



June, 2016

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

H.I.S. Ministries June 2016 Newsletter, covering May 2016

We received sad news on 5/22/16. Our dear friend, Richard Baer, known to most in ministries to Mormons as **"Papa-Baer"**, died on 5/21/16. In our last month's newsletter we wrote about Dick's sweet way to encourage all to witness for the Lord and of His love. He had a beautiful voice, and he always finished his witnessing events by singing **"You are the only Jesus some may ever see"**. About 2 weeks ago Dick called to tell us that he **loved page 2 of our May Newsletter** - that is where we told about Dick's witnessing and his beautiful singing voice. Dick Baer was a very unique and loving man. We met Dick in 1983, and he was our encourager for going into ministry to Mormons, and we have been friends ever since. He understood what we were facing from LDS leaders and community, for Dick also had lost a lot when he left Mormonism for the Truth about Jesus, but he loved the Lord more than anything that this world could give or take away. His wife, Patty, called last night to tell us in detail about Dick's passing, and how he died in complete peace. Dick has had a lot of health problems during the last nearly 20 years, and yet he cared more about others than himself. We reported in our April newsletter (pp. 5-6) how Dick, knowing that I had a tumor in my thyroid, called to tell us about information of a possible cure for thyroid tumors and cancers he had read about. Our love for Dick and Patty is forever. Now Dick has gone to be with Jesus he loves and there he waits for our turn to join him at the feet of Jesus. We indeed have **"many friends in the High places"**, literally. Dick has joined our many friends there, as Rich Brown who suddenly went there 15 months ago and Bruce Balliette who left this world unexpectedly 4.5 months ago. Every one of these friends had lived their lives as devout believers in Jesus Christ of the Bible. We ask that you'd remember Patty in your prayers as she prepares for Dick's funeral and memorial service.

As I promised, I will continue here from last month's newsletter where we answered Eddy and Jacqui's questions on how to best reply to Jacqui's Mormon brother who just recently returned from his LDS mission. Topic in their debate is *Mormonism vs. biblical Christianity*. Our answers are in red text. We hope that these will help you all also, for these are very typical issues when discussing biblical doctrine with Mormons who reject what the Bible says about most of the doctrinal topics.

The first one here is why Mormons build temples and do "temple work" for the dead.

[Note: The Mormon Church teaches "that salvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation", which they say means godhood. Only persons who have received their temple endowments and have been married in a temple are eligible for godhood. All temple ordinances, excepting baptism for the dead, pertain to exaltation in the celestial kingdom. These ordinances are: washings, anointings, endowments, sealings and celestial/temple marriage.

Proxy baptisms for the dead are performed in LDS temples by the youth of the Church for those who, during their mortal lives, were not baptized into the Mormon Church. All the other above mentioned ordinances

pertaining to salvation for the dead are performed by temple-worthy adult-members of the Church in vicarious- proxy basis.]

Based on this belief, Jacob stressed to Eddy and Jacqui the importance of temples and temple work for both the living and the dead. He presented from the Luke's Gospel (24:52-53) what he believed was a *proof* that *Jesus' disciples went to the Temple in Jerusalem* which, he said, meant that *they went to do the temple work for the dead*. I advised that Eddy and Jacqui explain to Jacob that in the Jerusalem temple (the only temple of God) there were no ceremonies, no endowments, no baptisms nor marriages ever performed.

Jesus' disciples went to **Jerusalem** (Luke 24:49), as Jesus had commanded them to go and wait for the **Promise of the Father**. (See: John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26.) **That Promise was coming of the Holy Spirit. It was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.** (See Acts 2:1-4.)

The Temple was the place where animal sacrifices were offered for covering of sins of people until Messiah comes and pays the ultimate penalty of sin by His death on the Cross. "The wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6:23.) **Lev. 7:11** declares that the **life of the flesh is in the blood**, thus blood sacrifices of animals were for "covering of sins" until Messiah would come and shed His blood and dying for the *sins of the world* (John 3:16). **His death provided the ultimate atonement for sins of all who believe and receive Him.** (John 1:12; 6:28-29; Eph. 2:8-9.)

When Solomon built the Temple (see 1 Kings from Chapter 5 through 8) and dedicated it, he offered **22 thousand bulls and 120 thousand sheep** (1 Kings 8:62-66). From that time on Solomon's temple was literally a continuous *slaughterhouse* where animals were killed to provide covering for sin. After Jesus died for our sins, believers' sins are not just *temporarily covered* as they were by animal sacrifices, but now the sins are completely removed. (1 John 1:7.)

The Levitical Priesthood was abolished after Jesus died for our sins, for no more priests were needed to offer sacrifices and act as mediators between God and men. (Hebr. 7.) [The Priesthood was an inherited office for those of the tribe of Levi who were the blood descendants of his son Aaron. They alone were eligible for the Priesthood.] There never was "*Melchizedek priesthood*" in Israel, only the Priesthood after Aaron. However, there had been one person, *Melchizedek*, which name means "*king of righteousness*", who, during the time of Abraham, was *Prophet, Priest and King* (Gen. 14:18-20), typifying the One who was to come, our last and only Prophet, Priest and King, Jesus. (Read Hebr.1:1-3, also chapters 7 through 9.) Levitical priests had been "*mediators between God and men*", but not anymore. "*For there is only one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*" (1 Tim. 2:5.)

Going back to what Jacob had said to Eddy and Jacqui about Luke 24:50-53, namely that *disciples went to do temple work*. These verses say nothing like that. Read them again. V. 50: *Jesus led his disciples "as far as to Bethany"*, which is on the Eastern side of the Mt. of Olives. There "*He lifted up His hands and blessed them... and He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.*" Then they went to the temple and praising and blessing God - for what He had done through Jesus Christ. Their witness to all Israel was that the Messiah had indeed come just as was promised. Luke's gospel (all of it) is Luke's testimony of Jesus, written to a Roman high officer, Theophilus. (See Luke 1:1-4.) After this introduction, Luke begins (1: 9-10) reporting how devout Jewish believers customarily had gathered at the temple grounds to burn incense (symbolizing prayer) and pray for the coming of Messiah. Now Luke's Gospel (24:50-53) closes at the same place (the temple grounds), with devout believers in Christ praising and blessing God for answered prayer and accomplished redemption.

Next Eddy and Jacqui discussed with Jacob about **what the Bible says about “deleting or adding to the scriptures”**. (Rev. 22:18-19). They asked us how they could help Jacob to understand what this means: **“If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book, and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part out of the book of life...”** (Rev. 22:18-19.)

[They needed to point out to Jacob that this is not the only warning about *adding to or deleting from God’s Word*. He needs to read also Deut. 4:2; 12: 32; Prov. 30:6.] Jacob had discredited this warning in Revelation by saying that there are books that were written after the Book of Revelation, though it was added as the last book. He had also said that *God has added other scriptures as the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price and the living prophets to give additional revelations to the LDS Church*.

Bible in actuality is a library of 66 books. [The Greek word “*Biblia*”, translated *Bible*, means “*books*”. The words for each book were **given by God**, thus men cannot add to or take way from any of these books. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.)]

The entire Word of God is about Jesus (Luke 24:25-27, 44-49) **who is God, who was to come to redeem sinful men.** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; Rev. 1:8.) **The Old Testament has 39 books, and it was compiled as a canon of scriptures 400 years before Christ, when God ended His revelation to Israel about the coming Messiah/Redeemer. The New Testament, 27 books, is a testimony that God has done what the Old Testament had said He was going to do. The Bible (books) is final, infallible and complete Word of God to mankind!** All the words in the original autographs are indeed words that God had spoken. (**2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.**) **The Bible teaches doctrinal truth of who God is, who Jesus is and how people can be saved. The Word of God and its doctrine cannot be changed** (as Mormonism has done), **for God is unchangeable God! “I Am the LORD, I change not.”** (Mal. 3:6; James 1:17.) **Since God’s teachings are consistent and woven throughout the Bible, any tampering with it is condemned.** Languages have variations in expressions and thus there can be differences in how some words are interpreted, **but tampering with God’s Word is forbidden and it applies to an outright attack on the inspiration and completeness of the Bible as the Word of God to men.**

Not only did Joseph Smith add other “*scriptures*” (BoM, D&C, PoGP) but he also tampered severely with the Bible. He added, deleted and changed to just about every book of the Bible, including Deuteronomy and Revelation that have specific command not to tamper with God’s Word. Joseph Smith’s “*translation*” of the Bible, referred as *JST* in “*the LDS Quad*” is available for all to see and compare. That “*translation*” and its additions and changes condemn not only Joseph Smith, but all Mormons who follow and believe his teachings of a god who was once a mortal man, and **thus not an unchangeable eternal God** (Ps. 90:2), and of “*Jesus*” who is not eternal God, but a created being and a brother of Lucifer, all angels and mankind, contrary to **Jesus of the Bible who is God Almighty, Creator of all things, both visible and invisible.** (John 1:1-3, 14; 8:23-24; Col. 1:16 etc.) **About two thousand years ago one of the three Persons in the Triune God became a man to Redeem God’s people.** “*He came to His own (Jews) but His own did not receive Him*” (John 1:11). God sent Messiah to His chosen nation, Israel, but they, as a nation, rejected Him, though thousands of individual Jews received Him. *Gospel was to be for the Jew first.* (Rom. 1:16.) After the nation Israel rejected Him, the Lord *called Paul as an apostle to Gentiles* (to non-Jews) to teach about cross of Jesus. (1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:1-4.) Then after the Lord’s ascension to heaven (Acts 1:8-9), the Gospel was preached to all the world. Salvation is by grace alone (not grace plus works). (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:21-31; 4:2-

8; Gal. 2:16-21.) God calls us to study His Word and think and reason. (2 Tim. 2:15; Isa. 1:18.) Truth about God can only be found in God's book about Himself. – Lets pray for Eddy and Jacqui as they reason with Jacob.

We received an argument from an LDS person (?) for Evolution and against God and the Bible.

My reply: Evolution is a religion. To most “*evolutionists*” that belief includes belief that humans evolved from lower animals like monkeys, and that God did not create the earth and everything in it, but say that “***at the beginning there was nothing and then it exploded***”. Is that ridiculous or what! Even some Christians tell us that **they believe that “God used evolution to create”**. Dictionary describes that “***belief is confidence and trust in that something is true and reliable***”, and is based on examination of evidence. Has anyone examined or seen a transition in process from a monkey to a human? Or a fish transitioning into a bird? Or any other “*evolutionary developments*” that are believed to be true and factual?

Evolution is claimed to be based on science (the word *science means to know*). But reason tells that evolution is a *religious belief*, and believers in evolution take it by faith **without being able to point to any observable evidence in nature - or how this belief has improved their spiritual lives.**

Words have meaning. Words create language. Language helps to explain and communicate what we believe. The Bible tells us that faith is “*a substance*”. (Hebr. 11:1.) Dictionary defines substance as something concrete, “*physical material from which something is made.*” **Biblical faith is tangible – and it has evidence.** Hebrews 11 deals with what true faith is and what it does for us. **It provides unshakable evidence that the unseen spiritual blessings of Christianity are absolutely certain, and brings future within the present and makes the invisible seen.**

Faith is confidence in trustworthiness of God, and conviction through experience that what God says is true and that what He promises will come to pass. Through our 34 years now as believers in God of the Bible and in His Word, we have seen God work in us and in our lives. Invisible has become visible. Faith is not a leap in the dark. Surest evidence for that is found in the Word of God. *A life of faith is not without problems. God tests our faith to see if it is genuine (1 Pet. 1:7), and when we seek answers from the Word of God, our faith and trust in Him and what He has said becomes stronger.* **By faith we know that God created all things. God is the only one who was there and He is the One who, in His Word, tells us how it happened. We believe His Word and thus we know.** We accept His Word as absolutely true, and by faith we understand. We hear people say, “*Seeing is believing*”. God says, “*Believing is seeing*”. Jesus said to Martha, “*Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see...*” (John 11:40.) And, “*These things I have written to you who believe... that you may know.*” (1 John 5:13.) ***Through faith in God's Word we receive knowledge and understanding.*** The worlds were formed by the Word of God. *God spoke and matter came into being.* This agrees perfectly with man's discovery that “*matter is essentially energy*”. When God spoke, there was a flow of energy in the form of sound waves. These were transformed into matter, and the world sprang into being. “*By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*” (Hebr. 11:3.) *Energy is invisible, so are atoms and molecules and gases, but yet in combination they become visible. That is evidence!*

What evolutionists believe has no proof. There is no real evidence of what they believe to be true. **They believe because Evolution has become an atheistic religion promoted by our atheistic government that promotes macro-evolution and climate change - without facts or evidence of either.**

“Ministers of Evolution” cannot find one eyewitness to corroborate any of their claims regarding the origins of their *beliefs*. As Christians we have the Bible that gives evidence of origins of the world and all of God’s creation. The New Testament was written by eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ, His life, death and resurrection. Jesus Himself gave a witness for factual truthfulness of the writings found in the Old Testament. They were given to prophets by the Creator God Himself. (See Luke 24:25-27, 44.) We as believers in God’s Word stand on the solid ground of evidence.

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We have also, again, received challenging questions concerning our qualifications to teach about ***the Mormon Church and what it is and what it teaches, compared to biblical Christianity***. Our website has our story, but just because we were again asked we sent a reply.

[Most of you receiving our letters may know this, but some of the newer subscribers may not.]

I, Dennis Higley, am a 6th generation Mormon. I, together with my wife, Rauni, left the LDS Church in 1983. My family has been LDS since the first one of them joined the Mormon Church in the year it was organized, in 1830. From my childhood I was always active in my Church. I served a 2.5-year LDS mission in Finland. After my mission I was called to serve in leadership and teaching positions in Mormon wards and stakes, positions which required substantial knowledge of doctrines of the Mormon Church. During the next about 20 years I held positions of an Elder’s Quorum President, Sunday School Teacher, Priesthood quorum teacher, Executive Secretary, etc. , and my last four years in the LDS Church, I served as a Stake High Councilman - a position of supervising activities of about ten wards (congregations) in the area where we lived.

I, Rauni Higley, am a convert to the LDS Church in Finland. I served a full time LDS mission there before coming to Salt Lake City, Utah. Upon my arrival I was hired by the Mormon Church to work as a full-time translator, interpreter and language coordinator, translating doctrinal teaching materials, including the secret Temple Ceremony and General Conference sessions, etc., working under the high leadership of the LDS Church. My work required research of the history and a thorough knowledge of the doctrines of the Church. I worked in this position over 14 years. In addition to my translation and research work, I was an active member of the Mormon Church, teaching Sunday School and having a leadership position as a Stake Relief Society Board member (Women’s organization in the LDS Church).

*I have studied Mormonism and its doctrines from LDS prophets’ and apostles’ teachings and writings, and earlier recorded writings from the archives of the Church. Dennis and I have together collected into our personal library hundreds of early Mormon writings and books, as well as later LDS leaders’ books and writings. Our teachings and responses to those asking about Mormonism and what it teaches are, by best of our knowledge, factual as well as informative. We have taught courses on **Mormonism vs. biblical Christianity** since the beginning of our ministry in 1984, and we have answered doctrinal challenges from LDS people as well as questions from Christians wanting to help Mormons into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ of the Bible.*

We were married in the Salt Lake LDS temple in 1965 and we have 3 adopted daughters and 6 grandchildren.

May has been a great month for **HIS Ministry**. He has been with us; that is without question.

I also have good news after seeing my new Primary Care doctor on 5/12/16: My blood tests were normal and a new ultra-sound showed that tumor in my thyroid has gotten smaller (1 mm, which is not much, but yet smaller) and my surgery has been ‘*put on hold*’ for now. ☺ We thank all of you, our friends, who have

faithfully prayed that the Lord will heal me – and that without surgery. It has been a year this month that my thyroid tumor was found by ultra-sound. I was scheduled to have a surgery in July 2015, but we decided to wait and see if there was any other way. It seems now that the Lord is doing the healing – which He can if He wills. He has promised that *if we ask according to His will, He hears us and gives us what we ask*. Thank you, Lord. (1 John 5:14-15. Also Ps. 91:14-16.)

We are very thankful for God’s calling to us for this ministry, and that God has raised many of you to be our partners so that we are able to provide needed materials – Bibles, books, DVDs etc. We praise God for what He is doing through you. It gives us joy and happiness when we see results of this work. That literally shines from the faces of the new believers in the Lord. We have, from the start, operated on the belief that God will provide as we seek to serve and worship Him, and thus we do not make appeals for money, although our ministry operates solely on donations that we receive “freewill”.

All these, over 30 years, God has proven to be faithful and He has provided also work for Dennis to take care of our personal needs. God’s past provision for our basic needs is our guarantee of His future provision. Our Lord, He is GOD! We ask you to pray for our health and strength, and that we have needed wisdom to help many more out of bondage of Mormonism to freedom in the Lord.

In the midst of sorrow of Dick Baer’s passing, we are joyful that He is with the Lord and all his earthly trials are over. Patty, Dick loving wife, called us and expressed her gladness that *Dick will not be suffering any more – no more pain and frequent visits to doctors and hospitals, no more sitting in a wheelchair, but freedom of walking and even running...* Join us in prayer for Patty and her strength during this hard time.

Please continue praying with us for Suzi also, who, though she is happy that Rich is in heaven, she still has a hard time adjusting to her life without him.

We are asking prayer for Judy’s therapy-success and that she will soon be able to walk after being paralyzed 6 months ago as a result of strokes during her brain surgery.

We are asking prayer for Jennifer and her pregnancy (there were some concerns at first) and asking that their baby boy will be healthy when he is born in August. Please pray with us for Tom, Dave, David H., Merridy, Max, Pat, Dale, Sharon, Al and Sandy for their improved health and freedom from pain. Pray also for Heber, Bruce and others who did not want their names mentioned –but we know that the Lord knows exactly what each of these friends need.

We pray for you and we thank you for praying for us. If my health improves, we may consider starting a new ***Understanding Mormonism*** class this fall.

We are going to take a week off and go camping and resting and doing some needed studying and reading. Weather right now is not good (lots of rain and quite cool), but in a few days when we plan to leave, it could be a lot better. ☺

In the service of the Lord,

Rauni & Dennis

(You can contact us by email: hismin@xmission.com or by phone: 801.943-5011)

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