God, workman that does not need to be ashamed...” (2 Tim. 2:15.) “All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction for correction in righteousness.” (2 Tim. 3:16.) “Prove all things.” (1 Thess. 5:21.) “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try (test) the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone into the world.” (1 John 4:1.)**

All deceptions originated with Satan, and continue to flourish among biblical illiterates.

The King James Version of the Bible you mentioned, as all translations of the Bible, can be tested. We went to work on that when we saw that we had been deceived by Mormonism. We wanted to know the real Word of God and to make sure that we would not be deceived again. We obtained the Hebrew text for the Old Testament and Greek text for the New Testament and dictionaries, commentaries and histories to test if the Bible is indeed true and correct. Our conclusion: The Bible is correct and it is the true Word of God. What have you done to test and make sure for yourself that what you believe is true?

**“It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals than falsehood that comforts and then kills. Let me tell you something, friend, it is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It is better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie. It is impossible to find anyone in the Bible who was not hated. It is better to stand alone with the truth than to be wrong with a multitude. It is better to ultimately succeed with the truth than temporarily succeed with a lie. There is only one Gospel and Paul said, ‘If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.’” (Excerpts from Pastor Adrian Rogers’ talk in National Religious Broadcasters Convention, 1996.)**

I hope you will write again so that we can talk more. With best wishes,

Rauni Higley, [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com)



## Prayer Requests & Answers

We have **a praise report from Dick Baer**. He is doing quite well after his knee surgery and a long therapy after it. He will continue to exercise his knee and soon, hopefully, be able to walk freely.

We received a **praise report** from Jim Valentine's wife, Kathy, on 26<sup>th</sup> of January, saying that Jim's feared lung biopsy came out negative – no cancer there, **but he is still scheduled to have “radical left nephrectomy” (removal of cancerous left kidney) on Feb. 16.** They are asking our prayers.

**Please do not stop praying for Heber LeBaron.** He called again just yesterday. His condition has not gotten any better. The ringing in his ears has turned literally to “screaming”, and prison doctors are not willing to help at all. He has been asking for some vitamin and herbal supplements that has been recommended by some of our friends as potentially helpful, but **they refuse to give them to him. He is pleading for our prayers. I promised that we will pray.**

Heber is another victim of Joseph Smith – he would not be in a prison if it was not for **his former strong faith in the original, “fundamental Mormonism”**, that his father, **Ervil LeBaron**, had taught him. Many of you know Heber’s story, and crimes he committed **under the orders of his father, a former Mormon missionary, and later a prophet of “The Church of the Firstborn of Fullness of Times.”** Heber was converted to Christ about 20 years ago, while already in prison. We have known him over 20 years now. He has been witnessing to many Mormons there and lately also to Muslims, but now he is not able to do anything at all because of this terrible condition in his ears. I wonder if this is the enemy’s attack on him?

**Bruce and Judy** need prayer also, and we have also some prayer requests from others who do not want their names mentioned, because they are still struggling with fear from their LDS friends and relatives, but God knows who they are and what their needs are.

**“Often it is necessary for God to use the hammer, the file and the furnace in His holy work of preparing a saint for true sainthood. It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.” (Adrian Rogers.)**

**“How are our spiritual eyeglasses? Are we looking at life with the eyes of the Lord and trusting that He will provide, not necessarily what we want, but what we need?”**

**“There is a limit to man’s ability to live without joy. Even Christ could endure the cross only because of the joy set before Him. The strongest steel breaks if kept too long under unrelieved tension. God knows exactly how much pressure each one of us can take. He knows how long we can endure the night, so He gives the soul relief, first by welcome glimpses of the morning star and then by the fuller light that harbingers the morning.**

**Slowly you will discover God’s love in your suffering. Your heart will begin to approve the whole thing. You will learn from yourself what all the schools in the world could not teach you -the healing action of faith without supporting pleasure. You will feel and understand the ministry of the night; its power to purify, to detach, to humble, to destroy the fear of death and, what is more important to you at the moment, the fear of life. And you will learn that sometimes pain can do what even joy cannot, such as exposing the vanity of earth’s trifles and filling your heart with longing for the peace of heaven.**

*Thank You, Father, for the ministry of the night, for the lessons of pain. But thank You, too, that we're not alone in the night. "For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." (NKJV, Psalm 30:5.)*  
*(From the Ministry of the Night, by A.W. Tozer.)*



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**Thought for today:**

***No one will be in hell for their sins. They will be in hell for rejecting the provision God made for their sin.***

***To reject the immense sacrifice of love the Father provided in giving His Son for our sins, is to provoke His wrath, vengeance and indignation which will be poured out on the one who rejects Christ for all eternity. To redefine who Christ is or what the gospel is provokes the anger of God.***

***We are 501 ( c ) (3) ministry. Receipts for your tax deductible gifts to H.I.S. Ministries during the year 2009 will be sent in next 2-3 weeks.***