



January 1, 2012

H.I.S. Ministries January 2012 Newsletter, covering December 2011

We wish you a very Happy and blessed New Year!!

Hard to believe, is it not, that we are at the beginning of year 2012!!!

This year may prove to be a remarkable year in all aspects of life. One thing we can be sure of is that it will be politically important and a revealing year – demonstrating where we as people of this nation indeed stand.

Evangelists Bill Keller wrote, and I'll quote him:

“It has become apparent to me over the years, that the selection of a president is the mirror image of the soul of a nation. Under our political system, it is the citizens who elect their leaders. They select the candidates that most represent their own beliefs and desires i.e., representative government. No president can be elected without the majority vote and adherence of that vote, by the electoral college. Even with a fraud and deceptive candidate, when the people refuse to act and remove such a person from office, it is the result of the acceptance of such behavior, by the people! Therefore, the finger of guilt needs to be pointed at the reason and cause for such an individual, being elected to the highest political position in the land.

It is my understanding, that the God we know, does not interfere with the will of the people... The election of an evil leader tells us much about ourselves and our nation as a whole. At this point in time, it is not a pretty picture and one the citizens of this country refuse to acknowledge responsibility for. Until they do take responsibility, this nation will continue on it's downward spiral to destruction.”

Keller might have something there for all of us to ponder and then act responsibly – carefully evaluating whom we vote into the highest office of the land.

Even though our personal highest responsibility is to share the truth of the Gospel and eternal consequences of rejecting the Gospel Truth, we also need to do our part for our great nation in the voting booths. That requires prayerful examination of candidates and what they stand for.

The Mormon Church is focusing on this election now perhaps more than ever, having **two LDS priesthood holders** running for the office of the President, who both are former Mormon missionaries and leaders in their church. What is important for the public to know is that the Mormon Church is very different than any other church, and they are the first ones to confirm that, after all they say that they are *“the only true church on the face of the whole earth”*. There

is one very important difference that most non-LDS people do not know, and that is that **a temple endowed Mormon, as both of these candidates are, has his first and highest allegiance to the LDS Church and its leaders because of the oath he has taken in a Mormon temple.** (That oath takes precedence to an oath that he would take if he is chosen as the President of USA and it is binding on him throughout his life.) **This temple oath demands that, "...YOU DO CONSECRATE YOURSELVES, YOUR TIME, TALENTS AND EVERYTHING WITH WHICH THE LORD HAS BLESSED YOU, OR WITH WHICH HE MAY BLESS YOU, TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, FOR THE BUILDING UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZION."** *The Kingdom of God* to a Mormon does not mean at all what it means to Christians. To understand what it means to a Mormon we need to inspect what they teach about "*the Kingdom of God*" and about "*Zion*". About the **Kingdom of God, Mormon Doctrine**, on page 415, declares: "**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as it is now constituted is the kingdom of God on earth. Nothing more needs to be done to establish the kingdom...The kingdom is here...The Church and kingdom are one and the same.**". About Zion they teach: "**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is Zion. Joining the Church is becoming a citizen of Zion.**" (Ibid, p. 854.)

The year 2011 has seen many LDS efforts put forth in making Mormonism a "*main stream religion*" and known to the nation in all possible ways, regardless of the cost. Early this past summer **the Mormon Church** sank a million dollars or more in advertising in the "*Big Apple*" for "***the Book of Mormon Musical***". (See our July 2011 Newsletter for more details.) It was described by viewers as *vulgar and obscene, sexually suggestive, having references to rape and homosexuality and using the "f"-word as many as 49 times in addition to other expletives!* Newsweek even commented, "***...the Book of Mormon musical may be the most obscene show ever brought to a Broadway stage.***" Mormons were promoting it and even claimed that writers of the show (Trey Parker and Matt Stone) were under *divine inspiration* when they wrote it – and they ***gave credit for their inspiration to their founding prophet, Joseph Smith!!!*** In our July Newsletter we quoted also a praise for this play written by an LDS attorney, Adam Ford, and published in Salt Lake Tribune, 6/15/2011. This was hardly a show demonstrating Mormons' *godly behavior* or giving an example of morality that Mormons have touted as their virtues! How could this show credibly proclaim the Book of Mormon as the Mormons' Holy Book? But advertising worked and brought masses to see it and view Mormons as "*common sinners*", not as "*stiff*" and "*righteous*" as they have been thought to be... Mormons can now be seen just the same as average vulgar Americans are seen by the world...

In spite of this, the high leaders of the Mormon Church continue to declare that the Book of Mormon is "*the Keystone of Our Religion*". And it was with the Book of Mormon that the Mormon Church had its beginning in 1830. But do you know that when the Book of Mormon was first published, its *Preface* listed Joseph Smith Jr. as "***Author and Proprietor***"? Later editions have changed that and refer to Joseph Smith as "***Translator***" rather than "***Author***". A "***translator***" is not the same as an "***author***", for a ***translator*** is the one who interprets something written by someone who is an ***author***, who actually wrote a book in question. Since Joseph Smith listed himself in the First Edition of the Book of Mormon as its ***Author***, then it also reveals that the book is in actuality a 19th century production, regardless of what the context of this novel is and what he says about his "***translation of Reformed Egyptian characters written on the plates of gold***", pretending that it was a history of the Americas, hidden in the Hill Cumorah, in up-State New York, 421 A.D. Fictional writings can, and more often than not, do take a lot of liberty from facts and history. We all know that the Book of Mormon is fiction because archeology has failed to find even a single item confirming

that the Book of Mormon has any connection to reality and history, even though the Book of Mormon claims to be a “historical record”. It describes slaughtered armies dressed in helmets, breastplates, steel swords etc. – is tells details of their walled cities, about coinage in abundance, yet nothing corresponding to these stories has ever been discovered. All other histories of civilizations around the world have been proven to be real by archeological findings.

There are many things, besides Joseph Smith’s own declaration that he is the “author” of the Book of Mormon, **that date this book to Joseph Smith’s time period.** One of them is its fascination with and condemnation of “*Secret Combinations*”, more than likely referring to Freemasonry. (During the 1820’s there was a strong anti-Mason sentiment in New York State.) It was Captain William Morgan who revealed secrets of Freemasonry that he himself has been involved in about 30 years. He was kidnapped and murdered by Masons some time after 1827 when he had published his expose of Freemasonry. (His book is titled, “*Illustrations of Masonry By One Of The Fraternity, who had devoted Thirty Years to the Subject.*”) Later, Wm. Morgan’s widow, Lucinda, married George Harris and they joined the Mormon Church in about 1834. Joseph Smith boarded with the Harris’s in Missouri for 2 months in 1838. **Joseph Smith married Lucinda** (possible date is 1838), **even though she remained married to Harris also.** Lucinda became one of another 10 women with living husbands who were also married to Joseph Smith. (More later about these matters...)

This October 2011 the LDS Church’s official magazine, Ensign, devoted the entire issue to the Book of Mormon – giving its time line from 600 B.C. to 400 A.D. and displaying **paintings of its cities and buildings, and quoting Mormon leaders testimonies of its truthfulness,** even though there are no archeological or historical evidences that any of this took place. **It amazes us how it is possible that people continue believing in a book that does not even teach what Mormons today believe and teach about God, Jesus and salvation.**

The Book of Mormon teaches that there is only one God who is Spirit – but **today’s Mormonism teaches that God has a body of flesh and bones, that there are many gods** – three assigned to this earth, in addition to countless gods in the universe, some still “progressing” to godhood. The living Mormons are feverishly doing temple work hoping that they too will evolve and progress to godhood after this life. **Jesus they believe in is a created being from the preexistence,** the same as they were, and that Lucifer is Jesus’ brother as well as their brother. **Salvation in Mormonism is to be earned,** for resurrection that Jesus provided by His atonement can mean “damnation” if one is not a Mormon working for exaltation. **It is very interesting that Mormons bear their testimony that the Book of Mormon is true, even though none of the important Mormon doctrines are in it – and they also testify that they “know” that all current LDS teachings are likewise true even though they contradict what the Book of Mormon teaches!** We all as Christians have to get busy and help them before it is too late.



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From our mailbox: I was planning on posting the last three points on *answering Mormon missionaries* who sent us 8 challenges about our booklet. We have so far answered in our last 3 Newsletters their challenges to questions 1. “Polygamy” (in defense of their part), 2. “Eternal progression”, 3. “Secret combinations”, 4. “Creation or organization of the world”, 5. “One God or many gods?” – I was hoping to include the last three points, from 6-8, this month, but I do not have room, so I will include now their # 6 point, Work for the dead, and next month 7. *Temples*, and 8.

Eternal marriage.

6. “Work for the dead”

LDS Missionary wrote: “As you mentioned from Alma 34, “this is the life & time to prepare to meet God”, but there are millions of people from the past and present who have not even heard

of Jesus Christ. These people who haven't had a chance will be given one. Not a second chance but the first as they did not have an opportunity in this life. –Explain to me 1 Peter 3:18-21 (where Christ is teaching the spirits) and 1 Peter 4:6; John 5:25; and Hebr. 11: 35, 40 baptism for the dead and 1 Cor. 15: 29, baptism for the dead.”

My reply: I have to give you a longer answer in this, for it (work for the dead) was the most important issue to me when I became a Mormon. Actually it was the “*converting factor*” to me, because my parents and grandparents were all dead – they had died, one after the other - before I was 19 years old.

Even when I saw that the **written facts about the origins and doctrines of the LDS Church** (that I learned while working for the Church), **did not agree with what I was taught before my conversion to Mormonism** and **during my LDS mission, this doctrine of salvation work for the dead kept me in bondage to Mormonism for years and years.** It took a lot of studying of the Bible before I was fully convinced that Mormon doctrine of “*work for the dead*” was a **false doctrine.** It was devastating to me and it broke my heart – for it meant that I “again lost my family”, and that I could not provide their salvation as I was told I could through “*work for the dead*”.

A couple of scriptures that started me on this study were Luke 16:19-31 and Hebr. 9:27. (Please read them now before you continue and see what I was faced with.) Note that **Jesus said** (Luke 16:19-31) that “***there was a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence (Paradise) to you (Torment – “Spirit Prison”) cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence***” (v.26). [This negates the teaching that deceased Mormons pair up and go from Paradise to Spirit Prison to preach Mormonism to the spirits of the dead.]

Hebrews 9:27 clearly negates even a possibility of conversion beyond the grave. It reads, “***And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.***” No salvation chance after death! [“*Today is the day of salvation*” – Hebr. 3:7-13.]

You gave 1 Peter 3:18-21 and 4:6 as a “*proof*” of this “dead work”. I had studied this very carefully too. I went to the Greek text of the New Testament, which I have. What does it say? It says, “...***He went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once a longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water...***” The Greek word used here is “*kerusso*”, that is translated “***preached***” in English, but it does not mean to *preach the gospel*, but it means “***to herald, publish or announce***”. However, when the issue was *preaching the gospel*, another Greek word, “*euaggelizo*”, was used. This is the same word we get our English word, to “*evangelize*”, from. In our English translations these words have not been differentiated, even though in Greek it was not the same word with exactly the same meaning. Let me explain what else I learned when studying this very important matter to me, for my parents and grandparents destiny - in my Mormon mind was at stake – and **I wanted to know what was the truth.** No fooling anymore accepted!

1 Pet. 3:18-21 clearly states that the salvation message **had already been preached to them through the Spirit of God when they were alive** (see also 1 Pet. 1:10-11), i.e. the generation of Noah’s time (Gen. 6:3). Peter writes that God was patient, “*long-suffering*” with them. After all, **Noah had preached and warned them for 120 years while he was building the Ark.** But they did not repent! Peter’s writing here was directed to Jewish believers who were quite engulfed in the pagan world around them. He reminded them of *God’s long-suffering* (applicable also to Peter’s listeners), and of also *God’s eventual judgment*, by referring to **Christ’s ministry through the Spirit to antediluvian generation through Noah’s preaching.** Now, after His death, **Christ, by the Spirit of God,** went and “*announced*” to these same spirits who were disobedient during the time of Noah (v. 20) **that what was promised is now finished:** i.e. **His death has brought salvation to all who believed while they were alive.** The outward figure or picture of salvation is Christ, who is the “**True Ark**”, Ark that also represents water baptism.

As water separated the righteous from sinners in Noah's day and saved those in the Ark, the same applies to us. The Ark, which represented Christ, saved those eight in the Ark. It is Christ alone who saves us. Thus baptism is for those who ARE SAVED, even though baptism itself cannot save (Noah and his own went into the Ark because they believed in God's salvation.) It is used as a figure – and it (the Ark) as a picture, was what separated believers from unbelievers. Christ alone can save, and that by the fact that He was resurrected (Rom. 4:25). The result is "...the answer of good conscience toward God" (v. 21) which comes when we understand that Christ's blood has removed our sin. (Hebr. 9:14; 1 John 1:7) (Water baptism does not remove sin, it symbolizes His death, burial and resurrection and is our identification with Him. Romans 6:3-4.) **1 Peter 4:6** is likewise used by the LDS Church, promising a second chance for the dead. Note what it says (and what it does not say), "For, for this cause was the gospel preached to the dead, that they might be judged according to men in flesh, but live according to God in spirit." "Preached" in this passage in Greek is not "kerusso" (to announce), but "euaggelizo", the word we get our word "evangelize" from. It means to preach, to declare the good news of the gospel of Christ to living people. Thus the gospel WAS preached to them when they were still alive! From 1 Peter 1:10-11 and in 3:18-20 we read that Christ had preached the good news of coming salvation through the Old Testament prophets to those who are now dead. Christ did not go to Hades and offer the dead a second chance. Read again Hebr. 9:27! "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Anyone who believes the gospel of salvation while alive (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph 2:8-9), even if he be judged in this life by men, he will live spiritually according to the will of God. Paul writes in Romans 1:19-20 that men do not desire to know God, even when they could. They are judged by the knowledge they had (not by what they did not have) – and by their resentment of God. All who have not believed are spiritually dead even while still physically alive. This is the very reason why we must be born again (become spiritually alive) and thus "become sons of God" (John 1:12-13;3:7.)

I also discovered when studying this that before the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the dead were "housed" in two separate places – in "Paradise" also called "Abraham's bosom" or rest, where believers in God's salvation went when they died, and "Torment" or Hades " (hell) where unbelievers were waiting for their final judgment day (Luke 16:22-23; Rev. 20:11-15.) Between Jesus' death and resurrection, He went to announce His victory over death – and also that the Paradise will be emptied after His resurrection – for since that time, all believers in Christ will immediately, upon their death, go to be with the Lord in heaven. (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21-23.)

John 5:25 you referred to is already explained above through the previous scriptures. Fact is that life is eternal – where we live eternally depends on what we do with the Truth we are presented while we live here. Jesus, who is God, He is the Truth personified. (John 14:6; 17:17; 8:23-24; 20:28 etc.)

- **You also referred to Hebr. 11:35-40!** It seems to me that you do not know the context of these verses. We can use individual verses from scriptures, but we must always know in what context they were given. Hebrew 11 has nothing to do with "work for the dead" when the context is examined. Hebr. 11 is writer's exhortation to Faith by using Old Testament examples of people with Faith. It introduces us to men and women of the OT who had 20/20 spiritual vision and who endured tremendous shame and suffering rather than renounce their faith. **11:1** is description what faith does for us by making things we hope for as real as if we already had what we were hoping for. By living our faith we evidence spiritual blessings of true Christianity and "see" the unseen (that has not yet come true for us) as absolutely certain and real. Faith is confidence in the trustworthiness of God as our foundation and conviction that what God says is true and what He promises in His Word will come true. Faith is not a leap in the dark – it is evidenced by many prophecies that have come true and are coming true – it is evidenced both by physical and spiritual proofs.

Please read the entire book of Hebrews but especially chapters 7-9 that refute Priesthood as in OT that was before and during Christ but changed after Christ and places the **Priesthood only on Christ**. We as believers, male and female, have *“the royal priesthood”* (1 Pet. 2:9) of our **King Jesus**, which means that we do not need anyone but our **King Jesus Christ** to approach the Father’s Throne (1 Tim. 2:5.)

Lastly you refer to 1 Cor. 15:29, which is the only verse using the words *“baptism for the dead”* in the Bible. **Mormon Church ignores totally what Jesus said in Luke 16:19-31** (explained above), and goes directly to this verse in 1 Cor. 15:29, where **Paul only asked a question why some people (“they”, i.e. others, not Paul or those with him) were baptizing for the dead, while not even believing in the resurrection!** (Anyway, this entire chapter 15 is about resurrection of the dead, not about baptism.) **Paul did not, nor did any other disciple of Christ, teach baptism for the dead – nor is it even hinted anywhere in the Bible as something that should be done!!** This chapter 15 opens with the **declaration of what the Gospel is – that it is the message of the cross** (verses 1-4) – **no work of men involved in salvation!** **Jesus did it all.** (Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 11:4 warns about *“another gospel”* – something added or changed to 1 Cor. 15:1-4.)

Paul was not often baptizing even the living – he actually thanked God that he had only baptized two men in addition to the household of Stephanas (1 Cor. 1:14, 16) out of tens of thousands he had brought to salvation through the Cross of Christ. Paul continued and said, ***“For Christ sent me NOT TO BAPTIZE, but to preach the Gospel; not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made none effect. FOR PREACHING OF THE CROSS IS TO THEM THAT PERISH FOOLISHNESS; BUT UNTO US WHICH ARE THE SAVED, IT IS THE POWER OF GOD.”*** (1 Cor. 1:18.)

(Points 7 & 8 from these LDS missionaries’ letter and answers to them will be posted in next month’s newsletter.)



Our hearts are full of praise and thankfulness to our Lord Jesus for His care and direction He has given to H.I.S. Ministries during the year 2011, and to us personally. Regardless of many mistakes we have made, He continues to guide us, and forgives us when we acknowledge our errors. We indeed have a lot to be thankful for – and that thankfulness is directed first to our Lord Jesus and next to you, our friends and prayer-partners and supporters. Without the Lord bringing you to assist us, we simply could not do this work. At times this work seems harder than we think we can bear and brings us to bitter tears, but asking the Lord to sustain us, we get over the sadness, and keep on focusing on His plan and goal to bring many lost souls to Him.

In December we had a heartbreaking episode with a Mormon whose obvious plan was to hurt us and perhaps even put an end to our ministry. You all know something about this, since we passed on to you a prayer request for him and his family and their salvation – only to learn that he was not seeking truth at all. Many of you responded to our prayer requests in his behalf – and we are certain that these prayers were answered – not in the way we had expected, but the Lord revealed the hoax to us fairly quickly – in just a few days, exposing the obvious scam that could have been very harmful to our ministry and to us personally. The Lord sees it all, and when we pray He rescues us. We do thank you for your prayers in this matter as in all other issues concerning the work of the Lord. We still pray for this man that he would repent from his evil intent and accept the truth of the gospel of Christ. He heard the gospel, and it is up to him now to repent and respond to the Lord.

2011 has been a very busy year. Emails have continued to flow from believers in the true Lord asking questions on how to respond to their LDS friends and family. It is our joy to help them. During the year we have also received hundreds of angry emails from Mormons who do not like

that Mormonism is challenged as **not being a Christian religion**. As we have answered their letters and explained the differences, and many of them have come to see that it is our concern and love towards Mormons that motivates us to do this work. There have been many who have turned their lives around and left Mormonism and embraced biblical Christianity. There indeed have been many occasions for joy that fills our hearts when people respond to the call from the Lord.

Dennis' trip to Australia in September was a success. We thank you all for your prayers and help in this trip that Dennis took *on faith* for it was "way-out-of-our-budget"- effort.

Jennifer Harvey, with her brother Dave's help, is starting this month our *Understanding Mormonism* classes at Calvary Chapel in Perth, Australia – and thus *HIS (He Is Savior) Ministry* is now extended to "**down-under**" as "**His Ministry-Australia**". Jennifer will operate it there as we are operating our ministry here – solely on faith in the Lord's provision.

Please keep Jennifer and Dave in your prayers. Dave's wife, Rose, has been very ill for a couple of months, and that has put an additional pressure on Dave and also on Jennifer. This could be a part of the spiritual war and opposition of the enemy of our souls, but we cannot cave in, but pursue towards the goal of deliverance of those who are in his captivity. It has been said that, "*The devil, things and people being what they are, 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*". It seems that Dave especially is "*in the furnace of trials*" right now, but we believe that the Lord is with him and that He will heal Rose. We understand for we have had our own hurtful trials over the many, many years, and we thank the Lord for being with us during those hard times and even giving us occasional rest from them.

We have been blessed to have had a good turnout in our *Understanding Mormonism* classes at Calvary Chapel over the years. We have again received requests for additional classes – some even wanting to retake the same classes in order for gaining better understanding on how to explain the differences between Mormonism and biblical Christianity and help their friends and family to freedom in Christ. They truly have a love and concern for the lost, and that encouraged us. There are times that we feel very weary and worn out, but seeing our fellow Christians' enthusiastic responses and desires to learn more gives us renewed strength.

"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Psalm 55:22) As a reminder of this, late pastor Adrian Rogers told a story of his preacher friend who was on an airplane when the weather got really rough. The lady next to him was whimpering from fear and so he turned to her and tried to comfort her. She said, "**Do you mean to tell me you're not afraid?**" And he replied, "**Well, I have committed my life into the keeping of my heavenly Father. And I will have to be honest, I have reminded Him about that fact several times since we've been up here.**"

We likewise often, especially during these economically rough times, find ourselves "reminding the Lord that He has promised to provide" as we work to bring His truth to Mormons – and wait for His coming. It is not that we do not believe that He will do as He has said He will, we just "*remind Him of His promises*"...☺ He has not forgotten!!!

We have a long prayer-list for this month - too long to name every name. We just ask you to ask the Lord to heal, bless and prosper those who have called or written to us asking prayer in their behalf. He knows every name, and every need. All we need to do is ask.

That is so marvelous to know, is it not! We serve GOD WHO IS GOD; God whose name is **Wonderful Counselor, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.** (Isa. 9:6.)

We have been celebrating His birth this month, and we need to celebrate His birth every day and every month –and not just that He was born, but why He was born – for our salvation.

We want to thank you for the gifts you have given to *HIS Ministries* during the year 2011 and thus **you have made it possible for us, again this year, to donate about hundred Bibles (many of them Study Bibles), dozens of LDS books, booklets, DVDs, CDs, and hundreds of peaces of other written materials.** Dennis also sent many boxes of LDS books to Australia before he went there and he also took with him a big suite case full of books to make sure that Jennifer and Dave have the proof at hand for all important Mormon doctrines and history. Without your help we could not have provided them with all that material, since we are not selling anything – just freely giving – and that we can do with your help. This has been again a test of faith. At times we did not know how we were going to do it, but we did – and somehow all those bills got paid. We thank the Lord first and then our friends for believing in Him and in our work. We say ***God is good – all the time*** (borrowing that phrase from Chip Thomson), **for God is good!**

Our dear webmaster and friend, Matt McClung, has been working hard to redo our website. www.hismin.com It will have about 30 new articles. Please check them out. **He says that the new website is ready to access 1/1/12.**

Happy New Year – 2012.

May the Lord encourage you and bless us all to be faithful to Him in all we do, think and say.

We are serving Him till He comes - or calls us home,

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Thought for the New Month:

“Remember, Christ was not a deified man, neither was he a humanized God. He was perfectly God and at the same time perfectly man.”

(C. H. Spurgeon)

You can expect your tax receipts before the end of January for your gifts to HIS Ministries during 2011. We are 501 (C) (3) ministry. All you giving is 100% tax deductible.