



**\*He Is Savior, Acts 4:1**

October 1, 2013

## **H.I.S. Ministries October Newsletter, covering September 2013**

***“Our time is running out. We will not be witnessing in heaven. This is our earthly duty and privilege now. None of us knows how many hours, days, months or years we have left. We must seize the golden opportunities that God gives us daily to witness.”***

***“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.) The Word of God is given to us so that **we can know truth**. We must study it thoroughly so that we will not **end up ashamed** (2 Tim. 2:15) as both, Dennis and I did, when we learned that we had been deceived and that we had followed false prophets and teachers into believing in “*another Jesus*”, “*another gospel*” under influence of “*another (demonic spirit)*”. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15). We had believed Joseph Smith’s claims against the Bible (that it is not correctly translated and has books missing), therefore we had not studied it carefully, and thus **we did not know**.

**No one is born a Christian**, for that reason we ***MUST be born again*** (John 3:3, 7). **We are NOT God’s children** (Rom. 9:8) but Adam’s posterity **UNTIL** we receive the true Jesus and are born again. (John 1:12-13; 3:3, 7.) Some of us have come to that point through a very difficult road, and thus we can identify with Paul who said, “***And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man: but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief...This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.***” (1 Tim. 1:12-13, 15.) **We too had blasphemed the true God by worshipping false gods of Mormonism, including “another gospel” and “another Jesus” and convincing others to do the same... We are ashamed of all that, but we also did it ignorantly, in unbelief of God’s Truth.** To be able to be an effective witness, we need to be able to prove by the Word of God, *what is acceptable to the Lord*. (Eph. 5:10.) Now that we know, we must warn

others just as Paul warned and wrote to Timothy, saying that in “*latter times*” many will “*give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils*”, and he urged Timothy to “...take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine...” (1 Tim. 4:1,16.) When we were believing Mormons, our *testimonies* of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon, and other LDS scriptures and of *temple-work for the dead* etc. had come to us “*through spirit-confirmation*”, i.e. *through our feelings* that we were told revealed truth. Who are these “spirits” that instill these feelings? They are not God’s Holy Spirit, since the doctrines these spirits give “testimonies of” are against the Bible – they are demonic spirits! Just like Mormons, Occult and New Age believers also speak of *spirits that confirm their beliefs* and many of them say that in time they even receive their own “*spirit guides*”. LDS people often relate stories about visions of the dead they saw while doing their temple-work, or of their dead family members who visit them from the spirit world, and instruct them. Isn’t this the very same as New Age- “*spirit guides*”? The spirits of those who died as unbelievers of God’s Truth are in torment. (Luke 16:23.)The Bible teaches that “the dead” will not come back to visit the living. Spirits who do are deceiving spirits, “*familiar spirits*” that we are warned about over and over in the Bible. These deceptive experiences, more often than not, can seem quite innocent to those who have not studied the Bible, but God’s warnings that were given to Israel, were also *given for our learning*. (Rom. 15:4). Deut. 18:9-12 instructs: “*When thou art come into the land which the LORD THY God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shalt not be found among you... that useth divination, or [is] an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*” The Old Testament gives contrast between false prophets and the prophet of God who communicates his message to the people. He identifies the false prophets and false teachers by what they do: they practice divination, they are observers of times, enchanters, witches, charmers, consulters with familiar spirits, wizards and necromancers. All of these are an abomination to the Lord. (Mediums are necromancers – they communicate with the dead.) Mediums, at times, have seemingly been able to bring forth *spirits familiar* to those seeking communication with the dead. When this supposed connection with the dead is accomplished, it would have been done by the power of Satan. Enchantments, familiar spirits and wizards, mediums - all pertain to an outburst of demon-energized occultism, forbidden by God. This was forbidden to the Israelites (Lev. 20:27), and it is forbidden to us as followers of Jesus Christ of the Bible, who is our LORD God. However, contacting the dead is an approved practice among Mormons. The President of the Mormon Church is said to be “the one holding the keys of the oracles of God, as a medium through which the living can hear from the dead...[this] spiritual philosophy was introduced to the modern world by Joseph Smith...the most holy things pertaining to the salvation of the dead, and all the most holy conversations... with God, angels and spirits, shall be had only in the sanctuary of His holy Temple on earth...[that are built] for the express purpose that the living might hear from the dead...” (See: Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.) God has warned us about necromancy (dealing with the dead), divinations, witchcraft, horoscopes, sorceries, enchantments and heresies of all kinds. [Here is a partial list of God’s warnings about this: Lev. 19:31; 20:6, 27; 1 Sam. 28:3, 7-9; 2 Kings 21:6; 23:24; 1 Chron. 10:13; 2 Chron. 33:6; Isa. 8:19; 19:3; 29:4; Ex. 7:11; Gal. 5:20.]

Even before the middle of September, stores around Utah already had **Halloween** decorations for sale, including all kinds of scary displays of skulls and bones, demons and ghosts. It seems that dark powers are taking over peoples' activities in preparation of this dark holiday, and evil in all imaginable forms is boldly displayed. **No wonder, for Halloween is known as the Devil's holiday.** We must warn and teach our children the facts about this celebration and time, and protect them from its influence. Utah, of all 50 states, is leading state with its focus on scary images and the dead! This must be because Utah is "**the Mormon State**" and the Mormon Church and its "*sacred*" (secret) temple rituals are focused on the dead. Their most holy places are their temples, and **they are specifically built for the express purpose "where the people may seek unto their God, for the living to hear from the dead"**, as apostle Parley P. Pratt preached. (Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:45.) The Bible calls that *necromancy* and is part of the occult practices that **must not have any part in the lives of God' people.**

**Halloween** originated as *the Druids' day of the dead* when Celtic priests made their appearances as wizard or magicians. To some adult participants around the country, this holiday has become a masquerade, a party similar to Marti Gras. **Believers in the Lord Jesus, who is God of the Living, should have nothing to with the celebration of Halloween. It is pagan and its emphasis is the glorification of Satan, demons and death – far cry from what true believers should celebrate.**

We have written in more detail about **Halloween** in our **November 2011 Newsletter.**  
([www.hismin.com/newsletters/Nov11.pdf](http://www.hismin.com/newsletters/Nov11.pdf))

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**From our mailbox:** An LDS man wrote: **1.** "... when you read the Book of Mormon it testifies of Christ. It makes me want to be a better person, father, husband and doctor. Could that book come from anywhere but divinity? Why would the devil want me and my family to feel the spirit of Christ every night for half an hour? **2.** The word of wisdom as a stand alone church would be something I would take my kids to every Sunday. **3.** I love the law of chastity. Where can I find these books and virtues outside of the restored gospel ? I looked in every state we lived in.

**My reply:** Thank you for asking. **1.** There are many parts in the Book of Mormon that are copied directly from the KJV of the Bible (even 17 full chapters from Isaiah alone), and **the parts taken from the Bible do speak of Christ.** But we do not need the Book of Mormon for that. We could read that from the Bible. **The question that you need to determine is: Does today's Mormon doctrine speak and testify of the same Christ that the Book of Mormon does, especially in Alma?** The BoM nor the Bible speaks of Jesus as a created being, a brother of all mankind and angels, but instead of **Jesus who created all things, including angels, and thus He could not be a brother of mankind or Lucifer.** (See John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:16.) **The Book of Mormon speaks of God who is Spirit, and says that there is only one God, anywhere.** (Example: Alma 18:24-32; 11:26-40.) This was taught in other LDS Scriptures even years after the BoM. Example: D&C of 1835 taught that **God the Father is Spirit** and that **only the Son has a body of flesh and bones, "or is fashioned like unto man, or being in the form and likeness of man"** (p.53). The Bible teaches that also. **"God is Spirit,"** (John 4:24) and **" Spirit does not have flesh and bones".** (Luke 24:39.) It was 14 years AFTER Joseph Smith had started his church that he led his followers after different gods (see Deut. 13:1-5) than he had taught in the BoM (1830) and in his two previous versions of the D&C. (1833 Book of Commandments and 1835 D&C.) But in April of 1844, he declared: **"God himself is as we are now, and is an exalted man...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We**

*have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... same as all Gods have one before you...*" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346.) Note that he included himself among those who "have **imagined that God was God from all eternity**". As he said this, he "refuted" his own teachings in the BoM (Alma 18:24-32; Moroni 8:18) **and in the D&C of 1835** .

Actually this teaching from **1835 D&C** was carried on in the D&C through several printings, even though in 1876 when they had added section 130, verse 22, it being contradictive to previous teachings. It was not until 1921 when " **Section I, Doctrine of the Church of Latter Day Saints**", including teaching that **God the Father is Spirit**, was removed from D&C. (All these are verified from earlier LDS scriptures.)

Today's Mormon Doctrine affirms that the Mormon Church believes in a plurality of Gods, going against the BoM. Speaking of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Mormons Doctrine says "...it is evident from this standpoint alone that a plurality of Gods exists. To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, **these are the only Gods we worship**. **But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages**, drawn from worlds without number, **who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods**." (MD pp. 576-577 (emphasis added.) Mormonism is indeed a polytheistic doctrine –i.e. belief in existence of many gods, regardless of how many of them they worship.

You ask, "Could that book (BoM) come from anywhere but divinity?" My answer is, "Yes, it could." Joseph Smith copied from the Bible and used even his own time period's preachers' messages in it, as was discovered by B.H. Roberts, an LDS GA and historian. Joseph Smith used (among many other books available to him) Rev. Ethan Smith's religious novel, "View of the Hebrews" when creating his Book of Mormon. (I'd recommend B.H. Roberts' book, "Studies of the Book of Mormon" - it may be out of print, but amazon.com has had it available even recently.)

2. Some parts of his Word of Wisdom sound "almost OK", but not really, if read with reasoning. Today's LDS Church has just picked a few parts of it to obey. Why? D&C 89 says that home-made wine is not forbidden (vs. 6, 16), neither is *barley* (for "**mild drinks**", i.e. *beer*, v. 17) but "**hot drinks**" are forbidden (which was later interpreted to mean coffee and tea). (What about cold coffee or tea?) It also lists **corn, oat, rye and barley** as useful for animals (v. 17), and **meat to be used only "sparingly"**, only in "**times of winter, or of cold, or famine**." However, use of steaks and meats in general is huge among LDS families. When I arrived in Utah I was very surprised to see almost daily BBQs especially during the hot summer-months, and all kinds of meat eaten year round. In my country (Finland) meat is indeed used "sparingly", even throughout cold winter months -and generally only fish is eaten for protein during the summer months. **I discovered that my Finnish diet was a lot healthier than suggestions found in D&C 89.** ☺

3. You mentioned *teaching of chastity*, as if the Mormon Church is the only church teaching morality!!! However, teachings of this church originated with your founder, Joseph Smith. **Reading what Joseph Smith did** speaks volumes against all decency and chastity. **Joseph Smith was an adulterer and a pervert. He introduced polygamy as a revelation from his God**, and said that if you know about this teaching, but do not practice it, "then are ye damned". (D&C 132: 3-4.) He married under-age girls, two 14-years olds, and several other young teenagers, and he even **married eleven women who had living husbands!** (All this is documented.) This is anything but chastity and morality! D&C, Section 132 is part of your *restored gospel*. Anyone reading it can see that it teaches against the Bible and chastity. You asked "where I can find these books and virtues outside of the restored gospel?" I have no idea where you have looked, but all Christian churches teach chastity and high morality, based on the Bible. The Bible is a God-given instruction manual in all doctrine and living. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2:15.)

I hope and pray that you will check these things out and verify what I have said and come out from among them.

I found out by studying the Bible that I had been very wrong - I had unknowingly, in ignorance, followed false gods of Joseph Smith. I had broken the First Commandment of God (Ex. 20:2) by believing in other gods of Joseph Smith. (Deut. 13:1-5.) I repented and committed myself to the God of the Bible and

promised to serve Him and declare Him and His Truth to all who ask or care to know. (1 Peter 3:15-17.) **You asked, and now you know.** I would like it very much if you'd write again. Sincerely, Rauni P.S. I have answered another LDS person about the Book of Mormon in our February 2013 newsletter. Please check that out: [www.hismin.com/newsletter/Feb13.pdf](http://www.hismin.com/newsletter/Feb13.pdf) (pages 3-4).

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**Question from an anonymous:** *Which one is true – a Christian Church or the Mormon Church? I have been checking with some Christian preachers and Bible teachers what they have to say about who goes to heaven and who goes to hell and how to get to heaven. I have found that they say that God chose whom he was going save, and whom he was not going to save, even before they were born. Does that mean that I have no choice in that matter? Then on the other hand Mormonism teaches that **all will eventually be saved to one of the three heavens, and that there is no eternal hell.** But they also say that there is this celestial kingdom, the highest heaven, but to get there requires a lot of work and sitting in meetings throughout your life – **till the end.** It seems boring and **I am not sure that I would be able to do all that is required** – all priesthood, Sunday school, and sacrament meetings, paying tithing and obeying the leaders and then sitting in a temple during any other free times. I am really wondering which one would be better suited for me, the Mormon Church or a Christian church? If I don't care about going to the celestial kingdom, then Mormonism would be OK. A Christian church seems to offer an easier way to get to God's heaven, but I am worried that I might be one of those whom God had **not chosen to be saved** and that I will be sent to hell without any chance of even a lower heaven that Mormonism offers. What do you think?*

**My reply:** You must have been speaking with some of those who believe in *sovereign election* of God, but have not understood what "election" really means. I think that with whom you have talked have misinterpreted a word "election", which is based on God's *foreknowledge* of what a man will do. **God knows the end from the beginning.** (Rom. 4:17; Isa. 46:10.) God in His omniscience knew *before the foundations of the earth* who would accept Him and who would reject Him. Even though God knows who will choose to believe and who will not, a man has the freedom of choice to accept or reject Christ and God will allow them to do what they will to do. However, every person is responsible of their choices. If we did not have this freedom to choose, there would be no need for the preaching the Gospel, there would be no point in evangelizing, and all of the commandments regarding preaching the gospel to others (Matt. 28:19-20; Romans 10:17) would be in vain. But we do have a free choice to believe or not to believe the Word of God, the Bible, and accept or not to accept Christ's perfect blood sacrifice in our behalf, as payment for our sins, which is the Gospel declared in the New Testament. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) There are no works involved, just belief from our whole heart. (John 6:29; Romans 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9.) As you can see from these verses and from the entire Word of God, what Mormonism offers is not true at all. It is all false! Mormonism offers universal salvation to all and a special exaltation to the selected few who will then become gods in their "celestial kingdom". Both views/possibilities you presented are false. Only salvation taught in the New Testament represents God's true salvation, and it is available to all who repent, receive Jesus and are born again. (John 1:12-13; 3: 3, 7.) – If I can help you further, please write again. Rauni

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We reported in our May newsletter (p.3) an amazing story of a young Mormon lady, **Carmen**, ([www.hismin.com/newsletters/May13.pdf](http://www.hismin.com/newsletters/May13.pdf)) who for the very first time came to Calvary Chapel in April 7<sup>th</sup>, and "**just happened**" to sit next to us. As we reported in May, she came to know the true Lord Jesus and was baptized as a Christian on that very same day. We reported more about Carmen in our June 2013 newsletter (page 6) ([www.hismin.com/newsletter/June13.pdf](http://www.hismin.com/newsletter/June13.pdf)). Some of you have asked, *how is*

*Carmen doing now?* We have more great news about her. Continuing from our June letter where we reported that her Christian boyfriend, Juan, from many years ago, came from LA to visit Carmen **after hearing that Carmen has left Mormonism and is a born-again Christian**. We had a nice visit with Juan and Carmen...Their romance blossomed and about a month ago Carmen moved back to LA. She called just a few days ago to let us know that **they are getting married on 9/28/13**. God is so good. Her story is a testimony of how the Lord directs those **whom He knows will eventually come to Him**, regardless of our mistakes. Carmen knows now that she made a huge mistake when she joined the Mormon Church, but as Romans 8:28 says, **God, who knows our hearts, "will make all things work together for good"**. During the ten years that she was an active LDS, even working in Draper temple during the last year, she learned a lot about Mormonism, and came to see that it could not be from the true God of the Bible. After she became a Christian, she has been working on translating our booklet, **"The Truth About Mormonism"** into Spanish, and she is already sharing the truth with other Spanish speaking people in LA. We hope to get it published in Spanish soon. We thank the Lord for this miracle that He showed us through Carmen's conversion and the Lord's plan and provision for her and Juan. Please pray for them, for together they want to serve the Lord and work with Mormons and bring them to His care and eternal life.

Many of you have also asked about **Emily**, a Harvard student whose boyfriend is a Mormon, and how is this story developing. We do not have good news yet. He seems to be telling Emily a different story than what he said to me when he called about 3 weeks ago. We are praying for them both, and asking you to pray with us that he will come to know the Truth. We have sent Emily a lot of information, including "Gospel Principles" (an LDS doctrinal teaching manual), so that she could verify what her boyfriend is supposed to believe as a Mormon and what the Mormon Church is teaching to its members, even though they deny many of these teachings to potential converts, thus practicing "lying for the Lord" - until they too become members. his has been a real spiritual war for Emily and for us too now for many months.

We have great news about **Eddy and Jacqui** in Washington. (You may recall that Eddy was rescued from Mormonism just a few days before he was to be baptized into the Mormon Church. His story is in our May Newsletter ([www.hismin.com/Newsletters/May13.pdf](http://www.hismin.com/Newsletters/May13.pdf)). He was able to reason with his Mormon girlfriend, Jacqui, who was miraculously saved about 2 months ago. They have together witnessed to her parents and younger brothers, yet without success, and they are asking that we, and all our prayer partners would pray for Jacqui's family, and also Eddy's good LDS friend, Scott, who's attending BYU. They called just a few days ago to let us know how much they love the Lord – and are growing in His Word. They are currently together studying the Gospel of John, using a 36-hour MP3 we had sent to Eddy earlier.

We are also working with several very stubborn LDS people. This is an intense spiritual war, and we ask the Lord to give us His strength and His words to use so that they will be able to see. Now they are so blinded. (2 Cor. 4:3-4.)

Our Sunday night **Understanding Mormonism** class is going well, as far as we can determine. We started it on 9/8/13, and will continue 10 weeks. We ask you to include all our class members in your prayers so that they will take this learning to heart and be eager to lead their Mormon friends, relatives and neighbors to the Lord Jesus of the Bible.



We want to thank you all who support and pray for this ministry, and also pray for us so that we will have strength to continue in this battle over souls. We love the Lord Jesus. He is so good to us, and we know that He stands with us as we continually lift up these lost people to Him.

Please continue to pray for Dale and Sharon. They have a heavy load. Dale is paralyzed from the neck down, as you may recall, from his motorcycle accident some years ago. His wife Sharon and an aid are his sole caretakers. Debby still needs prayer for her complete healing from cancer. There are many others with various health problems, as Max and Merridy, Heber, Dick and Patty. We are just asking that you, with us, lift them up to the Lord for their healing and comfort, and whatever their needs might be.

Please pray for Bruce, who is a professional wildlife photographer, as he is currently traveling in British Columbia finding and taking more photos of rarely seen "spirit-bears" and other wildlife. Bruce's book presenting some of his fantastic pictures, a book that also tells his own personal cancer-survivor story, will be published very soon. His book will glorify our Creator and Lord who saved Bruce some years ago from Mormonism, and also healed his body from a very bad cancer.

Thank you for standing with us in this eternally important work of sharing the Gospel and Jesus, who is the Truth. (John 14:6.)

God bless you,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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Our past newsletters are available on our website. [www.hismin.com/newsletters.html](http://www.hismin.com/newsletters.html)

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**Something to think about:**

*"Prayer is not appointed for the furnishing of God with the knowledge of what we need, but it is designed as a confession to Him of our sense of the need. In this, as in everything, God's thoughts are not as ours. God requires that His gifts should be sought for. He designs to be honored by our asking, just as He is to be thanked by us after He has bestowed His blessing."*

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