



*He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

May 1, 2014

1st of May brings back memories of the celebration of spring in Finland. There it is called “Vapunpaiva” (May-Day). It is celebrated as a day of hope of the soon-coming summer and sunshine, and the taking away the gloominess of dark winter months. Where I had lived as a child was above the Arctic Circle, where sun was not seen at all for a couple of the winter months, but during the summer it was the opposite: the sun did not go down at all for about two months. Thus Vapunpaiva, May-Day, marking the beginning of summer, was something to rejoice in. ☺

It has been over 20 years since I was in Finland the last time, and 30 years for Dennis. We are planning on a 3-week trip to Finland this July. This is sort of a repeat of our trip there thirty years ago. So that you’ll see what I mean, perhaps I need to explain why we made a trip there 30 years ago. It was shortly after we came to know the truth about God, Jesus and salvation and had left the Mormon Church. We both felt very sad and guilt-ridden because we had had a part in influencing people in Finland into accepting *another Jesus and another gospel* for we both had served our LDS missions there. We felt impressed by the Spirit of God that we needed to go back there and **let people know that we were no longer followers of Joseph Smith’s religion, but that we had become evangelical Christians**, and that **truth is found in the Word of God, the Bible**. I went there for a month and Dennis came two weeks later. **Our plan was to go to each city where we both had served as Mormon missionaries and let the Mormons there know that we were sorry for misguiding them, and also that there is hope for them - as there was a new life for us too - in the Jesus of the Bible.** When I got to Helsinki, I felt God’s leading me to seek help from the Lutheran Church’s pastors and see what they might suggest. The next morning after arriving there, I picked up a large phone book and started to look for who I should call. Listings of the Lutheran Church’s numbers in the Helsinki covered tens of pages. Which number should I call? Since this was summer and a vacation time for many, I wondered if I would find many people to talk to at all. I picked a number at random and dialed... I introduced myself to a pastor who answered the phone and told him that I was a former Mormon but now was a Christian. After I related to him the reasons why I had come to Finland, he asked, **“How did you know to call me?”** I asked what did he mean by **“to know to call him”**? He told me that he had just little over a year prior helped a **Mormon couple out of Mormonism** and assisted them in writing their story, *“Paasin Irti Mormoneista”*, that was published in book form. **I was amazed – this had to be Lord’s direction!** He said, **“Stay right where you are. I am coming to get you and take you to our offices to meet others...”** He also said that he was going to, at that very moment, call this former Mormon couple, Pentti and Terttu Maljanen (Forsell), who lived in Kuopio, in Eastern Finland, and let

them know about me. **What happened after that was as if it all had been planned and arranged ahead – and I believe that it really was, even though we did not know it.** I met many pastors that day who said that they **“were not supposed to be in the office, for they were on vacation”**, but **“for some reason they felt that they needed to drop in”**. These pastors I met had a deep interest in what I was presenting. (I had brought lots of materials including movies, *“God Makers”* and *“Temple of the God Makers”* etc.) They contacted many others who, they said, needed to also hear what I had to say. They also called an office of a Christian magazine, and a reporter they talked to said that they will send someone to meet with me right away. This was a start of a **“whirlwind of meetings and presentations”**. When I met with the reporter from the Christian magazine, Askel-Lehti, he lamented that their Editor in Chief, Olli Valtonen, was in Hungary and that he was not due to come back for 2-3 weeks. Two days later this reporter called and said that their **Chief Editor had come back unexpectedly, and that he wanted to talk with me.** When I met him, he said that **he did not know why he had had a sudden urge to come back now, even though that meant that he had to miss many planned meetings there... “Could that have been from the Lord?”**, he asked. We met the next three days, several hours each day – he wanted to know all about Mormonism... After this long interview, I traveled to Kuopio to meet with Pentti and Terttu (former Mormons). They were excited and wanted to start a ministry to Mormons in Finland, similar to what we were at that time starting in Utah. They arranged meetings for me with various groups, including the *Finnish Secret Police* that had many questions about Mormonism and its possible political interests... Two weeks went fast, and after Dennis joined me we continued another two weeks together to meet with many pastors and interested groups... A month was spent and the last night there we looked at each other and **felt sadness that we had not accomplished what we came to do, i.e. to go to each city where we had served as Mormon missionaries, and let them know that Mormonism was a false gospel, the Book of Mormon was not true, and that Joseph Smith was not a prophet of God... We felt that we had failed!** But soon after we arrived back home, we received a call from our Finnish friend in Salt Lake City, also a former Mormon, who said that she had learned through some other friends in Utah that **the Mormon Church had sent a Finnish Mormon -whom we knew quite well - from Mesa, Arizona, to Finland just a week before I arrived there. She had been sent to visit every city where we had served our LDS missions to warn them not to speak to us, not to let us in “for we were coming to tell lies about the Mormon Church”...How did they know that we were going to Finland and what our plans were?** Later we learned that our phones have been bugged and that is how they knew... **Then we understood!! If we had followed our plans, it would not have worked - they would not have received us...Our God is an amazing God! He rearranged/changed our plans! We had not failed after all!!! The Finnish Christian magazine, a month after our trip there, published a 6-page article about Mormonism and how we came out of it and into biblical Christianity. We learned through Pentti and Terttu** (now new Christian ministers to Mormons in Finland), **that the word had spread among Finnish Mormons about our visit to Finland and that Askel-magazine had written about us. Terttu told us that just about every Finnish Mormon bought that magazine to see what we had to say about the Mormon Church... so God arranged this all and they “heard” what we had come to tell them!** Perhaps even this Finnish Mormon coming from Mesa, AZ to **“warn them”** had fueled their interests about what we might say. We praise God for His arrangement of these circumstances. He knows the end from beginning. - Now back

to what I said at the beginning : We are going to Finland now because Pentti is very ill and Terttu is his caretaker and they are not able to continue doing the ministry work as they have done for 30 years. Terttu has informed us that she knows some former Mormons who have benefitted from their work, and she is in person going to introduce us to some of them that we have already been in email contact with. We are hoping that they will accept the ministry “torch” and continue to help reach the Mormons in Finland. We are taking copies of every DVD that has been made during the last decade, and other materials, to help them to educate Mormons there. Perhaps what has taken place in Sweden during the last few years has opened their minds also to ask questions? When the Helsinki Mormon temple was built several years ago, **IRR** (Institute for Religious Research) had asked me to translate some of their pamphlets on Mormonism into Finnish, which I did, and they are now printable and available from their website, www.irr.org. I am telling all of you this to ask that you’d pray for us and that this trip will be successful, as was our trip 30 years ago. We believe that if the Lord wants us to go now, then He will take care of our financial needs for this trip, and our work needs and concerns at home after we come back from this three-week trip. This is more than likely our last trip to Finland. We are waiting for the Lord to come soon, but perhaps during the Millennium, He may send us there again... 😊 At least we can hope for that! 😊 I don’t have family there anymore, but we hope to see a few of my cousins, and other friends while we are there.

Question sent to us: *“Why do you call the Mormon Church a cult. We are not a cult, we are a Christian Church as even our name tells - **The Church of JESUS CHRIST of Latter-day Saints**. We believe the same as all other Christian churches. We are the same.”*

Answer: While there is some diversity among all Christian churches and denominations, **true Christianity will always be united on the essential doctrines of the Christian faith – particularly on the message of salvation by grace alone through faith, apart from works, and the fundamental nature and identity of God, i.e. biblical doctrine of God in three Persons, Holy Trinity**. This is not the God of the LDS Church. The Mormon Church does not believe in Triune God of the Bible (1 John 5:7), but in many gods. The Mormon Church teaches that salvation is **not by grace alone through faith**, but that it requires works, lots of them. Grace does not even apply **until** a Mormon has done all that he/she can do. (2 Ne.25:23.) The Mormon Church also teaches, **contrary to the Bible, that Jesus is a created being, a spirit brother of angels and men from preexistence, and that Jesus was physically conceived by God the Father, who, to Mormons, is a resurrected and exalted man. (Mormon Doctrine, p 547.) Thus they deny that Jesus Christ is the eternal God made flesh – fully God and fully man. (John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23.) Any religion that *claims to be Christian* while denying one or more of these essential doctrines of Christianity is called *a cult***. Some may be offended by that word if they do not know what it really means. Mormons may be *good people* doing *good works*, but **they have departed from Christian faith by denying the sufficiency of the Bible and adding other books to the scriptures**. [They have added the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price and living prophets etc.] There are more differences that **separate Mormonism from biblical Christianity**, but even just these earn Mormonism the name “cult”. It is not meant to be a mean, but a factual term, for the Mormon Church, from the start,

separated itself from Christianity by her non-biblical beliefs and teachings. The Mormon Church itself classifies groups that were once part of them, but later separated from the mainstream LDS Church, as for example FLDS church, as a *cult*.

An LDS believer wrote: *“You and other anti-Mormons say, as does a current SLC TV show, that Mormons believe in polygamy and are polygamists. We obey the law of the land, and do not practice it. Not all Mormons ever believed in the whole polygamy thing. There were only a very few people in early Mormonism that believed and practiced it and it ended in the late 1800s. Those who took more wives without the prophet's permission were excommunicated. I know that some have said and believed that Joseph married several women who had been previously married. That is not true either. Our church does not practice polygamy, only some who have been excommunicated do that, but they are not part of our church any longer.”*

Answer: Why don't you believe “*the polygamy thing*”? You believe teachings of your prophets and in your scriptures? See D&C Section 132! It says (132:4) that if you have been taught the scriptures and know about plurality of wives, but do not obey it, you'll be damned. Furthermore, this “*polygamy thing*” did not end in late 1800s! It continued way past of the turn of the century. LDS records show that the last Mormon prophet who was a polygamist was Heber J. Grant who died in 1945. All of them, including Wilford Woodruff, who wrote the “*Manifesto*”, supposedly ending polygamy in 1890, still married more women, as did several LDS prophets after him. Today mainstream LDS Church does not endorse polygamy **for their living members**, but **there are many currently living LDS apostles who have more than one wife sealed to them for time and all eternity**. This ***faith promoting rumor*** that only very few were practicing polygamy is not true. Anyone can see even from LDS Church's own *Family Search records* that polygamy was rampant. BTW, Joseph Smith did not just marry “*previously married women*” but he married **11 women who were still married to their own living husbands**. He also married two 14-year old girls –and nine of his plural wives were still in their teens. Records show that he had at least 33 wives in addition to his legal wife, Emma, but yet he lied that he had any other wives beside Emma. You need to do some research – even *LDS org* admits to these facts about Joseph Smith.

One more from our mailbox: An LDS man, who has written to me many times before, wrote: *“I know that you and your husband are bent on showing that Mormonism is not true. You have spent a good part of your lives working of putting together the information that will show Mormons that they are wrong and that you are right. Don't you understand that you are only changing one belief system for another? There is no rational in any belief. And why is that? Because, in order to experience God in your life you must let go of all the belief systems and the doings they demand. When this happens we are no longer part of the ‘story’, but are experiencing it differently. This is what I call ‘**just being**’. And ‘being’ can be achieved by just letting go of beliefs, **all of them**. Just sit back and say to yourself ‘nothing around me means anything’. Not my thoughts or beliefs or even what I am seeing with my eyes’. It means that in order to experience God in your life, you must empty our mind of everything, let go of everything, especially your thoughts. Only when this happens can you experience God within you. You can continue to try to figure it all out. You can of course try to prove me*

wrong, and if you can do that you will receive satisfaction of your ego, but this is not experiencing the God within.”

Reply: Have you been dabbling in Hinduism? Your thoughts of “*nothingism*” sound like Hinduism to me. Am I right? I have tried to explain to you before that regardless of that the Mormon Church says it is “*the only true church on the face of the whole earth*”, it is not a biblical church nor is it true. As I over the years practiced and studied teachings of Mormonism, and finally had a sense to start to compare what the Bible teaches about God, Jesus and salvation, I had to let go of Mormonism for a simple reason that Mormonism is not biblical! They say they believe the Bible, but obviously not what it teaches about God, Jesus and salvation! Over these many decades of studying both, I have come to see that the Bible is true historically, prophetically and it gives me peace and satisfies my soul spiritually. My studies of God’s Word will continue as long as I live. I am not seeking a “*belief system*”, but the Lord God and His will. He has answered my prayers. God is real to me and thus I can say that I “*experience God in my life*” – every day. We are not to “*empty our minds or get rid of our thoughts*”, as you say - that is a very dangerous thing to do. An empty mind is a fertile ground for demonic spirits. (Please read Matt. 12:45 where Jesus warned what can happen to an “*empty mind*”.) – I am not saying that I am always absolutely correct in all things, but I am sure that the Bible is correct. There may still be many issues where I have not reached the correct understanding, but as I keep on studying, I am confident that I will come to that eventually. However, I am absolutely sure **where I am going when this life is past**. (1 John 5:13.) I know that I am going to live with Jesus forever. I am waiting for His coming, perhaps soon. When Paul wrote about His coming, he asked all of us as believers in the Lord Jesus to “**comfort each other with these words**”. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) He urged all believers to “**rejoice always**” and “**pray without ceasing**” and “**in everything give thanks**”, even for seemingly adverse things for if we belong to Him, nothing happens to us without His approval. We need to **test and inspect all things carefully** and **cling to that what is good and true**. (1 Thess. 5:16-24.) I hope you take Paul’s advice in this. Sincerely, Rauni.

We were asked: “**Should we not in our multi-cultural nation accept all religions, and especially all who name the name of Jesus, as our brothers and sisters in Christ?**” I read a good article from the Berean Call of June 2013, that was excerpted from “**Vengeance is Ours: The Church in Dominion**” by Albert James Dager. He was saying that **the very goal of Antichrist religion is to bring Christianity into unity with all religions**. It is a call for “**Unity in diversity**”. To come to that unity, all that is needed is for the Gospel to be diluted sufficiently to make it ineffective. *Unity in diversity* is the goal toward which the world’s religions are working, even among many church groups, with the purpose bringing about a “**One World Religion**” to **join in fellowship with everyone who names Jesus as Lord, regardless of doctrine** or who their “**Jesus**” really is. We have already seen many evangelical churches in Utah getting together with the Mormon Church in joint musical programs and mixed choirs during Easter and other religious holidays, etc. The blurring of doctrinal lines enough, disregarding of doctrine, and acceptance of everything that goes by the name “*Christian*” is necessary for the eventual unification of all religions. Identifying deceptions within the church is often stifled by many under the pretense that those who expose deceivers and erroneous doctrines are *hindering unity*. This tactic has discouraged many Christians from pointing out serious doctrinal errors for fear of being labeled *judgmental*. “**Do not judge**”, is a common unity-cry. Satan’s lies have found fertile ground among those who lack proper knowledge or a willingness to protect the flock against deception. Some within the church have even accepted Satan’s lies that “**men may become gods, or**

become like God", and that **"faith is a law that even non-believers can act on"**, and that **"we need to learn how to activate the spiritual laws upon which faith is based."** They even say that **"God is bound by spiritual laws and that He must respond to anyone who acts on them"**. (LDS D&C 82:10 is often used as reference and "proof" for that.) We hear even from non-LDS people that **"Jesus is our 'elder brother' who mastered the spiritual laws of nature. He is our example."** Some of these teachings may even sound biblical when coming from those who know how to cleverly twist and use Christian terminology and gain the confidence of those with sincere faith, but who have little knowledge of the Bible. An errant interpretation may escape the attention of an average Christian and possibly deceive him into placing his trust where he ought not. [Albert Dager's book can be ordered from **the Berean Call**.]

As I was writing this newsletter, **The Berean Call** sent a review of **"Heaven Is For Real"** book (published in 2010) that has sold more than 8 million copies. This book has now been made into a movie that is being much talked about in Christian circles and for that reason TBC reprinted their 2011 article, **"Is 'Heaven Is For Real' For Real: An Exercise in Discernment."** (<http://www.thebereancall.org/node/9165>) You may want to read this article from the Berean Call or ask for their email Newsletter of 4/26/14. I copied it and sent it to a few of you, with my comments, saying: *We have received emails during the last couple of weeks asking if we believe that this story and movie, **Heaven is For Real**, could be the true story about this little boy going to heaven and then coming back. It has made millions as a book (over 8 million sold when it first came out 2010) and now more as a movie. It may be a sweet and comforting story, but we do not believe that it really happened. I am glad that The Berean Call addressed this now. It may have been a little boy's dream when he was under anesthesia, for he, as a pastor's son, had more than likely heard many stories about Jesus and heaven. Many children's Bible-story books picture angels with wings and people of all ages there, including animals. As a movie it perhaps is OK to go and see, but to take it as a real happening is not good. God's Heaven IS for real, but we do not need extra-biblical information to know that. Taking this movie or book as a real happening can lead people to take all other similar stories and out-of-body experiences as truth also. There are many of them around – but none of them are identical or true, whether they describe heaven or hell. The New Testament reports Jesus raising the dead, but not even one of them told stories about what heaven was like. [Lazarus (John 11, from verse 11 on) was dead and in his grave for 4 days, but when Jesus raised him from the dead, he did not tell stories about heaven. Jesus also raised Jairus' daughter from the dead and she did not talk about heaven either.] When Paul was stoned and **"left as dead"** (Acts 14:19), he later said that he was **"caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which is not lawful for a man to utter"** (2 Cor. 12:2-4) and he never spoke about that again. When Jesus told about the afterlife in Luke 16:19-32, and that the rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus back to warn his family, Jesus said that it is from scriptures that we are to learn about heaven and hell. **"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God"** (Rom. 10:17.) People do not come back to tell stories about heaven or hell after they have actually died. (See: **Hebr. 9:27**.) Apostle John wrote the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation, and there we are told about "the New Heaven and the New Earth and the New Jerusalem", but **it was not John's 'after death experience'** – **it was a vision given to him to write it all down for our information**. (Rev. 1:1-.) **We thus know from the Word of God that Heaven is for Real, as is hell**.*

We thank you for your prayers for us and our ministry – they are especially needed now. Dennis has had enough work to take care of our personal needs, but as for our ministry needs, we are running near "red", and we soon have to start collecting DVDs, CDs, books and other materials in larger numbers to take with us to Finland. Please pray with us that the Lord will make it possible, since we are confident that He wants us to make this trip to assure that work for rescuing souls from Mormonism will continue there.

We have had many blessings and victories in the Lord during these first four short months of the year. He has blessed and brought many Mormons to first wonder and question the teachings they have had in the Mormon Church, and by answering them, we have been able to share the biblical gospel with them. Continuing through many emails, back and forth, and sharing the truth has brought them to repentance and receiving the Lord. We have been helping some college students, both in the East and West of this country, who are now very well equipped to share the true Gospel with their Mormon friends. To some this training has brought them closer to the Lord Jesus than they were before they started to learn about Mormonism, for they had to take the Bible much more seriously and deeper than they had done before in their “normal” Christian walk. Comparing Mormonism to biblical Christianity has a way of awakening a person to a deeper and closer relationship to the Lord Jesus, and we thank the Lord for that. Some of them had been living an active Christian life, but not known that they “**must be born again**” until teaching others that **this is the requirement Jesus had set**. (John 3:3, 7; 1:12.) Please keep these young people in your prayers, for most of the college-age Mormon men that they are trying to bring to Christianity have served their LDS missions before college, and are thus able to carry on conversations about differences, but in their favor. Often these young Christian ladies find out that they are not as fluent in scriptures and have a harder time reasoning with “trained Mormon missionaries”.

We need to pray for healing for Sean and that Debbie’s cancer will be totally healed. Tom, Max, Pat, Dick and Patti and Sharon need Lord’s healing and joy that comes when the Lord takes their burden away. We thank the Lord that Merridy is doing a lot better after her surgery couple of months ago. Dale and his wife, Sharon, are such faithful servants of the Lord in spite of Dale’s paralysis and being wheel-chair bound, but our prayers for them have been felt, as they report. Heber and Bruce have special needs that we are presenting to the Lord who knows what they are. The father of Clint, Natalee, Ryan, Corinne and Ashlee is asking prayer for his children’s salvation. There are other parents who themselves are now out of Mormonism, but their children have not yet come to know the true Jesus – they are asking that we’d pray for their children who are not willing to listen to their parents who had raised them in the false gospel of Mormonism. This situation is very painful to them.

Again, we thank you for your prayers and support. April has been very hard financially, being a “tax-month” for us all, but we are comforted by the Lord who is our Provider. (Phil. 4:6-7.)

God bless you, and keep you.

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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Thought for the month: “*Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.*” (John Newton, a former slaver, pastor and composer of Amazing Grace.) (From the Berean Call, 4/15/14.)

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