



May 1, 2010

H.I.S. Ministries May Newsletter, covering April, 2010

Jesus is the *Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*. He was crucified between two thieves on Golgotha on the same day that Passover lambs were slaughtered on the Jerusalem temple grounds as sin offerings for the nation of Israel. Three days later He rose from the dead. In the month of April we celebrated our Lord's resurrection, the Good News of the Gospel of God. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.)

At the end of this month of May, fifty days after the Resurrection Day, is our next landmark celebration, the *Birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost*, and the Father sending the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers there, and all who come to faith in Jesus after that. The *Day of the Pentecost* is the 50th day after the Sabbath (Saturday) of Passover Week (Lev. 23:15-16), thus it is the first day of the week. *Pentecost* was the Greek name for the Jewish *Feast of Weeks*, so called, because it fell seven weeks after *the First Fruits* (Deut. 16:10), *the Feast of Harvest* (Ex. 23:16; Numb. 28:26).

The Old Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after Israel had left Egypt and the Passover lamb was slain. New Testament Pentecost occurred fifty days after Christ rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus being our Passover Lamb. Old Testament Pentecost celebrated *the birth of the nation Israel* (Ex. 19:5). New Testament Pentecost celebrated *the birth of the Church* (Acts 2:41-47). Old Testament Pentecost witnessed the *slaying* of some *three thousand people* (Ex. 32:28). New Testament Pentecost witnessed the *saving* of some *three thousand souls* (2:41) – the former typologically points to the latter.

Acts 2:1-6: “*When the day of the Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance And there were... devout men, out of every nation under heaven ...and every man heard them speak in his own language.”*

Breath or wind is a symbol of the *Spirit of God* (Ez. 37:9, 14; John 3:8). It was “*as of wind*”, but yet not wind. The coming of the Spirit was marked with *audible wind* and visible *signs of fire*. [As reported by both Matthew and Luke, John the Baptist foretold of the One who would baptize with *the Holy Ghost and fire*. (Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16.)] They were all filled with the Spirit, which joined every believer to the *body of Christ* (1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18, 24.). They all heard the witness of Jesus spoken to them in their own

language. Note: These were actual languages, unknown to the speakers, but yet understood by the hearers from other nations. There were no interpreters needed!!! They were all amazed and marveled - men of all nations of the known world there heard wonderful words of God in their own tongues or dialects. (Acts 2:7.)

The only power God recognizes in His Church is the power of His Spirit, whereas the only power actually recognized today by the majority of evangelicals is the power of man. God does His work by the operation of the Spirit, while many Christian leaders attempt to do theirs by the power of trained men. "*Woe to the rebellious children,*" says the Lord, "*who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin.*" (Isaiah 30:1 NKJV.)

The Word of God leads us to all truth. Let us not forsake studying it and sharing with others. The Bible gives us signs to watch. "*Writing is on the wall*", so to speak. Evidence of His soon coming is there and if we know, we can pretty much figure out where we are now in God's plan and time-table. We can see that He is coming soon, even if we do not know the exact "*day or hour*". Many Bible scholars say that from the Bible we can predict "*tomorrow's newspaper headlines*". The Bible is indeed history written in advance. Information about what is coming is there, if we just study with understanding. But just like the religious leaders of Jesus' day they did not know the prophecies of their Messiah's coming or couldn't apply them to Jesus (Luke 19:42), many of our leaders today seem to be just as lost to the biblical warnings about our times. Jesus' words are as fitting to today's people as they were to the Pharisees, "*O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*" (Matt. 16:3.) He commanded: "*Be ye therefore ready also; for the Son of man cometh at the hour when ye think not.*" (Luke 12:40.)

Jesus compared the time of His coming to the time of Noah. Noah had preached of the coming calamity for 120 years, and people were not listening to him any more...

"For as the days of No'e were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that No'e entered in the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt. 24:37-39.) It is just as people of today, who say, "*Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of..." (2 Peter 3:4-5.)*

We, as believers in the Lord's gospel, are called to live exactly the same during the End Times as during every single, normal day of our life. Being faithful to God's Word and His ways in the course of everyday life is what will enable us to remain faithful during the increasingly turbulent *Last Days*. Like in the case of Job, it may seem like everyone has fallen away, but we have the assurance of having already read the end of the Book, we already know how it all ends. Biblical faith is living as if the end which we know is to come, is very near. Being ready does not mean that we just want to escape or do nothing. Actually the opposite is true – understanding the shortness of time creates urgency and makes us want to work harder to reach the lost souls - before it is too late. He is coming as He promised.

"Let your heart not be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a

place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I AM, there ye may be also.” (John 14:1-3.)

Never forget, the more you are doing for the Lord, the bigger a target you become to the enemy. The more you are doing for the Lord, the more Satan will be after you to “take you out”. The more you are doing for the Lord, the more prepared spiritually you better be since the battle we fight is NOT of flesh and blood but it is a spiritual one!(Eph.6:12.) Satan always has and always will target pastors, other Christian leaders and all who make a difference for the Lord in this world of sin. Satan knows that by taking down a pastor or a Christian leader or other faithful servants, he also wipes out many people who may follow them in the process. It is like bowling, and hitting the head pin and watching all the pins behind fall down.

One of the quickest ways to fall away from your walk with the Lord is to put too much emphasis on a man or woman of God. God uses human instruments to plant the seeds of salvation. He uses human instruments to disciple us and help us grow in our faith. He uses human instruments to impact our spiritual lives. In a society that is prone to idolize others, such as entertainers, athletes, and successful people, we tend to elevate our leaders as well, i.e. we tend to place our pastors and Christian leaders on pedestals they don't belong on. Our eyes must be focused on the Lord, and our emphasis on His Word.



From our mailbox: An LDS lady wrote:

“Hello Rauni, I'm wondering...

If you and your husband decided to leave the LDS Church, why do you find it necessary to "advertise" on a website like this? Do you feel it is necessary to do this in order to justify your actions? I have heard someone say, 'People can leave the Church, but they can't leave it alone'.”

My reply: Thank you for responding to our website. However we do not **advertise** – you had to go seeking to find it, right? And what actions are you taking about? Leaving the Mormon Church? Or us explaining on our website why we left? I think we owe it those who may wonder why we left after serving in the church for decades. We follow Peter's advice found in 1 Peter 3:15-17:

“Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.”

This is an overused Mormon phrase: “*You left the LDS Church but you can't leave it alone.*” ☺ It makes me smile because I hear it so often.

The reason we present our website for those who seek it is that we are concerned about our friends and relatives still there and of all the good people deceived by this false religion, you now included - since you wrote. I often use this question as an example: *If there was a bridge out that went over a deep canyon and we knew it, would we just smile and give a friendly wave as people drove towards their sure death, or would we step even to the middle of the road and yell: STOP, STOP, the bridge is out, you will die if you go on!*

Since we know the truth about Mormonism, God requires that we warn others about it, for Mormonism leads people to eternal death, i.e. damnation.

What they (or you) do with the truth we share is between them and God, but God has called us to be a ***“watchmen on the wall”***. God, through Ezekiel, warned (33:7-9), ***“I have made you a watchman... therefore you shall hear a word from my mouth and warn them for Me...but if you do not speak to warn...his blood will I require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn...and he will not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity (sin); but you have delivered your soul.***

She continued: *“I glanced at your website, but admit that don't care to look much further. It seems you had many questions that could have been answered through study and sincere prayer. “*

I answered: You did not dare to look? If Mormonism was true and you were absolutely sure about it, you would dare to look, for truth has no fear of investigation – only lies have to be protected and covered up – and “not dared to be looked at”. My many questions were answered as I studied Mormonism from its beginning to this date, and turned to the Holy Bible for God's answers for these issues. The Bible tells us that we must ***“Prove all things.”*** (1 Thess. 5:21.) I had gone the wrong way when I joined the Mormon Church without testing it and trusted my own feelings rather than testing from God's Word, the Bible, if things were as the missionaries had told me. I did not know the Bible then, or that God has said, ***“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.”*** (Jer. 17:9) There is a good reason why God warned us about our heart and feelings, for they can lead us astray, but His Word is Truth, and it alone can be followed without fear. (John 17:17.) I did not know then that God had warned about ***“another gospel”, “another Jesus” and “other spirits”*** (demonic) that will ***testify*** about lies and untruths, if we do not know what the truth is. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) The Holy Spirit of God would not testify of something that was not true. John warned, ***“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone into the world.”*** (1 John 4:1.) Lord had commanded ***“Search the scriptures; for in them you have eternal life”*** (John 5:39), and through Paul He also commanded, ***“STUDY to show thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*** (2 Tim. 2:15.) Paul assured us that, ***“ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*** (2 Tim. 3:16.) Before I joined Mormonism I had not studied what God says about Himself, His gospel and salvation, and I was led after other gods, gods brought by Joseph Smith, already warned about by God in Deut. 13:1-5. I ended up ***“ashamed”*** as Paul had warned that could happen if we neglect to study the Word of God, the Bible.

She continued: *“Occult symbols on the Salt Lake Temple? Didn't God create the sun, moon and stars? I'm not personally familiar with Satanic worship, but if I follow your reasoning, you are saying that Satanic/Occult groups use the same symbols --suns, moons, stars -- so therefore anyone ELSE who uses those same symbols is also Satanic, therefore the LDS Church is an occult group?”*

I answered: Yes, there are occult symbols on the Salt Lake Temple, on Nauvoo temple, and on all other LDS temples. And yes, God created sun, moon and stars, but he also said in His **2nd commandment** that we must not make images of them, or anything we see on the sky. (Ex. 20:4.) Please tell me ***WHY does the Mormon Church use symbols of sun, moon and stars, when God specifically forbids it? Can you give a good reason why the Mormon Church goes against God in this and many other things also?***

She continued: *“When I look at the teachings of the Church -- teaching people to be honest, upright, responsible family members.... and all the good that the Church does in*

the world, all I can say is "By their fruits ye shall know them." To say that we are inspired by the devil is absolutely ludicrous."

I answered: **Jesus was warning about FALSE PROPHETS and their fruits.** (Read Matt. 7:15-23) **"Fruits of the prophets" are their teachings. False prophet's teachings can be proven to be false by the Word of God.** We must always ask: Is the person claiming to be a prophet teaching the truth about God or are their teachings contradicting the Bible? Mormons may say to Jesus Christ on the Judgment Day, **"Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I (Jesus) profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."**(Matt. 7: 22-23) Mormonism has **"another Jesus"**, who is a created being, a spirit brother of men and Lucifer, not Jesus who is **"God with us"** as the Bible teaches. (See Matt. 1:23; John 1:1,14; 8:23-24; 20:28; Rev. 1:8.) **Mormons do not know the Lord Jesus of the Bible!!!!** And thus He will not acknowledge them either! **"Iniquity"** here means **worship of a false Lord** – Joseph Smith brought false gods into his religion to be worshipped - **against the First Commandment** (Ex. 20:3.) He led his followers after other gods, warned about in Deut. 13:1-5.

If you are talking about general "goodness" of Mormon people as "fruit" of Mormonism, even that does not prove that they have truth as their doctrine – they are just nice people, as nice as people can be. There are many people in many religions, or even in no religions, that are doing "good works". But our good works are not what brings us to salvation. **Only Jesus, who is God, can save us, and that through His cross.** (1 Cor. 1:18; 15:1-5)

You think that you and all mankind came from heaven and are already children of God, right? But **Jesus said that He alone came from heaven ("from above"), we did not. "He said unto them, 'Ye are from beneath; I AM from above: ye are of this world; I AM not of this world... ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I AM He ye shall die in your sins.'**" (John 8:23-24.) **Only God can forgive sins.** (Mark 2:7.)

Jesus alone is the Way to heaven, and He alone is the Truth, and no one goes to heaven except by and through Him. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) No church can save, not even those churches that teach correct doctrine. **Jesus alone saves, and He takes us to heaven.**

She continued: *"In Lehi's dream of the Tree of Life, there were many who came and partook of the fruit, but were later ashamed and fell away. Do you even have the courage to ask yourself if it is possible that you have done the same?"*

I answered: No, I have not *fallen away*, but instead I made a correction and left false paths of Mormonism. **I follow Jesus of the Bible.**

"Lehi" of the Book of Mormon is a fictional person, for the Book of Mormon is not true nor is it history. You should know that much.

She continued: *"If you took the time to study each point of the accusations/questions you raise (if it is possible that you could do so in a prayerful, humble, open-to-inspiration way) I believe you would find answers."*

I answered: I have studied Mormonism from its own books and sources for decades. I came to know the true Lord Jesus in 1982 and I have studied the Bible ever since. It is God's truth. (See John 17:17; Ps. 116:160; 138:2.) I have found the answers! I hope you will too.

She just kept on: *"Was there a point in your journey away from the LDS Church that someone hurt your pride, or was unkind and caused offense? (Unfortunately people do sometimes hurt us -- even people who should know better -- in spite of what the Church teaches....Jeffrey R. Holland has expressed the idea that the Church is not a monastery*

for perfect people, but a hospital for those who are spiritually ill and want to get better.) Was there a point when your heart became filled with anger, rage, or a desire to fulfill a personal "vendetta"? (If so, these feelings are not inspired by the Holy Spirit)."

My answer: It was after we left the Mormon Church that people hurt us deeply. Those who had been our friends, even best friends for years and years, treated us as if we had leprosy. However, we do not hate them, we pray for them and that they too would come to know HIM. Jesus taught that we should love those who hate us and who say all kinds of bad things about us. Because we have said that we follow the True Jesus, who is God Almighty (Rev. 1:8), that has caused them to be angry and hateful towards us.

She continued: *"I'm curious.... Were you unhappy as members of the Church? Did you study the teachings? Did you faithfully read the Book of Mormon and receive a witness of its truth? Did you ever feel that peace and joy and assurance that come from the Holy Ghost? And if you did at one time feel that it was true, how did you lose it?"*

I answered: No, we were not unhappy until we learned that Mormonism was not truth and we had devoted our lives to it. It was a hurtful discovery. I had worked for the LDS Church as a translator, interpreter and language coordinator over 14 years. That involved a lot of study and research, so I can say that I know what Mormonism is. (We have continued to study even more – we have in our personal library hundreds of LDS books, from early Mormonism to this date.) We both had served a mission, and read and reread the Book of Mormon many times – and that is what caused the problems. It became obvious that it is not a book of history – it is a plagiarized fictional book, taken and copied from various novels, as Ethan Smith's *View of the Hebrews*, published 7 years before the BoM, and many others, including several full chapters from the KJV of the Bible, etc. (I would recommend that you'd get LDS GA and Historian, B.H. Roberts' **"Studies of the Book of Mormon"**. His book helped me to discover the rest that I did not know. His book is edited by two LDS professors, Sterling McMurrin and Brigham Madsen. The first edition published in 1985.)

She continued: *"I know that if we do not "watch and pray always" -- through prayer, study, and obedience -- and take the Holy Spirit for our guide that we gradually lose that spiritual lifeline.... and before we know it we are "slip sliding away" as the song says.*

My answer: We both have been born again, we received Jesus and we have BECOME children of God (John 1:12). We have the indwelling Holy Spirit in our hearts. And as Jesus has promised, **He will never leave us or forsake us.** (Hebr. 13:5.)

She concluded: *"Saul of Tarsus was convinced that he was "in the right" in his actions as he persecuted the Christians.... until he traveled on the road to Damascus and found out otherwise. I hope you will consider these things.--- Sincere Best Wishes"*

My reply: Yes, Saul was a well educated Jew, and he was sure then that Jesus was not their Messiah. After he learned the truth from the Lord Himself, he devoted his life to follow Jesus and preach the Gospel, come what may. That is what we are doing too. We left a false "Jesus", and "another gospel" of Mormonism and we devoted our lives in following Jesus and teaching what the Bible teaches about Him and the gospel. Paul warned that if anything is added or changed in the gospel they had preached (1 Cor. 15:1-4), it would make it **"another gospel" that will bring God's curse.** (Gal. 1:8-9.) Read what the true Gospel is from 1 Cor. 15:1-4, and compare it to Mormonism's *"gospel of laws and ordinances"*. There are no laws or ordinances in the gospel of God, which is a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:1-4). It is to be accepted by faith, and received

by grace of God as His Gift. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the Gift of God: NOT of works, lest any man should boast.”* (Eph. 2:8-9.) The law does not save. (Read Gal. 2:16-21 – read the entire letter of Galatians – it is only 6 chapters – it should help you to see how you too can be saved.)

I appreciate your sincere concern. But you have it wrong, and I hope that you will consider the True Gospel found only in the Holy Bible.

A few points to consider, points that prove that Mormonism is not biblical: **God is not a man.** (Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9.) **God does not have gods before Him – nor will men become gods after Him.** (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8b.) **Jesus is our God, not our spirit-brother.** (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24; 20:28; Col. 1:16.)

Jesus said, “I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, THE ALMIGHTY.” (Rev. 1:8.)

God is One. (See 1 John 5: 7.) With my best wishes, sincerely, Rauni

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Prayer Requests & Answers

I had sent a special prayer request to all on our mailing list to pray for Pastor Phil Foard’s 3-year old grandson, Brady, who was taken about a week ago to Primary Children’s Hospital. We have received a report that he is doing well, and that MRI and blood tests all show normal. We thank you for your prayers and praise the Lord for His care. They still are doing

some more testing, but *so far so good*. Dick Baer is also doing well, and what we have heard, Jim Valentine is also improving with a steady space. We saw Dale and his wife, Sharon, at Calvary Chapel last Sunday. As you may recall, he was in a terrible motorcycle accident close to a year ago and doctors did not expect him to live. He was pronounced dead 9 times during his many months in a hospital. He said that since he did not die, he believes that God still has a plan for him. He is in a wheel chair and hopeful that someday he will walk again. He asked that we keep his name on this prayer list. Of course we will do so and we pray for him daily.

We are asking that you continue your prayers for Bruce, and even though his living conditions and his wait for insurance settlement has not come through yet, he is continuing his college-level Bible studies through Koinonia House, and that keeps him busy and focused on the Word of God, which is a blessing that no one can take away from him. Please pray for Judy and Grace. They are in need of God’s comfort and direction in their trials.

“Putting our trust in God and depending on His intrinsic goodness frees us from the need to find explanations for everything that happens to us.” (Frank Retief)

We are working with several LDS people (in state and out of state), answering their questions. I received phone calls this week from Texas, California, Washington and Canada – each of them took hours of counseling. I also received a call from a relative of an LDS missionary here who came home early from his mission, which is a very difficult thing for him to do. There is a lot of pressure put on this young man. I was told that he has been put on some medication and he is going through counseling directed by an LDS Church counselor. That does not sound good. Please pray for him – I cannot give his name – or the names of these others either, for fear that they will be found out before they are ready to accept the facts about Mormonism. The Lord knows these people, and their every need. If we just lift them up – He will hear and help.

We received word on Wednesday (4/28/10) that Valynn Laymon passed away early that morning. I believe she was 89 years old. (As women, we do not talk about our age...☺) She has been a good and faithful friend. We came to know her in early 1980's, soon after we had left the Mormon Church. She had left Mormonism almost at the same time we did. Her husband had passed away just a year or two before we met her. She will be buried next to her husband in Sheraton, Wyoming. Her daughter, Leslie, was with her when she peacefully went to be with the Lord at 3:00 AM, 4/28/10. Her other daughter, Marsha, from Denver, arrived soon after. We thank the Lord that we had Valynn as our friend for so many years. We will meet her again when the Lord comes to take us home to be with Him. (1 Thess.4:13-18.)

We want to thank you for your prayers and support. Times are financially harder than they have been, but we trust that the Lord will provide. Dennis has been working 6 days a week to take care of our needs, and we are thankful that he has had work. Ministry is my fulltime job, and we thank the Lord that people are reaching out with questions. We have seen so many come to know the Lord in recent months, and that keeps us encouraged that our work is worthwhile.

Gladly serving Christ Jesus in Utah,

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**Thought for today: Time is the greatest enemy of a false prophet.
(See Doctrine and Covenants, Section 84:1-5.)**

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