



March 1, 2012

## H.I.S. Ministries March 2012 Newsletter, covering February 2012

[This newsletter message anticipates the Passover that is in view next month. In addition to letters we receive from Mormons and our answers to them, we have also included news items about the Mormon Church and why there is now the largest exodus from it since 1837.]

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Palm Sunday is just 30 days away. That Sunday, April 1, we will celebrate Jesus' riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, and people singing *Hosanna*, "*Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace on heaven and glory in the highest.*" (Luke 19:38.)

We commemorate Jesus' Passion Week which began when He, on that day, rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to fulfill what Zechariah had written over 500 years before: "*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*" (Zech. 9:9.) Multitudes that had gone before Him, and some that followed, hailed Jesus as their King, "*and cried saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest*" (Matt. 21:9; Ps. 118:26), and others wondered, "*Who is this?*"

He indeed came to Zion, which is *Jerusalem*, as her King, just days before He became *the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world*, and thus He brought salvation to all who come to Him. (It is interesting that in Hebrew "*thy king cometh unto thee*" carries a meaning that the *king comes to save, to rescue his people.*)

He came as their Savior and King, but most Jews rejected Him then, and are still, as a nation, rejecting Him. When Zechariah said He is "*just*" he means much more than doing "*just works.*" He came to carry out His Father's will *with righteousness and justice*. He is a Perfect and a Just King. Zechariah wrote that He is "*lowly*", meaning "*poor, afflicted, distressed or tortured*".

Isaiah 53 describes in detail the suffering and death of the Messiah.

Right after descending from the Mount of Olives, Jesus cleansed the temple of money changers saying "*you have made it a den of thieves.*" He healed the blind and the lame, and heard children praising Him and saying "*Hosanna to the Son of David*", but the religious leaders "*were sore displeased.*" (Matt. 21:7-17.)

Jesus taught in the temple and after leaving from there He prayed for his disciples (John 17) as well as for all of us, who, because of their testimony of the Word of God, believe in Him. Then He, with His disciples, went to Cedron, where there is a Garden called *Gethsemane* (which means "*olive press*"). He took Peter, James and John with Him further into the Garden, close to the place where He started to pray alone, and He became "*exceedingly sorrowful*". He asked "*O Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.*" (Matt. 26:38-39.) After hours of praying in agony, He said to His

disciples, *“the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners... behold, he is at hand who doth betray Me.”* (Matt. 26:45-47.) It was Judas who came *“and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.”* He betrayed Jesus for *thirty pieces of silver*, which he later acknowledged as *“blood money”* by which he had *“betrayed innocent blood”*. (Matt. 27:4.) The Prophet Zechariah had predicted this 500 years before, when he said, *“So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver...a goodly price that I was priced at of them.”* (Zechariah 11:12-13.) According to both prophecy and its fulfillment, this blood money was cast down in the temple, and after Judas’ suicide was used to buy a *“potter’s field”* where Jews buried strangers. (Matt. 27:5-8.) Acts 1:19 tells us that this field was called in Aramaic *“Aceldama”*, meaning *“the field of blood”*, for it had been bought with *“the price of blood”*. The thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave or a servant in ancient Israel (Ex. 21:32), but this “Servant” was none other than God incarnate. The price set by the religious leaders of Israel was the price for [the sale of] God!!! However there is more than this typified here. The Word of God reveals that the *“field is the world that has hidden treasure”*, and Christ Himself is the man who *“selleteth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”* (Matt. 13:44.) He did just that. He gave the very blood of His life, shed it willingly so that all who were dead in sins and trespasses could have their sins completely paid for. Believers are *hidden in the world and have been “purchased with His own blood.”* (Acts 20:28.) We have just touched two or three of over 300 fulfilled prophecies about the life of Jesus in the Old Testament. *He came. He saves! He lives! Praise His Holy Name!*

This is the message of the Gospel of God: It is the Good News! (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) The Gospel is free to you – the price was high, but it was paid in full by Jesus Christ, our Lord. When He hung on the cross for you and me, He said (John 19:30), *“It is finished”* [in Greek *“tetelestai”*, which literally means: **PAID IN FULL**]. He came to save – to give His life for all who receive Him and believe that He died, was buried and resurrected so that we can live with Him forever and ever. The celebration of His Passion Week is the most important celebration in Christianity, even more important than Christmas, when we celebrate the fact that He was born for us, but it is His death and resurrection that saves us! **“CHRISTMAS IS THE PROMISE, BUT EASTER IS THE PROOF.”** *“This is the work of God that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.”* (John 6:29.) (This is taken from our April 2010 Newsletter.)

I have been again studying the Old Testament from the beginning. I went through a slow and thorough study of Genesis, the book of *“beginnings”*, during the last 2-3 months of 2011. Genesis focuses doctrinally on the election of those believers who would lead God’s chosen people, Israel. *Shem* was elected out of the sons of *Noah*. *Abraham* was taken out of Ur of Chaldea (pagan country) and *Isaac* was chosen over *Ishmael*, *Jacob* over *Esau*, *Joseph* from the 12 tribes, and of his 2 sons *Ephraim* was preferred over *Manasseh* (Gen. 48:13-20; 2 Thess. 2:13.) God elects those who trust His promises. Just a week ago I finished study of Exodus and started my timely study of Leviticus that teaches why blood sacrifice was a must to approach God. In Exodus (24:3-8) God gave them the law of the kingdom and it was received and covenanted with the sprinkling of blood. Leviticus begins with the word *“and”*, connecting Leviticus to Exodus. As God’s people in the Book of Leviticus were saved by blood, Leviticus is a message for us also who are the “called out ones”, i.e. the saved by the Blood of the Lamb. We are the Church, *ekklesia*, which means the *“called out ones”*. All books of the Bible speak of the Messiah of Israel whom we have come to know as Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Every detail in the Scriptures points to Christ.

*“Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me.”* (Ps. 40:7; quoted in Hebr. 10:7.) *“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself...And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me.”* (Luke 24:27, 44.) The fundamental and most important parts of the scriptures are the ones that point to His substitutionary work in our behalf. No amount of good works or religious efforts can make a sinner holy – only the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all our sins. (1 John 1:7.) In Genesis we see man ruined. In Exodus we see man redeemed by God. In Leviticus we see man worshipping God by first cleansing himself by the blood of a sacrificed male animal.

Leviticus begins with the Hebrew word *vayiqara* which means *He called*. It is God who is the speaker on every page – about 90% of the verses are dictated to Moses by God.

Jesus declared that *Moses spoke of Him* (John 5:46), and on the road to Emmaus He referred to the words of Moses (Luke 24:27). That Leviticus, a book dictated by God to Moses, is a very important book also for all New Testament believers in Jesus, is demonstrated by the fact that the NT quotes from it over 100 times. Leviticus points to the awfulness of sin – and that it is costly – thus the blood is mentioned over 88 times. **“Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.”** (Lev.17:11;Hebr. 9:22.) Leviticus points out that only with the shedding of blood there can be remission of sin to every believing and repentant sinner. God, by His grace has provided remedies for our failures and restoration to fellowship with Him. (1 John 1:7, 9.)

*“The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed; The Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.”*

**The entire Word of God is a revelation of the character of God. He has not changed, nor will He.** The Book of Leviticus, with the rest of the God’s Word, prepares us to understand what Jesus did for us on His cross. **It is the cross of Christ that declares the Gospel that saves.** (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 1:8-9.)

Sadly, even the clear **declaration of the cross** is hidden from Mormons, and they are led to believe that the atonement took place in the **Garden of Gethsemane, rather than on the Cross of Calvary.**

We received Rocky Hulse’s February letter (*Midwest Expositor*) where he reminded us about this false teaching in Mormonism. He quoted Ezra Taft Benson, the 13<sup>th</sup> Prophet and president of the LDS Church from his Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1979 address at the University of Utah (reprinted in *Dec. 2001 Ensign*), who said that *“It was there [in Gethsemane] where He suffered the pains of all men, which suffering, He said, ‘caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink’ (D&C 19:18)… It was in Gethsemane where Jesus took on Himself the sins of the world, in Gethsemane where His pain was equivalent to the cumulative burden of all men, in Gethsemane where He descended below all things so that all could repent and come to Him…”* [Rocky continued, saying that *“There is no question by the quote above that the 13<sup>th</sup> Prophet of the Mormon Church clearly taught that the Atonement happened in the Garden of Gethsemane, not on the Cross of Calvary.”*

Mormon prophet Benson condemned the belief of Christianity as *“pernicious heresy”*. Rocky continued quoting Benson, who said. *“Yet there are those who arrogantly declare the most pernicious heresy, that the blood which extruded from the physical body of our Lord on that night had no efficacy for the redemption of man. They would have you believe the only significance to Gethsemane was that Jesus made His decision there to go to the cross. They say that any suffering Jesus endured [in Gethsemane] was only personal, not redemptive for the whole human race. I know of no heresy more destructive to faith than this… Never forget … that “it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do (2 Ne. 25:23).”* What Benson said is **pernicious false doctrine!** **The Garden of Gethsemane is mentioned only twice in the entire New Testament** (Matt. 26:36 and Mark 14:32), and **only as a place where Jesus went to pray** – not to atone for the sins of the world. Jesus left his friends, and went further into the garden to pray alone. His prayer was that if the Father were willing this *cup might pass from Him*; nevertheless He wanted the will of God to be done, not His own. From these clear NT words we understand that He asked the Father to reveal to Him if there was any other way by which mankind could be saved than by going to the Cross. **But there was no other way.** (2 Cor. 5:21.) **His agony in the Garden was anticipation of Calvary’s Cross where He was to be made sin in our place.**

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Only Luke records (22:44) that *“His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to ground”*. It is obvious that in the darkness of that night His sweat looked like blood, not that it absolutely was. **Our redemption was accomplished on the Cross**, during the three hours of darkness, after which he said, **“It is finished”**, *tetelestai*, literally meaning that *it* (our redemption) was **“paid in full”**. (John 19:30.) **The apostles of the Lord preached the Cross** – but never referred to the Garden of Gethsemane! Paul said, **“For the 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 – 1:17.)

Notice that the **cross** is mentioned 30 times in the NT, and (Jesus) **crucified** (on the cross) is mentioned 37 times. In addition the word **crucify** is mentioned 14 times. **But nowhere in the Bible is it even hinted that the atonement took place in the Garden. It could not have, “For the wages of sin is death.”** (Romans 6:23. See also Lev. 17:11; Ezek. 18:20.) **Jesus had to die to atone. He walked out of the Garden of Gethsemane, and after that was betrayed, arrested, tried and nailed on the Cross for our sins.**

“And having made peace through the **blood of His cross**, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself... Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances [our offences] that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nauling it to His cross**; And having spoiled principalities and powers [demonic forces], He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” (Col. 1:20; 2:14-15.) Our redemption comes only by grace of God through our faith in the **death, burial and resurrection of Jesus**. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9.) After Jesus’ victory over death, the enemy of our souls would not want anyone to come to His cross and be saved. *Counterfeit* religions do all they can to go around and dismiss the cross and claim salvation by their own works.

Mormonism teaches that Jesus’ death paid Adam’s transgression that brought death to all, and thus Jesus earned resurrection for all men, but that true salvation/exaltation comes only by obedience to the “*laws and ordinances*” of the LDS Church. (3<sup>rd</sup> Article of Faith.)

We must help our Mormon friends to understand what the Bible teaches about Jesus – **who He is** – and that **we can be saved by His redemption on the Cross of Calvary in our behalf**.

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**From our mailbox:** An LDS lady, born and raised a Mormon, who a few years ago got divorced from her abusive husband, wrote a long letter (too long to include here) asking help and direction. Her former husband got remarried and he has been able to even get their temple-sealing cancelled, which men do not often care to even try to get away from – most of them like the idea that they will have more than one wife after this life. She was further hurt by that *temple marriage annulment*, and she lost her faith in Mormonism. Her former

husband has convinced their children that Mormonism is true and their mother is totally lost. Her mind is very confused about doctrines and even though she thinks that some of Mormonism might still be true... as an example preexistence, that God was once a mortal man and that Jesus is our brother.

### **My response:**

Thank you for telling your story. I am familiar with many stories similar to yours (abusive husband, temple marriage, divorce etc.). Most of the ladies after divorce and starting to see that Mormonism is not biblical, have been glad to have their temple marriages annulled, so I ask you, why would you want to be eternally bound to a person you cannot even live a short life with here on earth? If there was such a thing as “eternal marriage” (there is not) you should be relieved not to be connected with that person in life after this life. ☺

The case of your children is hard. The best you can do for them is to live your life so that they can see that you are happier now. It seems to me that you have yet to come to the biblical understanding of God, Jesus and salvation. Am I correct? This can be confusing at first when coming out of Mormonism. It took me 2-3 years to get my mind totally free and out of confusion... There are many issues we need to get clear in our minds as we progress. I will point out a few of them here:

**1. We did not preexist.** We were not born to God and his wives in heaven - our existence started when we were born to our earthly parents. **Jesus alone came from heaven**. (See John 3:13, 31; 8:23-24.)

We were born first physical (**natural**) (1 Cor. 15:46-47) and after we **receive Jesus** (believe in Him), we **BECOME children of God** (John 1:12-13) and **are born again**, i.e. we become spiritual children of God through Jesus. (Romans 8:15.)

**2. Jesus alone came from heaven. He is God who became a man to save us from our sin.** (John 1:1,14; 14:6.) He said: “*If you do not believe that I AM He (God) you will die in your sins.*” (John 8:23-24.) “*Only God can forgive sins.*” (Mark 2:7.)

**3. The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are ONE GOD** (Trinity) (1 John 5:7. James 2:19 etc.)

**4. Salvation is not by our works, but it is the gift of God by grace alone.** (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom.10:9-10.)

**5. God is not our Heavenly Father until we are born again.** (John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:15; 9:8.)

**6. God is not a man, as Mormonism teaches. He is eternal God.** (Num. 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Ps. 90:2.)

**7. Men will not become gods.** (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8.)

**8. Gospel of God is a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in our behalf. That is it!!!** (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) **All other gospels are false.** (Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.)

By listing these I do not mean to indicate that you do not know at least some of these things already – I just want to re-emphasize these points, as they were difficult at first in my own “coming out of Mormonism”, and in erasing false teachings from my mind.

**Making sure you understand the Cross of Christ and what it means to all who become saved is what I like to focus on. There is no salvation without understanding what His Cross means to us.** As Paul said to the Corinthians, “*Preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us who are the saved, it is the power of God.*” (1 Cor. 1:18.) Studying the Bible, beginning with the Gospel of John and Paul’s letters to Galatians and Romans are the most eye-opening to us as former Mormons and to begin to understand what the Bible is all about. Studying the Bible, book by book, will bring you to know and understand who God is (John 17:3), and how much Jesus loves us. (1 John 4:10-11, 19.)

If you cannot find a biblical church in your area, perhaps you can connect to the Internet to Bible preaching/teaching churches as Calvary Chapels or some Baptist Churches. I know there are Calvary Chapels in many cities and towns across the country. There are also Christian radio stations that you can listen to as BBN, the Bible Broadcasting Network. However, be careful, there are also many false teachers around in radio and in TV-land. If you are not sure who is teaching correctly and who is not, check with us – we have been monitoring for many years what is good and what is not, especially in the Western states. We do not want you to be led astray after Mormonism. If you’d like to call me, my number is 801.943-5011. If I am not home, leave a message and I will call back. Email me any questions you might have and I will make sure to answer you.

You can go to our website and read many articles that could help you. We have recently added our teaching materials to our website. Go to [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com), and when there, click on *Mormonism, What you really need to know.*

We have our monthly newsletters on our website and many former Mormon Stories that you might be able to relate to and find similar to your experiences in many ways. God bless you.

**I do want to help you.** Love in Jesus of the Bible, Rauni

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**An LDS man wrote:** “could you please give me the reference for something i heard you talk about a month or two ago? you mentioned some LDS books and leaders saying mormons were responsible to keep hundreds of rules, as an example of the impossibility of living up to the “good mormon” standards. Could you please give me chapter and page reference from each of these books where it says you must know, obey, keep all these rules? (or attach a copy of pertinent text if u have that capability) The bible has far, far more than ten commandments, it is full of imperatives. Though they are not the basis for salvation, is not a christian enjoined to obey them, some in the spirit of the law, but many literally? Even though they also won't keep one saved, doesn't God expect us to love and follow His law as best we can? (see Jn 14:15,21 ; Jn 15:10 ; 1Jn 5:3)”

**My reply:**

I am not exactly sure which books you are referring to, but perhaps I may have mentioned Mormon General Authority, Bernard B. Brockbank’s book, “*Commandments and Promises of God*”? It lists 4,300 commandments of God that Mormons need to keep...Just knowing/remembering them all would be next to impossible and keeping them all would be absolutely impossible, would it not?

Mormon president and prophet Joseph Fielding Smith’s book, “*Way to Perfection*” and other books by him show that only complete obedience will open the doors to the celestial kingdom.

We have collected hundreds of LDS books, among them afore mentioned *Commandments and Promises of God* (Brockbank), *Way to Perfection* (Joseph Fielding Smith), *Miracle of Forgiveness* (Spencer W. Kimball).

*Doctrines of Salvation* (3 volumes) (by Joseph Fielding Smith), and many more that teach that forgiveness/salvation comes only by complete obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Mormon gospel. You may choose to ignore that, but this is what is taught by the LDS “prophets”.

I will give you as an example a quote from *Doctrines of Salvation* (vol. 2, pp. 41-42), “**Those who gain exaltation in the celestial kingdom are members of the Church of the Firstborn; in other words, those who keep all the commandments of the Lord. There will be many who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who shall never become members of the Church of the Firstborn. The higher ordinances in**

*the temple of God pertain to exaltation in the celestial kingdom...In order to receive this blessing, one must keep the full law, must abide by the law by which that kingdom is governed; for, 'He who is not able to abide the law of celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory'.*" (Emphasis in the original.)

D&C 82:7 also makes "salvation" in Mormonism impossible, for it says that even *if your sins are forgiven, but you sin again, your former sins will return*...Mission impossible, wouldn't you say? Biblical gospel teaches that salvation in God's kingdom comes by the **grace of God, which is the gift, not to be earned, but to be received by faith in Jesus' death on the Cross in our behalf.** (See Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10.) There is only one way to God, and that Way is Jesus. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) There is only one true gospel and that **Gospel of God is a message that Jesus died, was buried and rose again on the third day** (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 1:8-9). There are no "Laws and ordinances" in the Gospel of Christ to be obeyed in order to gain salvation - as in the LDS "gospel". (3<sup>rd</sup> Article of Faith). The law was fulfilled in Christ – read **Gal. 2:16-21; 3:10-13**. There is a sad ending to those who follow Mormonism. A Mormon must be perfect in obedience, but no one is nor can be. **Christianity relies on Christ's perfection in our behalf.** (Romans 10:1-4.) Our own righteousness is "*as filthy rags*" (Isa. 64:6) and will not bring us to salvation. **Salvation comes simply by faith in the finished work of salvation by our Lord Jesus, who is not our spirit brother, but God Almighty** (Rev. 1:8) **who became a man to die in our place. He said that if we do not believe that He is the I AM, we will die in our sins.** (John 8:24.) **Only God can forgive sins.** (Mark 2:7.) (Note: We did not preexist - Jesus alone came from heaven – we did not! John 8:23; 3:31.) **If we repent, come to Him and trust in Him, all our sins – past, present and future sins, were paid in full on the Cross of Calvary.** The Law was fulfilled in Christ.

Thank you for referring to John 14:15, 21; 15:10 and 1 John 5:3. **This is what I am saying too – we obey the Lord because we love Him who has saved us.** But we do not insult Him by trying to "earn" our way to God by our "good works". **He did it all. "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 – see also Romans 4:2-5.) **"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by law, then Christ is dead in vain...For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse... But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made curse for us..."** (Gal. 2:21; 3:10-13.)

If you have more questions, feel free to write again. Sincerely, Rauni Higley

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It was just a little over a month ago when LDS General Authority and historian, Marlin Jensen, admitted in his talk, and during Q/A after it, at Utah State University (in Logan), that they (the Church) have "*largely glossed over some of the more controversial aspects of its history, such as polygamy practiced by Joseph Smith and Brigham Young...*" He also admitted that "*not since the 1837 failure of the Church bank in Kirtland, Ohio, have so many left the Church. Maybe since Kirtland, we've never had a period of - I'll call it apostasy, like we're having now...The Church is concerned about misinformation and distorted information, but we are doing better and trying harder to get our story told in an accurate way*", Jensen told to his listeners.

"*Sociologists estimate that there are as few as 5 million active members worldwide in the LDS Church (out of 14 million baptized members)*", this same article concluded. Jensen admitted that "*there is a discrepancy between a church history that has been selectively rendered through the Church Education system and Sunday School manuals and a less-flattering version universally accessible on the Internet.*"

January 31, 2012, Salt Lake Tribune (Front page, continuing on A6) had a follow-up article about Jensen's talk in Logan, titled, "*LDS Church is ready to confront history questions*", stating among other things that "*Joseph Smith's multiple wives included wives as young as 14-years old(s)*", and that it has been shocking to many young LDS students.

Joseph Smith's marriages to under-age girls is seen by the public as no different than FLDS leader Warren Jeffs' recent court case that gave him a life sentence in Federal Prison for marrying under-age girls, just as Joseph Smith had done.

Tribune reported (on page A6), under a heading, "*Why some Mormons leave*", that an "*online survey last fall, researchers at the Open Stories Foundation found that 81 percent cited loss of faith in Mormon founder Joseph Smith...Another 84 percent said they studied LDS history and lost their faith. About 79 percent lost faith in Mormonism founding scripture, the Book of Mormon.*" They also "*found that two historical issues that most*

*affected negatively their faith were **the Book of Abraham** – a Mormon text that Smith said was based on Egyptian papyri he obtained – **and polygamy...**”*

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Mormonism is indeed in crisis. This increasing awareness of the deceptiveness of Mormonism has opened the doors wide to reach out to them with biblical counsel and love of God that they so desperately need. We all, as believers in Christ have now a greater opportunity to reach out to your LDS friends, acquaintances and relatives and introduce them to the biblical Jesus Christ that will give them hope of salvation that is free in Jesus who is **God with us**. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 14:6.) Offering a home Bible study fellowship would be a great way to establish relationships that they may loose if and when they separate themselves from Mormonism. Our ministry has been busy in the past but the last 4-5 weeks have been exceptionally busy, exciting, and spiritually rewarding. We have had several active Mormons contact us as they have started to question their church’s doctrines. After many hours and days of comparing biblical doctrines to teachings of the Mormon Church, many of them have already come to the **cross of Jesus** for salvation. For some of them there is a price to pay. Their family relations are broken, at least for now. We are praying with them that their family members will also open their hearts to God’s truth so that sooner rather than later there will be unity in the Lord for all of them. We are also working with several LDS persons who still are a ways away from making their decisions. We pray that the Lord will increase their determination to learn the truth as they seek Him through His Word, the Bible. Truth will then set them free.

We are also in contact with a devastated out-of-state LDS couple, and with some of their family members who have also discovered the deceptive teachings and doctrines of Mormonism. We just last week sent them books, Bible-study CD’s, DVDs, etc. to help them learn the Bible faster and gain hope and encouragement to replace sadness and devastation that they are going through now.

We thank the Lord for calling us to this ministry and giving us friends like you are, who pray, encourage and support us in this spiritual war over souls. Times are hard financially for everyone, but we trust that the Lord will provide. We thank the Lord for allowing us to do this work for His glory and salvation of many. We are seeing results, and we thank you for being there with us, knowing that it is the Lord who has encouraged you to help us.

Please pray for Claudia and Debbie, both struggling with cancer, and health problems that are troubling several of our friends as Max, Merridy, Heber, Dale, Jamie and Dick. Please pray for our friend Phil, who needs the Lord’s comforting direction now. God is good and when we ask according to His will, He has promised to hear and answer our prayers. (1 John 5:14-15.)

God bless all of you.

In Christ,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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Thought for this month:

***True followers of True Jesus cannot be found in a false religion.***

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