



***He Is Savior, Acts4:12**

September, 2016

H.I.S. Ministries September 2016 Newsletter, covering August 2016

This summer has gone fast – faster than other summers, it seems. Maybe it seems that way because we took time off in July to go to Montana and Idaho, as we reported in our last month’s newsletter. It was a memorable and blessed trip in many ways. It is our reward when we can meet with former Mormons who now belong to Jesus of the Bible who gave us an opportunity to assist them in their transition. It is wonderful to know that God directs our lives and He gets the glory of what results from our obedience to Him.

A highlight in our August’s ministry work was Cody Robbins’ baptism in the Provo River, 8/14/16. Cody had asked Dennis to baptize him at the very same spot where Dennis had, four years ago, baptized Cody’s wife, Emily. Many of you may remember Emily’s story, right? [Emily had contacted us about 14 years ago, asking our counsel and help, for she had come to seriously doubt the truthfulness of the Mormon Church, though she comes from a core-Mormon family, sort of “LDS royalty”, the Kimballs. Emily’s great-grandfather is the late LDS Prophet and President, Spencer W. Kimball. Emily was aware that I had worked under President Spencer W. Kimball most of my years as a translator and interpreter for the LDS Church and thought that I would understand the difficulties she would face if she should leave the Mormon Church. We started to meet with Emily regularly to talk and study the Bible together. We came to love her very much. She eventually accepted Lord Jesus of the Bible and resigned from the LDS Church. Her father was furious. But her grandfather, Edward Kimball, was perhaps the kindest of all of her relatives to her. Emily and Cody were married 10 years ago. Her father refused to even attend her wedding, and her grandfather, Edward Kimball, “walked her down the aisle” at the local Baptist church. They have 3 beautiful children.] Cody was also raised in the Mormon Church and though he too came to know Jesus of the Bible, he was a bit more hesitant than Emily in expressing his new faith among his Mormon relatives, and he had not received a Christian baptism. About five months ago Cody called and asked Dennis to baptize him on Emily’s birthday, 8/14, at the very same place where Dennis had baptized Emily four years ago. This was to be kept secret until then. Cody had invited his LDS parents and other Mormon relatives to this special dedication of his life to Jesus. He also invited Emily’s LDS mother and sisters, who had not attended Emily’s baptism. Cody had also invited their home Bible-study group to come to this occasion. There were about thirty people present. Before baptizing Cody, Dennis presented the biblical gospel and also what Christian baptism means vs. what baptism represents to those who are LDS. Dennis began by first reading from 1 Cor. 15:1-4, *“I DECLARE UNTO YOU THE GOSPEL, which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand; BY WHICH YE ALSO ARE SAVED... for I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, HOW CHRIST*

DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES; AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.” Dennis continued and read from Romans 6:3-4 where Paul explained the meaning of baptism, saying, **‘Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized INTO Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.’** Paul speaks of baptism as **what it demonstrates to the world; i.e. our identification with Christ. By being baptized into Jesus Christ [not into a church], we are publically confessing our faith in the Gospel of Christ which is His death, burial and resurrection in our behalf, thus we are identifying ourselves with Jesus. Paul says that we should KNOW that baptism represents Jesus’ death and burial and resurrection, and also our death to our ‘old self’, and that as Christ was raised from the death, we are raised with Him now to live a new life in Christ, and also as His own, we will have eternal life with Him thereafter. Baptism gives a visual demonstration of death of Christ and a “funeral” of our old selves as we are immersed in water. As we come up from the waters, it pictures a new person in Christ rising to walk in newness of life. We can say with Paul, ‘It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.’ (Gal. 2:20.)**

As surely as we are united together with Christ in the likeness of His death in baptism, we also shall be united with Him in likeness of His resurrection.” After saying this, Dennis and Cody went to the river and Cody was baptized.

We pray that the seeds of truth which Cody’s and Emily’s families heard, will bring forth in their hearts a desire to know Christ Jesus of the Bible and that they would follow Him as He is *“the way, truth and life.”* This was indeed the *“best birthday present”* to Emily, and also a witness to all present of Cody’s and Emily’s faith and their love of Jesus. By being baptized, Emily (4 years ago) Cody demonstrated that they are not, *“...ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes.”* (Rom. 1:16.) We praise the Lord for Emily’s and Cody’s witness and example, and we shed tears of joy with them. (Pictured below right - Emily and Cody and their 3 children as they arrived to the Provo River, **without Emily knowing** why Cody took them there on her birthday! Left, Dennis has just baptized Cody. **Now she knows!** ☺)



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As we continue to minister and present the Biblical Gospel to all who want to meet with us, call us, or who write to us, we find that confusion abounds. Most LDS people sincerely say *that they believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior*, and thus think that they are already Christians. Even those who say that they do not accept or believe *“all of Mormonism”*, assume they do not need to *“come out from among them”* (2 Cor. 6:16), and can stay in Mormonism, because they think they are saved since they *“believe”* in Jesus Christ.

We recently met with an LDS woman, who had come to see that Joseph Smith was not a prophet of God and thus she knows that Mormonism is not all true, but she considers her belief *in Jesus, which she had been taught in the Mormon Church, is as true now as it was before*. While analyzing what she believed about Jesus, it became clear that she believed all the Biblical stories and all the miracles that Jesus had performed, and that believing in them, she was sure of, made her a Christian. I asked her if belief in Jesus' miracles and stories makes someone or anyone a Christian, and she said that they would. I asked her: *If that is so, then Muslims would be Christians for they also believe in these stories?* She denied that they are Christians. I asked, *"Why not? They even believe that Jesus was born of a Virgin, which Mormonism does not teach."* (Mormonism teaches that Jesus is a literal son of God, who is an exalted man. See Mormon Doctrine under Only Begotten Son.) She said that they could not be Christians for they do not believe that Jesus is God's Son. We then examined the gospels, where we could see that people who witnessed Jesus' miracles also believed in them, but they did not believe that Jesus was who He said He was, i.e. GOD, and saying that, they wanted to kill Him. She realized that belief in the miracles of Jesus does not save anyone, but belief in WHO He is and receiving Him brings us to our *new birth* (John 3:3, 7), i.e. to salvation. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1,12,14; 6:29) We must believe the Gospel declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4, and that He was born of a Virgin, and thus He is the sinless Son of God. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; Luke 1:26-35.) The Mormon Church's teaching of who Jesus is is based on their belief in preexistence, but Jesus said (John 8:23; 3:13, 31) that He alone came from above [we did not; i.e. we did not preexist as Mormonism teaches]. Jesus continued (8:24), and said, *"unless we believe that He is I AM (God from heaven), we will die in our sins."* In other words, He said that *if we die without having received forgiveness of our sins [only God can give] (Mark 2:7)], we will not go to heaven!* *"You must be born again"*, as Jesus said (in John 3:3,7), to see the Kingdom of God.

We had a very fruitful discussion that seemed to clear her mind out of her confusion of who Jesus is. She also said that she now understands that what she was taught in the Mormon Church about who Jesus is, was not true, although New Testament stories of what Jesus did were true, but the Mormon Church has just credited them to their *counterfeit "Jesus"*. Her confusion had persisted because she still had held onto the Mormon teachings that Jesus was mankind's spirit brother and a brother of Lucifer and all angels - *born in preexistence to "our heavenly parents"*. She acknowledged that understanding WHO JESUS IS changes everything. She now understands that the Bible indeed teaches that *Jesus is not a created being as we are*, but He is GOD who became a man for our sake, and also that angels are not of the same species as we are, but were created by God, as was Lucifer, for a different purpose than mankind (Ez. 28:13-19). She saw that *we were not born to "heavenly parents" (god and his wives) in preexistence, but we were created by God (Gen. 1:27; Zech. 12:1; Isa. 44:2) in our mother's womb*. She also finally understood that she had not been *born of the Spirit* when she was baptized as an 8-year old Mormon child and Mormon elders had laid their hands on her head and said to her, *"Receive the Holy Ghost"*. No man can "command" God the Holy Spirit, but we will receive the Spirit when we receive Jesus (John 1:12-13) and acknowledge who God is (1 John 5:7). She is now eager to help other Mormons to come to an understanding of the fundamental doctrine of God, for false gods, *"another gospel"* or *"another Jesus"* cannot save anyone. (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9.) Mormon teachings of who Jesus is and how we can be saved are the most confusing and difficult parts of Mormonism to remove from minds of those who were taught Mormon doctrine of God, Jesus and salvation. It is perhaps because unlike other Mormon doctrines that evidently came from the mind of Joseph Smith and are much easier to see as false, we, who have been Mormons, were taught of Jesus from the Bible,

although with a dangerous twist we then didn't see – as making Jesus *equal to Lucifer in preexistence*, [who, they say, *contested with Lucifer about becoming the savior of the world*].

Mormonism teaches that we are of the same species as God and Jesus, and that He is our brother and likewise a created being, and that makes Jesus seem “*closer to us*”.

[If reading this gives you further questions on this or any topic, please email them, and I will be glad to elaborate and give more detailed information.]

God's Word gives direction and information in all things, but, of course, if we do not know His Word well and its meaning in context, we may take the “*easy way out*” and instead of seeking to know for ourselves, just accept what the skeptics and those questioning God's Word may say.

Just on the other day I was listening Dr. J. Vernon McGee's teaching on being “*born again*”. He said that there are many *so-called experts*, who do not take God's Word as it is, but add their own imaginations and interpretations, even when the meaning is clearly stated. He spoke about different beliefs of dispensationalism (i.e. *pre-trib, mid-trib or post-trib rapture*) and how some have interpreted what 1 Thess. 4:17 means. Some ignore all together the teaching of Paul found in 1 Thess. 4:13-18 and say that “*rapture*” cannot be *true for that word is not in the Bible*. That is true for that word (rapture) is not in the English translation of the Bible. Our English translation (1 Thess. 4:17) uses words “*caught up*” (“*harpazo*” in Greek), which means “*to be taken up by force*”. We get the word “*rapture*” from the Latin translation that translates “harpazo” as “raptura”, which means the same, “*taken up by force*”. I liked what Dr. McGee said about “*pre-mid- or post-trib- rapture*”. He said, “*It does not matter what anyone now believes about the rapture or its timing, but what does matter is ARE YOU BORN AGAIN! If you are born again, you will be “caught up”, raptured, when it happens, but when it takes place, we do not know. However, if you are not born again, you will be left behind wondering “where did they all go?”*” We agree with Dr. McGee and many other Bible scholars that *all born-again believers will be caught up (raptured) when the Lord calls us to Him just before the Great Tribulation begins*.

When we have a hard time understanding what a particular word in the Bible means, it is best to consider a *word-study*. For that you'd need a *KJV of the Bible* and *The Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* that lists every word in the order they appear in the KJV of the Bible. Strong's Concordance also includes Hebrew and Greek dictionaries of what each word means or can mean. We use our Webster's Dictionary the same way – to see what words mean and how meanings can be interpreted in different contexts.

We understand that there are symbolic and figurative interpretations for many words, but if we read them in context, it is easier to correctly understand them. Words create a language, and they have a meaning and are, in most cases, to be taken literally. For example, some have questioned the meaning of the word “*thousand*”. Does it mean a literal number, 1000, or could it be figurative?

What is the meaning of Ps. 84:10 that says, “*a day in Your courts is better than a thousand*” ... elsewhere? It is another way to say that there is no comparison to what we will have in God's “courts” than what we have here. Similarly what does it mean when Ps. 50:10 says that God owns “*the cattle upon a thousand hills*”? Is that all the cattle that God owns, just those that are “*upon a thousand hills*”? Of course not - God owns it all, everything. It is not that hard to figure out when a word is used figuratively or literally! According to the

Strong's Concordance Dictionary, in most of the cases the word "thousand" means a literal number, 1000, otherwise the context determines if the meaning could be different.

In the New Testament, for example, there are 2 different Greek words translated into English as "thousand" or "thousands". One is "chilias" (Strong's #5505), meaning "thousand", and the other word is "urias" (Strong's #3461) that means *indefinite or innumerable number*.

In the Book of Revelation (5:11 and 9:16) there are two places where a Greek word is "urias", in English Bibles translated "ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands" (5:11), and in another place (9:16) "two hundred thousand thousand" (meaning in Greek is that number is "innumerable", i.e. more than thousand), but everywhere else in the Book of Revelation a Greek word translated "thousand" is "chilias" and it means "one thousand. This is very important issue to make clear, for there are teachers who try to deny literal thousand year reign of Christ after His Second Coming, saying that "thousand years (repeated 6 times in Rev. 20:2-7) does not mean a thousand, but just a long time". The Greek word used there (20:2-7) is "chilias" and it does mean thousand. Testing that this word means *one thousand* is easy to see from Rev. 7:4-8. It counts and lists 144 thousand Israelites; 12 thousand from each tribe. We could not say that these are approximate numbers, but one thousand – that is for sure – and a thousand year (Millennial) reign of Christ is sure as well.

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I had a big problem this week. I lost about 3-4 full days of work, most of what I had written then I was going to use in this newsletter. I lost them because I had not properly saved it in my computer. I thought I had done so, but it all went "poof" to some "unknown place", and is not reachable any more. My computer is old and I do not have all the up-dated protections that most computer-users have. I sought help from our friend, Brenda, who is quite an expert and also from our grandson, Chandler, who also is an expert in that field – but they were not able to find it either. I had to start from "scratch" – and that was disappointing and frustrating. But now Chandler has installed a "back-up file", so it should not happen again. Big "sigh" of relief for that. 😊

We needed to get our September letter done earlier because we are taking a few days plus Labor-Day week-end off to go camping, *one more time*, before the cold weather hits. Dennis has a little slower time in his carpenter-work from 27th of August - for almost 2 weeks, and he really needs to rest to get his blood pressure down and regulated. Camping-time is the only time that he can really rest – no phone-connection, no internet either, just silent nature around us, nothing to do but read, study, talk to the Lord, and sleep. It looks like the Lord is healing me, for my thyroid tumor has not been growing for several months now. It seems, even to me, to be a little smaller, and my doctor is saying that I do not need surgery, not at this point. (Thank you, Lord!) I still get exceptionally tired after a day's work, so this camping time will be good for me too. We thank the Lord for allowing us to go and rest for a few days. Resting is important for both of us, for our ministry work is demanding, and as we get older (?) R&R is important. 😊

Some ask us when we plan to retire. We have no plans for that! "We will work till we drop". We look at the Word of God for counsel in all things and as we see from the Word of God, as God's people got older, their work just increased. Moses did not even begin until he was 80 years old, and he worked 40 more years! We do not see there that any of God's servants, not even one, was looking for a "retirement plan"! 😊

We could not retire anyway for we do not have any retirement or pension fund, nothing! We were self-employed, and as our close friends know, by leaving Mormonism we lost everything – business, properties

and savings. But that is OK. **We have nothing to worry about now!** ☺ When listening to people who have a lot, they, even Christians, also worry a lot. In our “*portfolio*” there are no stocks, bonds, investments, nothing to worry about losing. **Our port-folio has just one name: The Lord Jesus, Our Provider and Lord.** He is faithful! His promises are true! **What more can we ask!**

When people ask why Dennis decided to go into a hard carpentry work after we lost everything, he says, **why not, my Lord was a Carpenter?** Dennis obtained a sign that declares: “**My Boss is a Jewish Carpenter**”. **This “Jewish Carpenter”, He provides for us through Dennis’ carpentry work. He also provides for this, HIS Ministry, through His own faithful people.** We do not have anything *in excess*, over and above what we need, and now it is “*touch and go*” as our funds are concerned, but we trust that God will provide what we need. **THANK YOU, LORD, and thank you, our friends.**

We are praying and asking for you to join us in prayer for health for many – Caryl Matrisciana (we have not heard yet how her treatments in Mexico went), Dale, Sharon, Max and Pat, Merridy, Dave, David, Tom, Judy, Heather (our friend in Canada), Al, Sandy and our LDS friend, Kristine, in Idaho. Bruce and Heber have asked for prayer - the Lord knows their needs. We thank the Lord for answering prayers for Greg and Jennifer Cantrell’s baby, who was born healthy, regardless of what doctors had said at the beginning of Jennifer’s pregnancy. The Lord protected Jennifer and baby Griffin, who is almost a month old now. We also pray for Patty Baer for her loneliness since the passing of her husband, Dick, and also for Suzi, who misses her Rich greatly. These two great men of God are now in *His mansions*. Patty and Suzi, and we, who knew their husbands, eagerly wait to see them again. For us death is a victory.

God bless you all,
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In order to save money, we will be closing our P.O. Box 900415 in October, and are asking that all postal mail will be directed to our home address, 2890 E Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093-2044. Please make a note of that for we do not want to miss your letters. Thank you.

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