



*He Is Savior, Acts 4:

May 1, 2016

H.I.S. Ministries May Newsletter Covering April 2016

Life is short, death is sure, and eternity is endless.

We were created in God's image, which means that we are eternal beings. We will live forever – but where? God, in His Word, the Bible, tells us that we live forever - either in heaven or in hell.

"...as it appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." (Hebr. 9:27.) No second chance! That death comes to everyone is 100% sure. We just don't know when. It can come to us at any age – young or old. It can come suddenly without warning by accident or by heart attack, giving no time to prepare – or it may come after a long illness that may provide time to evaluate where a person stands with God, but we simply cannot count on that. When the death comes, at that very moment everyone is faced with their eternal destiny – heaven or hell. Our bodies die, but our spirit and soul will continue to live forever.

This is a serious issue and must be considered now!

How do we prepare for eternity? It is very interesting how carefully many prepare for their short vacations, but do not even think twice where they will be forever! Jesus Himself, in **Luke 16:19-31**, told about two men who had died. One of them was a poor man, Lazarus, who had died as a believer in God. His spirit and soul was in comfort, *"in Abraham's bosom"*. The other man who had died was rich and because of his riches and comfortable and carefree life, he had not bothered to *seek and know God* (Jer. 29:11-13). Now he found himself *in torments in Hades*. He was begging that Lazarus would be sent back to warn his family and tell them about **his condition in this torment** so that they would not end up where he is. He was told that it is not possible – **there is no second chance**. He was also told, *"And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us."* (Lk. 16:28) [Regardless of what the Bible says, Mormonism teaches that there is a second chance. They teach and believe that when a *good Mormon* dies, he/she goes to the Spirit World to teach and convert the dead to Mormonism.] But Jesus said (v. 28) that missionary work for the dead is not possible, for "there is a great gulf fixed...!" Rich man was told, *"They have Moses (5 books of Torah) and the prophets (the rest of the scriptures), let them hear them. And he (the rich man) said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead'."* (Lk. 16:29-31.)

Christ has risen from the dead and many still don't believe in His Words.

How eager are we to share our understanding about *how to get to heaven from earth* also reveals how much we love and care about our family and friends who do not know the way – yet. We must not be just satisfied that we know that we ourselves are going to heaven the moment we die, but what about our loved

ones? Wouldn't we, who know that death instantly determines where we spend eternity, want to share this important truth with those who may not yet know? **By sharing Jesus and the gospel with them, we are inviting them to be with us forever in heaven. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 10:9-10.)** How can we not try our best to bring them to a point where they can make their decision and ask Jesus to forgive them and wash their sins away by His perfect blood sacrifice He offered on Calvary's Cross for us all? (John 3:16.)

As we saw, Luke 16:19-31 reports of two places where souls and **spirits of departed ones were held**. Believers went to **"Abraham's bosom"** (Paradise) and unbelievers were sent to **"torment"**. There was a change after Jesus' ascension to heaven. The New Testament tells us that after Jesus' ascension, spirits and souls of **all born again believers**, immediately upon their death, **will go to be with the Lord in heaven** (2 Cor. 5:8), but when unbelievers die, they will still go to the **"place of torment"** where they will wait until the **Great White Throne Judgement (Rev. 20:11-15)**. That will take place after the Millennial Kingdom, where we, as Christ's own, have already been with the Lord for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:6-7.) I picture that we will be witnessing that Judgment, and with broken hearts seeing those of our unsaved loved ones and friends to whom we had witnessed to among them, but who had rejected our witness. How sad will that day be! But we will also be facing those friends and loved ones whom we had NOT warned or witnessed to, who will look at us with sad and desperate eyes, even asking, YOU KNEW – WHY DID YOU NOT TELL ME?

They would have a reason to accuse us of not loving them or being their real friend.

Our love and concern for our unsaved family members and friends has to prompt us to speak up and share Jesus whom the Father sent so that we all could go to heaven. (John 3:16.)

We are fully aware, and have learned through experience, that it is often more difficult to **"get through"** to our LDS family and friends than to those who are strangers to us, but if we do not even try, they may never have an opportunity to come to know the truth about Jesus and their eternal destiny. This is the reason why the Bible says, **"Today is the day of your salvation"**, (Hebr. 3:15) for tomorrow is not promised to anyone. The fact could well be that **you may be the only representative of the real Jesus they will ever know**. When our dear friend, Dick Baer, was full time in his ministry to Mormons, he used to sing with his beautiful singing voice, **"You are the only Jesus they may ever know"**, and that is what we'd like all of us to keep in mind, rather than assume that *maybe someone else will tell them*. All believers are to be witnesses for the Lord! (Acts. 1:8; Ez. 33:7-9.)

It has been said that the **"greatest obstacle to Truth is the assumption that you already have it"**. The Mormons have been taught they have the complete Truth that the Christians who, they say, **only have the Bible**, cannot have. The Mormon missionaries (now over 80 thousand strong) are mainly seeking to convert Christians who may even be regular attendees of their churches, but who do not really know the Bible. They have a tremendous success rate in converting gullible and **biblically illiterate** Christians to Mormonism. (Annually about 300 thousand join the Mormon Church!) They use Christian terminology (but with a different hidden and deceptive meaning) that those not doctrinally solid will accept as **"truth"** and very quickly become strong defenders of that religion. (Been there, done that.) We as Christians need to educate everyone about deceptive doctrines of Mormonism that are taking them to eternal hell. There is no hope of salvation to those who cling to false gods of Mormonism and their counterfeit "Jesus". God of Mormonism is not eternal, unchanging God (Ps. 90:2), but a god who was one a mortal man like we are now. "Jesus" of Mormonism is not God who became a man to die for us (John 3:16), but a created being, a brother of Lucifer and all mankind, who came to **"work for his own salvation"**, and who **"became a god"** as all Mormons are

working to also become. As Mormons, we too worshipped false gods, which is against the First Commandment and we served these false gods in a temple decorated with *images and likeness of sun, moon and stars*, and a “golden angel” on top of the temple. All that is against the Commandments of the True God of the Bible. (Exodus 20:3-4.)

In John 8:23-24, Jesus refuted that He is mankind’s brother from *preexistence* (i.e. we did not preexist). He said that He alone came from “above” (i.e. heaven - men did not). He said, “***if you do not believe that I AM*** (God – Ex.3:14) ***you will die in your sins***”. *Only God can forgive sins* (Mark 2:7), thus we MUST know and believe that Jesus is God, as Matt. 1:23 and John 1:1, 14 say, to have our sins forgiven.

Those of us, who have been rescued from Mormonism, understand the fear and bondage that we once were under. But we also know that there is hope for all Mormons if we only take our faith in true God seriously and don’t worry so much about rejection that often happens when they do not want to hear us. **We have to be willing to risk relationships for the sake of the Lord and the gospel if we truly care about the lost and understand that their eternal life is at stake.** God can provide miracles if we are willing to be used of Him.

I would like to tell you about Eddy, a young man in WA. His story got to be an encouragement to all of us: On April 2nd 2013 we received a desperate phone call from Eddy’s Christian mother, Marilyn, who said that she had just found out that her 24-year old son, Eddy, has been, for several months, meeting with Mormon missionaries. She also found out he has been dating a young Mormon lady, and that he was planning on joining the Mormon Church! Marilyn said that she didn’t know much about Mormonism excepting that it was not a Christian religion. She had already called her pastor asking if he could help Eddy, but he did not know much about this religion either. She also had called a few ministries to Mormons in Utah and Arizona, but had not received much help. Then she was told by Sam Mikel, in Vancouver, WA, about Dennis and I, and that we were former Mormons, suggesting that we perhaps could help her and Eddy. As we talked I suggested that she’d go to our website (www.hismin.com) and print our doctrinal papers, “*Mormonism, what you really need to know*” from there to get some understanding how un-Christian Mormon doctrine really is. She immediately printed about 200 pages from there and started to study them. The next 2-3 days we spent hours on the phone talking about what this would mean to Eddy if he’d just reason and check things out. I suggested that she’d ask Eddy to call me. On 4/6/13 – Eddy called. **He told me that he believed that Mormonism was of God and that he was going to be baptized Saturday - in 2 days!** He seemed to be *fully converted* to Mormonism. He argued for Mormonism like *a pro*. During our many hours long first discussion in my heart and mind I was pleading for the Lord to give me right words to say, for only He knows Eddy’s heart and what I should say to help him see. The next day he called again, on his lunch break, which showed to me that he had been thinking. Nevertheless, he said that he still wanted to be baptized.

I asked him to only *postpone his baptism* till he had a little more time to *check out few doctrinal issues to make sure baptism was the right decision for him*. When he called back that evening, he said that *he had postponed his baptism for a month*. (Yeah! ☺ God is good!) We continued talking from there on just about every day, and I also sent him a box of books, DVDs, and documentations to prove that all I had told him was so. I also sent him our research papers, “*Mormon Missionaries at Your Door*”, that explain how missionaries are taught to twist biblical verses and take them out of context and thus make Mormon doctrines seem to be biblical. It works with people who are not *fluent in the Bible*. And that was Eddy, then! **Praise be to God for before the month was over Eddy gave up Mormonism completely and received the Lord**

Jesus (John 1:12; 3:7), and he was born again. Not only that, but by August his Mormon girlfriend, Jacqui, (from a prominent local LDS family) also received the Lord and was born again.

I had sent Eddy *Chuck Missler's John Study* and they were so excited about learning who Jesus really is. We were in frequent contact by phone as they studied and had a lot of questions. They both were earnestly preparing to witness to her parents and siblings.

Her brother Jacob had received his mission call about that time, and he soon left for MTC (Mission Training Center in Provo, Utah) to prepare for his 2-year LDS mission. Jacqui and Eddy were very sad that they could not help him to see the truth before leaving. (Eddy and Jacqui were literally "*on fire for the Lord*" and it was a delight for us to experience. [We reported briefly about Eddy's growth in the Lord first in our May, June and July Newsletters of 2013, and later also of Jacqui's excitement to be among the saved - in our August, September and November 2013 newsletters. These letters are on our website, if you want to read more about them.]

In July 2014, a year after Jacqui had become a Christian, Eddy and Jacqui were married in Blaine, WA. At that time Dennis and I were in Finland and could not be with them, but they promised to come and meet us in person after we come back home. They drove to see us (around trip about 1,700 miles), and spent nearly a week with us. What a joy it was to spend all those days talking about the Lord, His Word and also to teach them how to best witness to Mormons. We have given them Chuck Missler's Bible studies of both Old and New Testament, and they have grown in the Lord faster and deeper than we have ever seen anyone grow in our over 30 years of ministry.

Jacqui's brother came back from his 2-year LDS mission about 2 months ago. He, of course, is now wanting to convert Jacqui and Eddy back to Mormonism! ☺ Instead, they are teaching Jacob about the Lord, but he is stubbornly "testifying" that Mormonism is true. We are praying with Eddy and Jacqui that they will be able to help her brother's mind and heart to open to consider the truth of the Bible.

I will include topics of their discussions with Jacob they had just last week. They asked us how to respond to some of them. [I have sent Eddy and Jacqui my replies. We are letting us know how this discussion advances.]

They had talked with Jacob, among other things, about Joseph Smith's polygamy and his relationship with Fanny Alger. (My answers to Eddy and Jacqui will be in red text below their questions.)

Eddy and Jacqui asked: *What are the sources to show that Joseph Smith was "caught", "found" with Fanny Alger? We have a book, "Sacred Loneliness" by Todd Compton. Are there other (LDS) sources?*

Answer: Yes, there are many LDS sources reporting of Fanny Alger's and Joseph Smith's intimate relationship. This young girl, Fanny Alger, had come to Smith's household in 1831 as a servant girl when she was about 14 years old. Remember that Joseph Smith did not claim "revelation" for polygamy until 1843 – [which "revelation" obviously was to justify his *exploding womanizing* – and blame God for it, saying that God *commanded it!*] Two of Joseph Smith's scribes, Warren Parrish and Oliver Cowdery, had "**found**" *Joseph Smith in the barn, "in the hay" with Fanny "as wife"*. [See: **Nauvoo Polygamy by George D. Smith**, pp. 39-43, and continuing.] Joseph Smith's main scribe for the Book of Mormon and his close friend, Oliver Cowdery, was excommunicated from the church (on 4/12/1838), because he had called Joseph Smith's relationship with Smith's young servant girl, Fanny Alger, "a dirty, nasty, filthy affair". Mormon Church's historian, Andrew Jensen (in the 1870's) reported of Oliver's excommunication, saying that Fanny Alger was "one of the first plural wives of Joseph Smith". (Jensen: **Historical Record of the Church**, p. 233.) Jensen was obviously implying

that there could have been others as Nancy Johnson who is mentioned **“among the first polygamous wives of Joseph Smith”**. (See **Brigham Young and His Wives**, p.31.) **Nauvoo Polygamy** reports that Emma also had found Fanny and Joseph together in the barn at another time and Emma had told her friend that **“she [had] looked through a crack in the barn door and saw the transaction”**. Joseph had begged Emma’s forgiveness, but later when the **results** (Fanny’s pregnancy) became evident, Emma ordered Fanny out of their house. **Two active LDS women** [Linda King Newell and Valeen Tippetts Avery] wrote a biography of Emma Smith in 1984, **“Mormon Enigma; Emma Hale Smith”**, and it also reports of this incident. **Fawn Brodie**, LDS history professor, who was a **niece of President David O. McKay**, wrote a history of Joseph Smith, **“No Man Knows My History”** in 1945. She also reports of Fanny Alger and about 40 or so other **“wives”** of Joseph Smith. **Nauvoo Polygamy** (I’d recommend that you’d get that book) lists 38 women that Joseph Smith had married. [After Fanny Alger and her pregnancy, Joseph’s next dozen **“wives”** were *already married women with living husbands....safer, maybe?*] **George Smith** writing in **Nauvoo Polygamy does not call Fanny Alger a “wife of Joseph Smith” – only as a girl with whom Joseph had years’ long affair.**

Eddy’s and Jacqui’s discussion with Jacob turned to another topic, what happens to people who leave the Mormon Church. Eddy asked: Are people like you and Dennis and Jacquie who have left Mormonism and taken your names off from Mormon membership records going to go to outer darkness unless you get re-baptized into the church according? I thought this was what they teach?

Answer: Yes, that is what THEY teach, but of course that has no meaning to any of us for Mormonism is a false religion and Mormon teachings are false. **We KNOW where we are going, for we belong to Jesus Christ who is GOD ALMIGHTY (Rev. 1:8; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 14:6; 17:17), and His Word and promises are true. We will be in heaven with Jesus!**

Eddy’s and Jacqui’s other topic with Jacob was Adam-God doctrine taught by Brigham Young. Jacob didn’t believe that it was taught as doctrine. Eddy asked us : I know it is taught somewhere in the Journal of Discourses, but I do not own the Journal of Discourses. Is there any other source for Brigham Young teaching Adam-God doctrine? I answered: **Journal of Discourses is a 26-volume set, reporting General Conference talks of nearly 40 years. You must stress the scriptural importance of General Conference talks for LDS members. That is because the Mormon Church has announced (see *the Church News*, October 2004) that all General Conference talks (past and present) are scripture to Mormons. Therefore Brigham Young’s General Conference talks he gave (for 25 years on that subject), teaching that Adam is God, is scripture! Not only did Brigham teach this doctrine, but his apostles taught it also. You need to also remind Jacob that Brigham was a prophet of the LDS Church longer than anyone else, ever. And the LDS Church teaches that God would not allow his prophet to lead people astray. (See Quad - D&C, Declaration 1 – p. 292.) Brigham Young took the leadership of the Church when Joseph died in 1844. Brigham Young moved his followers to Salt Lake City Valley in 1847. He begun, in 1852, to teach openly that Adam is God – and he continued teaching it until his death in August of 1877. He taught that Adam is God and father of our spirits, and that he is also the physical father of Jesus Christ. He had said that he learned that from Joseph Smith. -- Adam is still, in our day, presented in the temple ceremony as a God, but many Mormons do not seem to notice it. Remind Jacob that Michael and Jehovah (as 2 Gods presented in the temple ceremony) **“organized” the world, and then Michael “becomes” Adam. Is it not taught that Gods (plural) organized the world? (See the PoGP,****

Abraham, Chapter 4.) (About Adam=Michael, see also D&C 27:11; and 116.) Brigham and other apostles adamantly taught that *“Adam is our God, and the only God with whom we have to do”*. Brigham’s sermon on Adam-God was also published in the Deseret News (example: June 18, 1873), where he assured that this doctrine is not just his opinion, but that “God Himself had revealed this doctrine to him”. Apostles Heber C. Kimball, Orson Pratt and many others likewise taught that *Adam is God*. It was also taught in the other publications of the Mormon Church, as in the *Millennial Star*. (November 26, 1853 issue, front page, was titled: ADAM, OUR FATHER AND GOD.) (I could quote many more, but it would make this letter a very long one.☺) [Adam-God was also taught in more detail in the Temple, As Lecture Before the Veil.] In addition to these, I have Apostle Bruce McConkie’s letter of 1980’s, where he says *that it is true that this doctrine (that Adam is God), was taught by Brigham Young and others! All people under President Brigham Young’s strong rule (that lasted over 30 years) HAD TO BELIEVE what he taught*. [I will continue with Jacob’s additional “arguments” with Jacqui and Eddy in the next Newsletter.]

We are so very thankful to the Lord for this ministry work that He has called us to do. It is our joy to be able to share Him with those who do not know Him yet, but are bound to false gods and “another Jesus” of Mormonism. It is rewarding to see them come free from bondage and fear that they have been under. We experienced that joy again with Ruth and Brent Smart, who came to see us about 2 weeks ago from Preston, Idaho. We had a dinner at our home and lovely visit with them. [You may recall that we had written about them in our January Newsletter.] They contacted us the very first time just before last Christmas, and we were able to send them a package of books, DVDs, our booklets, and Missler’ John-study. They received them just a day before Christmas. They were generational Mormons, and we are happy to report that **now they are believers in Christ Jesus of the Bible**. They are so alone in this small, nearly 100 %, LDS town and they need new friends. We praise the Lord for their courage and stand for truth regardless of the pressure they are experiencing from their LDS community and relatives. They left our house with boxes of Bible-study tapes that we were able to give to them. Our *family-of-Christ* is growing! God is good, all the time! We love to be busy at work *sharing Jesus*. We want to thank all of you who pray for us and for people whom we are teaching the biblical truth about God. We thank you for showing that you value our work by also assisting in expenses that we have for providing needed printed and recorded information to Mormons. We thank the Lord that He talks to you about our needs. We know that He will reward you and blesses you for your help to our ministry. These blessings may come to you in various ways, depending on your needs, whatever they are. God sees and He hears you as He hears us when we ask His help. It is crucial for us to be able to continue giving Bibles and other materials to LDS people in their search for truth.

Dennis has been witnessing to Franck who seems to be close in making his decision for the Lord. Please pray for Franck.

Eric and Nicole have also asked prayer as they are talking with their new friend David, a Lutheran-Christian, who is confused about Mormonism - that to him seems *wholesome and attractive*. We all need to be aware how they attract people, and inform them about falseness of it all, and doing that with love and concern. When we witness, we must ask the Holy Spirit to open their hearts otherwise they cannot *hear with understanding* what we are saying. They need to come to KNOW who the biblical Jesus is before they can identify a false “Jesus” Mormonism presents. It is sad that so many Christians have no discernment.

We need to realize that closer we are to the Lord, more dangerous we become to Satan. He brings to our heart discouragement when our witness is rejected, but we must not stop but continue with prayer for each of them and that our witness will be followed by others who will add to what we have said. (1 Cor. 3:6-9.)

We ask that you'd pray that our dear friend and brother in Christ, Bruce Maynes [a former generational LDS we were blessed many years ago to lead to the knowledge of Christ] will find distributors for his beautiful book, "Wild River Bears". Bruce is an excellent, professional wild-life photographer. He desired to write a book to give praises to the Lord through photographs of God's creation. His wonderful book has pictures of seldom seen white bears (called "*spirit bears*") and also brown bears, stone sheep, big-horn sheep, eagles, sea lions, harbor seals and other creatures, all pictured in their natural surroundings in Alaska, British Columbia, North West America, Yellowstone and Glacier Natural Parks. After publishing his book just before Christmas, he found out that it is hard to find distributors for a Nature Photography book that gives praise and credit to God rather than to "evolution". They have said to him that *they love his book and pictures, but not the Christian message...* They would rather see evolution promoted. How sad it that!

We are asking prayer for health blessings for Suzi, Judy, Max, Pat, Merridy, Dave, Tom V., David H., Caryl, Dale, Sharon, Dick, Patty, Al, Sandy and also for Jennifer and her pregnancy. There are others, like Heber, who are in need of God's direction in their lives. Some have just *asked prayer*, without going into details. The Lord knows our hearts and needs and responds as we also ask that our children and grandchildren will come to the Lord and be saved. (1 John 5:14-15.)

Please let us know how we can help you. You can write to us: hismin@xmission.com or go to our website, www.hismin.com or you can call 801.943-5011.

We pray that this newsletter will encourage you to keep on telling your family and friends about Jesus. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Ps. 122:6), for that is the city from where He will be ruling as *the King of kings and the Lord of lords* of the whole world when He comes again.

If we claim to be believers, i.e. God's people, there is a message to us all in 2 Chronicles 7:14. God says that if His people will humble themselves and pray and seek His face and turn from their wicked ways, He will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.

There is a huge turmoil going on in our land, and it is because people have forgotten God. We, His people, have in silence allowed the Bible and prayer taken from our schools (in 1960's), we have in silence allowed abortions (about 4 million babies killed every year since 1970's). We have not stood against to what God hates. If we are His people we must repent, turn away from sinful behavior and pray that God will forgive our sins heal us and our land. We are way *past do* for God's Judgment – and if there is no change, His judgment will come – it has already begun.

Praying for you and us all,
Rauni & Dennis Higley

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