



\*He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

September 1, 2014

## H.I.S. Ministries September 2014 Newsletter, covering August 2014

Summer is almost over. It seemed a lot shorter because we missed about a month of it here, at home. It was good to get home after “living from a suitcase” that long and spending almost every other night in a different place, and also enduring a loss of sleep caused by time-difference (9 hrs.) and *day-light nights*, in the *country of the midnight-sun*. In spite of difficulties we are happy that we went and we are praying that our efforts there were not in vain, and that all the literature, tracts and DVDs we distributed will be read and viewed by those who received them. We trust that the Spirit of God will be witnessing His truth as they read the materials and view the DVDs, bringing many to salvation. This trip was hard both physically and emotionally, but we were then and still are assured that the Lord was with us through it all. **His Word will not return void. God’s Word is just as effective as the rain and snow that falls on the ground, and in its due time causes nourishment and growth. His promises are true, for the Lord said through Isaiah, “So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11.) His Word was sent to Finland.** We are very thankful to everyone who prayed for this trip and helped us to make it possible, even without us asking. We simply knew that it was the Lord who acted through you, and that strengthened us, even while I was quite ill during the last few days of our time in Finland and during our long flight home. I am obviously the “weaker vessel” 😊. Dennis was amazingly strong through it all; he was speaking Finnish every day, driving across the country (over 2000 km), eating raw, only slightly salted fresh fish every day 😊 (for during the summer that is a *stable food* in Finland), lots of sour-dough-rye bread and also many other “strange foods” by American standard. He even went to a smoke-sauna with my Finnish male relatives and swam in a swiftly flowing rapid (Kukkolankoski), proving that he can do what these younger Finnish men can do... They were amazed at him and I think he quite enjoyed that. 😊 We hope you enjoyed reading our last month’s report on Finland (August 2014 Newsletter) for many have said that they did not know much before about my home-country, excepting that it is next to Russia and a very cold place... 😊

We got home to a full email box. It took me many days to go through them and answer those that needed a response. I will include a couple in this letter for you to ponder and see what you think of them and my answers to their questions/comments. Answering honest Mormon questions is what I love to do, and many of you have written to me in the past saying that you are saving them in your folders for possible later use when your friends and relatives ask similar questions. There is a commonality in their questions, regardless where they live, or how active they have been in the Mormon Church. One question that we often receive from Christians also is concerning *the election*. They ask: “Some people think that God chose those whom he was going to save, even before they were born, while others he chose for damnation. Maybe he just foreknew who was going to follow him and who wasn't. What is your opinion?” **My answer to**

this age old debate about “*election*” is that God in His omniscience and foreknowledge knew before the foundations of the earth was formed who would accept Him and who would reject Him. He “*so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, the WHOSOEVER believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*” (John 3:16.)

(“*Whosoever*” is everyone!) God gave man free will to accept or reject Christ. God does not interfere with man’s free will and choice. In other words, each person is responsible for what they do with Jesus. If that was not the case, and if God had not given all men a free will to accept or reject Him, but had already chosen whom He will save and whom He will not save, there would be no need for preaching the Gospel, there would be no point in evangelizing, and all of the commandments regarding telling others about the Gospel would be meaningless. (Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Tim. 2:4.)

**Another question that is presented to us often is concerning *contemplative prayer*.** Many think that this term is just the new way to describe our personal practice of getting alone with God, being quiet and praying silently. **That is not what *contemplative prayer* is!** It is also called ***centering prayer, breath prayer, and/or Jesus’ prayer.*** These terms can be easily misunderstood. We see it from its popularity among many Christians and Christian churches that have joined in the practice of “*contemplative prayer*”. Many well-known writers and teachers portray ***contemplative prayer by using vague language*** that makes it hard to figure out what they really mean, so many assume that is just a new name for silent prayer, and go along with it. Having done some research of Eastern religions and the occult, we started to see *red flags* with this practice. **This practice originated in Eastern mysticism,** and was made popular by teachings of Catholic *Desert Monks* like Thomas Merton, et al. We found that contemplative prayer is **neither *contemplative*** (that many think means ***thinking deeply***), **nor is it a prayer to God. Instead of a prayer to God, it is a *mantra*** (which means that a word or phrase is repeated for ten to twenty minutes *as a way for erasing thoughts from your mind*). If we do that, **we open our minds to demonic spirits to influence our thinking. That is very dangerous practice and no believer in Jesus should participate in this. While saying this, I do not believe that truly *born again Christians* can be possessed by demonic spirits, but by this practice they surely will leave their minds open to their influence.**

**From our mailbox:** An **LDS man wrote:** “*You speak against secrecy of the Mormon Temple ordinances and say that they are different than what they were in Solomon’s temple. I have three major questions concerning them for you. Please respond to them.*

**1)**“*I realize that the main temple ordinances in the Jewish Temples were blood sacrifices, however there was also a secret organization that started out as the Night Templers, and then when they were killed by the Catholics, I can show you where the Masons then adopted many of their rituals... What do you say about the Mormon temple and ordinances there? I know that you have been through them and that you think that Joseph Smith got them from Masons. These were all secret ordinances just like the Mormon Temple Ordinances. I have not been back to the temple since they (in 1990) changed the rituals... The rituals were rather confusing to me, however after going through the veil I thought that the Marriage Prayer was incredible, and the person giving this was a very loving person and kind. The feeling I received in the Celestial Room was wonderful. It seemed to me to be a place in this world but not of this world. I also want to add that most all orthodox Christian Religions have their rituals and secret ceremonies.” be answered, so what was it that really turned you against the Mormon Church, and have you found a better Church to attend?”*

**Reply to question # 1):** Animal sacrifices were sin offerings. “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” (Rom. 6:23.) I.e. an animal was sacrificed (killed) in the place of a guilty sinner. “*...it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*” (Lev. 17:11b.) [Rather than writing more in detail what the Bible says, I’ll ask that you to do a careful study from Exodus through Leviticus and see why animal sacrifices etc. were done.] From

1 Kings, Chapters 6 through 9 you can read about the Solomon's temple and what took place there. **Nothing about it was secret. There were no rituals performed as in the Mormon temples, no work for the dead and no marriages or sealing were ever performed there.** - Do you mean *Knights Templars*? They were founded in 1118 A.D. They had **nothing at all to do with Solomon's temple that was built about 970 B.C. There is 2000 years between Solomon and his temple and Knights Templars that did not even exist until more than 1000 years after the Herod's temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.** In our library we have Masonic books, telling about the history of Masonry and their teachings. If you want further information it is obtainable. Masonic rituals, as in Joseph Smith's time, originated in Europe 1300-1700 A.D. They came to America in about 1717 A.D. They were **secret rituals that included demonstrations of death penalties** as you also must have experienced in Mormon temples, **prior to 1990.** [When Joseph Smith became a Master Mason in Feb. 1842, he, 6 weeks later, introduced these same secret rituals with blood-oaths first to a selected group of Mormons who were also involved in polygamy.] - The Celestial Room may seem beautiful just as any fine hotel's meeting room, but "*out of this world*" – not! You also say that *Marriage prayer was incredible and person giving it was loving and kind!* Kind? Of course he was. But you obviously did not know any better than we did when we were married in SL Temple? We learned the real meaning of this *sealing-blessing* much later. A temple sealer *seals* on couples "**the blessings of thrones, principalities, powers, dominions and exaltations**". At that time, in our biblical illiteracy and ignorance, we assumed that the sealing was indeed *a blessing*, even though we only understood the meaning of the word "*exaltations*" (i.e. our future godhood). **We have since learned from the Bible study that "thrones, principalities, powers, dominions" are demonic powers and spirits! Not good!** (Ephesians 6:11-12 etc. we read that **these are demonic powers that we are to war against!!**) This *marriage sealing* thus was not *a blessing* at all, but rather a curse! *Feelings* are deceitful as is our heart where feelings originate. (Jer. 17:9.) We must learn the whole counsel of God to gain discernment and when we know that, *then we must declare what is God's truth* (Acts 20:27) and what is from men or from the devil himself. – You say that "*the most orthodox Christian religions have rituals and secret ceremonies*". Actually there no Bible based Christian religions that have any secret rituals or ceremonies! Jesus said, "*...in secret have I said nothing.*" (John 18:20; see also Isa. 45:19.)

**2)** "*I watched young priests lie on the floor of the Catholic Cathedral and beat themselves bloody with a whip. And when I was a kid I went to dances with my girlfriend who was a Job's daughter and her family was active in the De Mo Lay.*"

**Reply to question #2):** Beating themselves is individual foolishness. In the middle ages some monks taught and believed that life was to be filled with self-induced sufferings. Most of this kind of behavior originates from the occult! – You also mentioned "*Job's daughters or De Mo Lay*" – that is not Catholic but part of Freemasonry. [This is how the youth are introduced to Freemasonry just as they are introduced to the LDS Temple work through being invited and screened through a temple recommend interview to do baptisms for the dead.]

**3)** "*Again as far as the changes made in the Book of Mormon, 1st Nephi, Mormons still believe that Jesus was the Jehovah of the Old Testament therefore he is the God of this Earth. My point is that all of these problems you name can be answered, so what was it that really turned you against the Mormon Church, and have you found a better Church to attend?*"

**Reply to question # 3):** Actually "*god of this world*" is Lucifer. (See 2 Cor. 4:4). As you may recall, Lucifer is a "god" who answers Adam's prayer in Mormon temples. [You may recall that when Adam prays "*O God, hear the words of my mouth*", Lucifer shows up and says: "*I hear you. What is it that you want?*"] - What Mormons believe about Jehovah does not necessarily make it so. **Jesus is the Second Person of Trinity. He did not "become a god" as is taught in**

**Mormonism – He is God.** Triune God of the Bible was known as ***I AM*** (Exodus 3:14) and ***He still is the Great I AM.*** (In the Gospel of John **Jesus calls Himself “*I AM*”** seven times. See examples in John 8:23-24, 58.) **Name of God (one name for one God) was given to Israel in Exodus 6:3. That name is YHVH (Jehovah** in our English Bibles). - The Bible has answered all the questions that Mormonism brought to my life, and solved my problems. It took a long time to resolve, for I had been 20 years a temple-card- holding, active and *fully believing it all –LDS*, and thus deeply brainwashed... I thank the Lord that I am free from all that – and have been for many, many years already. - I have found many good churches but I am not officially a member of any of them. Some of them are **Baptist churches**, some **non-denominational Bible-teaching churches**. These biblical churches cannot be compared to the *non-biblical Mormon Church* – and thus they are beyond comparison. When Jesus comes back (Rev. 19:11-21), He will take the kingship of the world back to Himself and He will rule as **the King of kings and the Lord of lords**, casting the devil , anti-Christ and the false prophet into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:10.) – If you have more questions, please write again.

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**Another LDS man wrote:** *“Hey there, I'm a Mormon that's pretty close to cutting ties off with the church. I don't believe the BOM but I do wonder a lot about the Bible. In your passage, you advocated for the proof of the Bible. In all honesty, I'm pretty exhausted with scripture & religion all together & would like to put it behind me, but it seems like the bible's got too much believers going for it. So, can you tell me why I should care about the bible, right after I discovered I was tricked with other scriptures for so many years? I'm really trying to not have bitter feelings about it. is there more truth & more proof? & does it matter what Christian church I start attending? does the bible alone indicate that church going is mandatory? I like the idea of Christ. I really do, but it's hard for me to believe anything right now. Truths & proofs, that's what I'm looking for. thanks for the time...T”*

**Reply:** Thank you for asking these questions. I can recall of having similar thoughts and questions when I (we) first realized that we had been gullible and trusting and had followed a false prophet, Joseph Smith, to his "*Mormon Illusion*". Our first inclination also was to cast all religious thoughts away and just live our human life to its obvious end – i.e. to death, for it is 100% certainty we will all die, sooner or later. A question in my mind persisted: What if there is life after death? What kind of life will we have after death? Other questions also kept coming to my mind: What about all the people before Joseph Smith? What did they believe and why? Is there God, and if there is, who is He, and is there a way to find out? These thoughts led me first (and eventually both of us, my husband and me) to research the origin of the Bible and faith in God. We, as faithful, believing Mormons, had put all LDS Scriptures more or less equally together (*the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price*). After we had studied the history of Mormonism from its beginning to this date and *found Joseph Smith, and prophets who came after him, liars, and Smith's writings to be fictional, without any proof*, we wondered *is it right to reject the Bible too with this Mormon-deception? Hasn't the Bible existed for thousands of years before Joseph Smith and Mormonism, and been examined by tens of thousands of Bible scholars over the centuries? Has it not also been compared to known history of the same time periods and found to be reliable as history and as a scripture and instruction on how to know and have a relationship with God , the Creator of the Universe?* These thoughts caused me (and eventually both of us) to be determined to find out. We had given our lives and means up to that point to the LDS Church. Now we decided to give *“equal time to the Bible alone, without Mormonism”* to see what it says and **what is the truth about God –or if He even exists? We started this search about 30 years ago**, and we can say with certainty that **we found Him, and that His Word, the Bible, is true, both as scripture and as history**. We have also come to see that those who reject the Bible have never studied its 66 books thoroughly, each book in context. ***How can they say it is not true without examining it?*** We were determined to do it, and find out for ourselves. We started this by reading a book, *“The Bible as History”*. We discovered

that there are historical writings (that did not have the same writers as the Bible), that covered about the same time period (from 1500 years before Christ – and also after Him). We obtained biblical texts in their original languages (Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New Testament) and dictionaries to test what the words meant, and commentaries explaining both cultural and religious practices during those time periods. We then started studying the Bible with instructions/explanations by a scholar who was not representing any denomination or any church, just teaching what the Bible actually said, and urging people to do their own checking whether what he said was so. I would be happy to explain more of that to you, if you'd like. We live in Sandy, Utah, and would welcome you to come and see us. We have a large library in our home. We have hundreds of books dealing with Mormonism also, and many, many books that helped us in this research concerning the Bible. If you want to know, we can show you why we believe the Bible to be absolutely correct in its original languages, and that there are also very good English translations that are likewise deemed correct, verifiably as correct as any translation can be. **Perhaps you can start now and begin your own Bible reading, starting with the Gospel of John. For that you'd need to get a non-LDS Bible, without Mormon "explanations" or references, for they would only confuse you. You must read the Bible as it is, without any denomination's bias explanations. You may look for the KJV or New King James Study-Bible or the New American Standard Bible. They are the best translations, in my opinion.** I would suggest that you'd go to a Christian Bookstore, or if there is none by you, then go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and search for a **KJV or NKJV Study Bible. If you'd like to get help in your studies, you may also want to look for a church that teaches directly and exclusively from the Bible. You may do a google-search for non-denominational Bible teaching Churches close to your area.** Denominational churches tend to favor their own denomination and add their own "interpretations" rather than stick to what the Bible actually says... *Maybe there is a Calvary Chapel near you? Calvary Chapels are non-denominational Bible teaching churches.* They teach the Bible "book-by-book, verse-by-verse", also explaining cultural issues from the biblical time periods, thus making the Bible more understandable to us who are raised among Western cultures and practices. You may contact them by phone or email and let them know that *you are just checking in* to see how they can help you to see if the Bible can be trusted, how it was preserved, etc. You asked if it matters *which Christian church you'd start attending? An non-denominational Bible church would be the best. You asked if church going is mandatory. Attending a church is not mandatory for salvation in Christ, but knowing Jesus and receiving a new birth is. (See: John 1:12; 3:3, 7; 8:23-24; 14:6; 17:3, 17.)* For becoming a Christian you do not necessarily need a church, or any man, just the Lord and His Word. However, the Bible recommends that we'd get together with like-believers. (Hebr. 10:25.) Those "older in faith" can assist and strengthen us in faith in God's Word, the Bible that is given to us for our learning. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16; Rom. 15:4.) If you have hard time finding a good Bible, let me know, and I can send you a Bible and other materials that would help you in this new journey. (In that case I need your postal address.) If you'd like to talk to me, you can also call: 801.943-5011, or just write again. I am praying for you now. Sincerely, Rauni Higley (Website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com) ; Email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com))

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We are expecting Eddy and Jacque from WA to come a visit us soon, during the first week of September. If you want to read about their journey out of Mormonism, it started in April of last year when Eddy's Christian mother contacted me, saying that their son was about to join the Mormons Church! (See May, 2013 Newsletter, [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com).) I continued to report in following months' newsletters of his progress and how he was able to also help his Mormon girlfriend, Jacque, out of Mormonism. **They just got married in July 2014.** They called and said that they wanted to come and see us since we have never met in person, and also to thank us for taking time to help them out and into Christ Jesus of the Bible. They are an exceptional couple who truly love the Lord and we praise God for allowing us to be part of their

journey .They spent a good year in studying the Bible together before getting married (and they are continuing their studies). They have been using mostly Chuck Missler’s MP3 Bible- study CDs we have sent to them.

I read Pastor Adrian Rogers counsel on how to make your Bible become alive to you. "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" (2 Timothy 2:15.) Pastor Rogers asked: "*Why is it that sometimes when we read the Bible, we leave our common sense at the door? You don't just pick up a book, open it at random, and start reading in the middle of a paragraph. The book wouldn't make any sense! In order to understand and get the full appreciation for the book, we read it sequentially and in paragraphs or units. When you read the Bible, read for quality not quantity. Don't see how much of the Bible you can read in an hour or in a day. See how much of the Bible you can assimilate and apply! Maybe what you need to do is spend a week studying just one verse. In your Bible-reading today, stop and ask yourself, 'What is God saying to me through this?' Then seek to put that into practice.*" When we become the Lord’s own, we do not get a new brain, but our mind will be renewed. (Rom. 12:2.)The brain is a vehicle that our mind thinks with. It has been said that the *most dangerous thing in the world is a man with a bad or wicked mind but a good brain. He is a clever devil. The god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) would like do all he can to distort your mind, for he knows that the Word of God says, "*For as he thinks in is heart, so is he.*" (Prov. 23:7.)*

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Please pray for health restoration for Dale and Dick and strength for their spouses who take care of them. We also ask prayer for Jan Harting, Merridy, Max and Pat, Tom, Dave and Heber. We are reminded that *God’s delays are not His denials.* When we seek His will, He will answer in His way and time. Then we will understand. When Apostle Paul had pleaded with the Lord three times for relief, he received an answer: "***My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.***" (2 Cor. 12:9-10.) God’s grace will make us strong regardless of our condition. We thank Him in all situations. (1 Cor. 1:3-7.)- We have other friends that need prayer in their family-trials. We ask the Lord to bless them with wisdom in those difficult matters that we all periodically experience with our already grown children and grandchildren. - We also want to thank Don and Heather McAreavy for their visit from Canada and their stay with us.

**We again extend our gratitude for your prayers and support that you give, both in words and in deeds. We would be greatly discouraged if you did not respond to our work the way you do. Please know that every evening when we go together before the Lord we ask that your life will be blessed as you have blessed us.**

We are glad to serve our Lord Jesus in this, **H.I.S. Ministry,**

Rauni and Dennis Higley

**P.S.** When there is a need, you may contact us by email – [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com) or by phone, 801.943-5011. [However, we will take a few days off now and go to the mountains for much needed **R&R**. There are no phones, no internet, or no email service...☺  
**But we’ll be back!**]

**Though for this 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 (former slaver, pastor, composer of Amazing Grace)**

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