



***He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

February 1, 2014

H.I.S. Ministries February 2014 Newsletter, covering January 2014

We want to bring you greetings from **Asheville, North Carolina**. This was not our first visit to Asheville, but it was our first one **to the Cove, Billy Graham's Evangelical Training Center**. We had been invited to come there and attend a Pastors Conference that was held from 1/16 through 1/18/14. We were not told beforehand what we were expected to do or say there, but our good guess was that we must have been invited to share some of our knowledge on Mormonism, having been involved in this ministry to Mormons for 30 years. This conference was not connected with Billy Graham's Ministry, even though his grandson, Will Graham, attended the meetings and spoke several times. He is a great man of God.

The Cove is a beautiful and inspiring place to hold conferences like this. We stayed at **the Pilgrim's Inn**, designed by Ruth Graham some 20 years ago. It is a beautiful, home-like and peaceful place, close to **the Cove** – all part of 1200 acre **"Smokey Mountain Wilderness Park"** that belongs to **Billy Graham Ministry**. These meetings were arranged by **International Evangelism Ministry**, and we were honored and humbled to take part in this work for the Lord to bring the lost to Him **"while it is still called Today"**. (Hebrews 3.)

This was just the first step in this plan - all we can say now is that this is a part of a much bigger plan than we could have even imagined. We are amazed that we were asked to be involved in this project that will, when completed, go world-wide and have an effect on millions of people around the globe.

Please pray for this, and that we will be fit for this challenge.

The Mormon Church has, during the last 15 years or so, put out a lot of effort to make the world see it as a **legitimate part of Christianity** by inviting noted Christian leaders to come and speak at BYU. In 2004 Ravi Zacharias was given a platform even on their **"holy ground"**, **the Mormon Tabernacle**, to deliver his message from Mormon's- own pulpit. Several Christian evangelicals have during the last few years accepted invitations to speak at BYU, and the Mormon Church has been credited by their presence. **Good PR for the LDS Church!**

We got home late Saturday evening, 1/18, and we were informed about the meetings that **Ravi Zacharias** had had at **BYU** on Friday (17th), and Saturday night (18th) at **the Mormon Tabernacle**. These meetings were again arranged by **Greg Johnson**, as in November of 2004, meetings that ended up in a great disappointment then, at least to those who had hoped that Ravi Zacharias would give a *life-changing gospel message* that could convert Mormons to the **true Jesus Christ**. It was also hoped by *Christian Ministries to Mormons* that he would give an honest comparison of Mormonism and Christianity. That did not happen, although he spoke well - to a Christian audience. **Ravi Zacharias' sermon from the Mormon Tabernacle 1/18/14** was quite similar to his speech in 2004. Ravi is perhaps more of a philosopher than an evangelist. He spoke well about morality, sacredness of life, ills of society, etc. but his speech was not "*evangelistic*" in the sense that he did not present the gospel that saves, even though he emphasized the transforming role of the **Word of God** and **supremacy of Christ**. That did not alarm Mormons the least for this is what Mormonism *seems* to teach also, though "**the Word of God**" to them is "**Four Standard Works of the LDS Church**", **not the Bible alone**, but **the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price**. "*Christ*" they believe in is **not God who became a man but a created being, a brother of mankind and angels, who "became a god"**, as Mormons **also hope to become**. From what Ravi said, one could not have seen that there are fundamental differences between Mormonism and Christianity, especially when LDS apostle Jeffrey Holland stressed that "what unites Mormons and Christians is our love for the Bible". Really!?! [Mormons have been taught the Bible is "*full of errors*", and if and when they read it, **they read it from their *Quad*** that has "*clarifying and interpreting summaries*" to all chapters in their KJV of the Bible, and also references to other Mormons scriptures, including "*Joseph Smith's translation of the Bible*". Reading KJV from their *Quad* gives them only a small chance of understanding the Word of God as it was given.]

Many would like to believe that working together with Mormon leaders and uniting with them in social issues and morality that we all can agree with, is a good thing. However, uniting with the Mormon Church even in the social issues, gives Mormonism *credibility* as a "*Christian religion*", and makes this "*united front*" look like our *differences are not that wide*. And when a *Christian Evangelist* comes to speak in Salt Lake City, Christians of course hope that he would speak clearly, making the **fundamentals of the Gospel** understood, so that Mormons could come to a **saving knowledge of the truth of the biblical Jesus**. **They cannot come to knowledge of the truth unless they hear the Truth**. Evangelicals who are giving presumed gospel messages at BYU or any LDS edifice, will not be understood by Mormons **unless the terms are defined** and that they take note that words like "*Jesus*", "*God*", "*gospel*", "*salvation*", **all have a different meaning to Mormons**. Without defining the words and terms, they will be misunderstood and assumed to be in agreement when there was no agreement. Those who came to hear Ravi Zacharias in this sacred **Mormon Tabernacle** were mostly Christians. Mormons in the audience must have expected Ravi's message to be in harmony with Mormon beliefs, since **there we Mormon leaders present and their own apostle, Jeffrey Holland introduced Ravi Zacharias, saying that Mormons and Christians uniting in common good is far-reaching and powerful, and that has brought them to understand each other better**. Even **the Mormon Church's own newspaper, the *Deseret News***, titled this tabernacle gathering, "Evangelical leaders, Mormons unite in message of faith." "*Unite in message of faith!*?" Really!?!]

Ravi did not disappoint the Mormon leaders. It can be assumed that they had made sure that when Ravi, again, accepted **an invitation from the Mormons Church** to come and speak from their edifice, he would present a *“united front”* that could not be shaken!

We are sure that even rank and file Mormons interpreted this event to mean that *Christians have come around and are approving and uniting with them in faith.*

We, as a Christian ministry to Mormons, see this as harmful to all ministries that are working very hard to bring understanding of **the cross of Jesus** to Mormons. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) Why would they even consider becoming a Christian, when celebrated Christian leaders come to their own turf and bring messages that *sound similar* to their own messages? They naturally assume that when a man like Ravi, who is at the pinnacle of Christian circles, brings them a Christian message that sounds very similar theirs, it must mean that Mormons are Christians too.

We are sure that the Mormon Church would never, ever invite or allow an evangelical, who is known to preach the truth while also exposing false gospels and eternal dangers that they present, to come and speak to their people. When Ravi Zacharias spoke in the Tabernacle ten years ago, there might have been a little fear in the hearts of Mormon leaders about what he might say, but all went as they had planned. Ravi spoke veiled enough that Mormons could not have even begin to doubt their own “gospel”. Instead of causing doubts about LDS gospel, he brought credibility to the Mormon Church and with a smiling face gave his nod of approval to Mormonism.

Now, ten years later, they were confident that there could be no harm presented to their people by Ravi. They may have even recalled Ravi’s loyalty to his agreements (?) with them in 2004, for even when he then, the next day, spoke from *neutral ground* (University of Utah), he did not lead people to question Mormonism. Even when he was asked a direct question: **“Mr. Zacharias, can you tell us what are the differences between Mormonism and Christianity?”** Ravi answered, **“I cannot, for I am a guest here!”**

The blindness of the Christian pastors, who, in the **Mormon Tabernacle, 1/18/14, shared the platform, considered a place of honor and respect, with a Mormon apostle Holland and other LDS leaders, saddened us greatly.** They indeed presented **a united front with Mormons,** but to us it was a show of apostasy from the true faith on the cross of Christ that is denied by the Mormon Church. **The Mormon Church,** instead of lifting up a **Cross** on the tops their most holy buildings, **they lift up an angel of light.** Paul wrote, **“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”** (1 Cor. 1:18.) **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”** (2 Cor. 4:3-4.)

The Mormon gospel is “another gospel”, brought to Joseph Smith by an angel, and that angel is displayed on top of every Mormon temple. **“Another gospel”** brings God’s curse to those who preach it and/or who follow it. (Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15.) **We must declare to them what the true Gospel is** (1 Cor. 15:1-4) **and what it is not. We must stand for our Lord, even if it means standing alone.**

The Berean Call, 1/29/14 reported about this event:

“Christian apologist and writer Ravi Zacharias addressed 3,500 evangelicals and Mormons at the LDS Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah, asking that people from the two faiths stand together to oppose "relativism" and "lost morality."

The two-day "**Freedom and Friendship**" event held [January 17-18, 2014] marked the second time that Zacharias had spoken at the Tabernacle. The apologist's first meeting occurred 10 years ago, when he became the first non-Mormon speaker in the Tabernacle in 105 years.

Zacharias focused on how Christians and Mormons should make sense of a culture that increasingly relies on a "pragmatic philosophy with no accountability," during his talk on Saturday.

Zacharias also put the onus on evangelicals and Mormons to first change themselves-through reading the Bible and asking God to "make you right with Him before seeking to change culture."

"Once we do that, the world will see the beauty that is Christ and want to follow him," he said, reported the Salt Lake City Tribune.

Zacharias' talk was presented by **Standing Together**, a coalition of evangelical churches who seek to "be a catalyst for uniting the Utah Christian community through relational efforts of prayer, worship, and strategic evangelism." Among its outreach efforts are organizing "LDS/evangelical scholarly dialogues" and providing "resources for interfaith dialogue." **The coalition also helped organize Zacharias' 2004 event.**

Standing Together President Rev. Gregory Johnson told audience members on Saturday that the conference was an opportunity for Mormons and Christians to gather and acknowledge their common interests.

"Tonight is another night for us to meet ... not as warring factions, but as friends," said Johnson. "We have significant theological differences. We don't undermine that, but **tonight is an opportunity to hear from a great Christian leader to hear about a topic we all care about - freedom of religion.**"

Church elder (an apostle) and former president of Brigham Young University **Jeffrey Holland** introduced Zacharias and **credited Mormons' and Christians' "shared love for the Lord Jesus Christ"** for bringing them together "**in true brotherhood and sisterhood tonight and always.**"

[<http://www.christianpost.com/news/ravi-zacharias-popular-christian-apologist-speaks-to-3500-at-mormon-temple-asks-faiths-to-oppose-lost-morality-together-112985/>]

[TBC: Mormonism has never changed its unbiblical "gospel." Consequently, there is no "true brotherhood and sisterhood" between Mormonism and true Bible believers. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"(2 Corinthians 6:14-15). "Shared love for the Lord Jesus Christ"? That would only be viable if the Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the biblical Jesus were one and the same. No, the former is the spiritual brother of Lucifer, i.e., Satan, according to Mormon doctrine. Zacharias, rather than looking to Mormons for "moral" help, needs to obey the Scriptures: II John 1:9-10: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed".] (Underline and emphasis added.)

We received a report from our friend, Preston Stewart, himself a former Mormon, who had invited his LDS friend to listen with him Ravi Zacharias' speeches. After hearing Ravi's speeches, Preston asked if his friend found anything that Ravi said offensive to him? His LDS friend said, "**Not at all. I thought that his message was fantastic.**" Preston also asked if the message challenged or brought into question anything that he believed as a Mormon, and again this LDS man said, "**Not at all. The message was very good, non-denominational, with a great moral message.**" [This was also our observation of Ravi Zacharias' message, thinking back how we would have perceived his message, if we were still Mormons.]

From our mailbox: This is part of an email conversation with an LDS man who wrote: "***I think it is hilarious that you think that Mormons are not Christians and that they are going to hell. You also say that all you have to do is to believe in Christ to be saved. If so, then Mormons are saved too. Mormons are just as much Christians as anyone else.***"

Reply: My question to you is: **Christ who?** Having been LDS, **I know that the LDS Church does not believe in the same Jesus Christ believed in Christianity.** Jesus of the Bible believed in by Christianity is God, *who created all things, including angels* (John 1:1-3, Col. 1:16) but "**Jesus**" of Mormonism is himself a created being, a brother of mankind and angels, *born and raised*, as you believe you were too, *on a planet near Kolob*. That "**Jesus**" is an imposter and cannot save anyone. Don't you remember that your prophet said that **the traditional Christ of Christianity is not the same one he and the Mormon Church believes?** A person's faith is only as good as object in which it is placed. If that object does not exist, it cannot save. Joseph Smith's gods and "*Jesus*" are imaginary. **The LDS people do not believe that Jesus Christ is God, only that he "became a god".** Jesus of the Bible said that **those who do not believe that He is I AM (God), will die in their sins, and thus not go to heaven.** (John 8:23-24.) **Only God can remove/forgive sins.** (Mark 2:7.)

He continued: "***You act like we are a bunch of liars and deceivers with a purpose of bringing as many people as possible to down with us. The fact is that Mormons are some of the most loving and caring people in the world. We aren't misinformed as you say we are. Our young people don't always know the answers to deep doctrinal questions, but they know more by the age 5 about the gospel than many children from other religions ever learn. We are about family and love. We believe in Christ. We live his teachings.***"

Reply: I have not said that Mormons in general are "*bunch of liars and deceivers*". What I have said, based on my own experiences as a former Mormon, is that they are deceived by their leaders, who are the deceivers. If, after learning the truth about this religion, but continuing in it for "*convenience sake*", and parroting their leaders' deceitful words and doctrine, then they too become liars. Most Mormons I know are indeed nice people and live good lives, humanly speaking. I have not spoken against Mormons as people, just against their religion that leads people, who continue in it, eventually to eternal hell. (Isa. 9:15b-16.) **The Bible says that Jesus, the true one, is the only way -there is no salvation in any other.** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.)

He continued: “*You have implied that Joseph Smith wrote the Book of Mormon. Anyone who thinks that must be raving mad! And you guys seem to think that any religion goes and that you be saved in your religion as long as it is not Mormonism.*”

Reply: I think there are many reasons to come to the conclusion that Joseph Smith wrote the Book of Mormon. **In Joseph Smith’s first edition** of the BoM (1830) he named himself as “**Author and proprietor**”. It was he who declared that **he was the “author”**. [Author is the one who writes a book. Translator is one who translates what some others have written.] We have a book (*Studies of the Book of Mormon*) written by **LDS GA and Historian, B.H. Roberts**, who wrote that Joseph Smith used existing materials available to him to write the BoM. Are you saying that B.H. Roberts is “raving mad” too?

In addition to this, the LDS Church has recently said that Joseph Smith did not actually “translate” the BoM, but received it as a “revelation”. Doesn’t that then mean that he wrote it if he did not translate it from the “gold plates” as previously taught? Joseph Smith had said that the plates were written by ancient inhabitants of this continent, but now the Church is changing it, and informing that he “received” the words from **a rock he had placed in his hat?** Which story do you believe?

As to us thinking that “*any religion goes*”, we do not think any such a thing. **True Christianity is not a religion at all, but a personal relationship with the One who alone can save.** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) **No religion or church saves.** **Authentic Christianity is comprised of core doctrines and beliefs,** such as “*sola scripture*” (i.e. the Bible alone is inerrant Word of God), “*sola fide*” (faith alone in Triune God) **in Christ’s completed work on the cross, which is the gospel declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4.** **If a person does not subscribe to these doctrines and beliefs, he cannot be considered to be genuine Christian.**

(To be continued...)

When we came back from North Carolina in the evening of 1/18/14, we had over 500 emails waiting to be answered. Given, that not all of them were questions requiring answers, but nevertheless going through them all was a job. I am almost got-up now, but we still have important email-conversations on-going about how to witness to some real stubborn Mormons who refuse to examine the facts. We are conversing with several individuals who are asking questions *how to get their spouses to consider the facts against Mormonism*. We will be meeting this week with one local LDS man to discuss this issue. Many of them, both men and women, are afraid that if they pursue their investigation of LDS history and claims, it will destroy their marriage and family. These are real sensitive issues that we have to take slowly, step by step. Please pray with us that we can find right words and give information that might open the hearts and minds to see **that truth matters**.

We want to thank you for supporting our Ministry with your prayers and some of you even with your finances. **We could not do this work without you**. When we get discouraged, which happens from time to time when we receive hate-letters, and when we have put much time, effort and prayers in sharing God’s Word and some still choose to accept the lie of Mormonism instead of truth, **your encouraging notes and prayers give us determination to go on, regardless**. We have learned to understand what Paul meant when he said that ***when he is weak, then he is strong***. **That is the time**

when the Lord lifts us and His power rests on us and takes us through. (2 Cor. 12:9-10.) We praise His name and thank you for His love through you also.

We all have been praying for Heber for years and years. He calls us quite frequently from a Federal Prison where he has been about 25 years. We have received some hopeful news from him about 2 weeks ago. He is a victim of Joseph Smith's doctrine that caused his father, "*the prophet*" of a polygamous group in Mexico, to lead his family *off the deep end*, so to speak, before he died in Utah State Prison, and Heber was left in charge of his father's family and group. Heber has been wrongfully charged and convicted, and we are praying with him, and asking you to pray too, that he will finally be able to have a new trial and be freed.

Please pray for Merridy and her complete healing from new surgery she had to go through. Please pray also for Max and Pat, Dick and Patti, Dale and Sharon, Debbie, Sean and Bruce. Their needs are known to our Lord, and we just want to lift their names up for Lord's blessings according to their needs. When we pray together, according to the will of God, **He has promised that He will hear and answer our prayers.** (1 John 5:14-15.)

We have been trying to help a few young Christian ladies to become witnesses to their new Mormon friends they have met in their colleges. Young Mormon-men often dress nice, they impress these young ladies with interest in spiritual discussions and they attract with their seeming familiarity of the Bible, which is not real knowledge of the Word, but only twisted doctrine they have practiced in sharing during their LDS missions. We have mentioned it before that **in our Christian families** we seem to have a problem... I will reprint what I wrote 2 months ago, with a hope that saying this again will bring fruit. In our December 2013 letter I wrote: **It is very troubling to ponder how the cults are able to train their young people so well, but Christian families and churches seem almost helpless in installing similar discipline in their young people.** Maybe the reason can be found in that we as Christians do not emphasize enough good grooming and dress standards that would lead our young people in college to seek company with others who also appreciate similar standards that will influence their behavior also. We do not see well-dressed and groomed people "sitting in the dirt", figuratively speaking. Somehow outward wholesomeness does affect behavior and often an even closer relationship with the Lord as well. Our emphasis as Christians is on grace and freedom, which is good, but often this freedom can affect our young people to become sloppy, not only outwardly but also inwardly. Just something to think about..." **Let us not allow cults to steal our young ladies who are away from home and seek wholesome companionship, and often find it with young, recently returned Mormon missionaries.**

We have about 2 weeks ago sent your tax-receipts for gifts you helped us with during 2013. If you have not received yours, please let us know, and we will send it again. Tax-relief is a good thing! ☺ Gifts to our Ministry are tax-deductible! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making it possible for us to continue giving and sending Bibles, DVDs, CDs and other materials **free of charge** to those desiring to know the truth, and to study and learn what Mormonism is and what the Bible has to say about what they had erroneously believed. Your faith in the Lord and His love for the lost shines through your willingness to help and prayers for our work. Thank you!! God bless you!

Do you know that the Bible is God's love letter to you and to us? **He first loved us. 1 John 4:19. With that in mind: Have a Happy Valentine's day.**

We are serving our Lord with joy,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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