



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

January 1, 2017

His Ministries January 2017 Newsletter, covering December 2016

"It's the day after Christmas. The glow on the tree is just a little dimmer because the anticipation of the day is now past. Ever feel that way about your walk with the Lord? Well, let me give you some good news, my friend. The best is yet to be! Jesus said, '... I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.' (John 14:3.) That's right. Christmas Day is past, but ... the Second Coming of Our Lord is imminently on the horizon. He is coming again. And that's not just 'a nice thing;' that's a rock-ribbed truth! Jesus is coming again!" (Adrian Rogers' devotional – 12/26/16.)

Happy New Year, 2017.

It seems amazing, but it is the New Year, and new everything is ahead of us.

We pray that we will continue to see many more new believers coming to Jesus of the Bible as we work to inform them about God's amazing grace and love that saved us and freed us from bondage we too were once under. We are working hard in letting the LDS people know that the same saving grace is available to them also. Through the work of the Spirit of the Living God, during all the years of our ministry, we have witnessed many, many conversions to Jesus Christ of the Bible. The Lord has said that in order to *see the kingdom of God we must be born again* (born from above). "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:3-7.) "Water" is reference to the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23) that teaches us that new birth is brought to all *through His Word*, and then by *receiving Jesus we are born again as children of God*. (John 1:12-13.)

2 Timothy 3:16 instructs us, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness". This means all of the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Paul wrote to Romans (15:4), "*For whatever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*" He is saying, that while the Old Testament scriptures were not written *directly to us*, they contain valuable instructions to us when we face similar circumstances, teaching us how God, throughout history, has rescued His people, and what He can and will do for us too when we repent and pray to Him.

On November 8th we witnessed a miracle that only God could have brought this country through. Some say that it was because millions of evangelical Christians who had not even voted before, now came to vote. It was also reported that a large number of them had prayed and fasted, *according to a command God has given to those who call themselves His people* (2 Chron. 7:14), asking that God would forgive our sin and heal our land. (Of course this command to pray was for Israel, but ***all scripture is given to us as well as instruction in righteousness*** (2 Tim. 3:16) **and without prayer it is impossible to be connected to the Lord. God does answer prayer!** It is not to say that we got a *perfect person* to lead our country, but we are just asking: ***Could it be possible that this President Elect nevertheless just might be the man chosen by God to lead us at this time in history?***

We read (Isa. 44:28) that God raised a *gentile King, Cyrus*, the king of Persia (Iran), to rescue Israel from captivity in Babylon, and through him blessed Israel tremendously in many ways! Can God not likewise raise a person whom we might not at first approve or even like to lead us at this time?

From Dan. 9:2-19 we read that Daniel, by reading Jeremiah's prophecies, knew that the time was at hand, and he prayed and fasted for relief of Israel from captivity, confessing to the Lord, (v. 5) *"we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments."* So have we – we have done wickedly and rebelled against God!

[God is outside of time. All our lives are known to Him even before *"the beginning"*. He told Jeremiah, *"Before I formed thee in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you..."* (Jer. 1:5)

God has a purpose for all of us. He sanctifies us to serve Him where He calls us to go... Our God is mighty, He is God who *"calls those things which do not exist as though they did."* (Rom. 4:17b.) God said, *"Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you..."* (Isa. 48:5.)

Jeremiah prophesied of Israel's 70-year Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 25:11-12) and also their return from this captivity, and that *He will bless them and give them a future and a hope.* (Jer. 29:10-13.)

God named Cyrus as His Shepherd (Isa. 44:28) more than 150 years before Cyrus was born! He was to release Israel from Babylon and to do God's will, even rebuilt the Jerusalem temple, *though Cyrus did not believe in Israel's God.* (That was 539 B.C.)

Rebuilding the temple was very important to Israel for without the temple there could be no sacrificial system which was Israel's *"lifeblood"* in its relationship to God. *God had promised to the Jewish remnant that He would raise up Cyrus*, and He even calls him His *"anointed"*, to restore His people. (See: Isaiah 45:1-6; Ezra 1:1-11.) *[By the Holy Spirit, the prophet Isaiah had referred to Cyrus by name more than 150 years before he was born!]* Jewish historian, Josephus, wrote that *when Cyrus was shown the prophecy of Isaiah, he was so taken by it that he wanted to fulfill it even though he was not a believer in the God of Israel.*

Cyrus led Israel out of captivity, rebuilt their temple, and he even returned to Israel the temple treasures that were taken (stolen) from Jerusalem by *Nebuchadnezzar who had put them in the house of his gods.* *Cyrus' proclamation that he had ordered to be put in writing* (Ezra 1:1-4) *was that God had commanded him to build Him a house at Jerusalem.* *The LORD God stirred in his heart and caused Cyrus to instruct the returnees' neighbors in Persia to give them equivalent of silver and gold, material goods, livestock and freewill offerings.* (Ezra 1:4-7.) *Freewill offerings were for rebuilding the temple*, and other gifts were for the people themselves, similar to how God caused Egyptians to aid Hebrews when He miraculously released them from bondage in Egypt. (Ex. 3:21-22; 11:2-3; 12:35-36.) *We can see that our God can use anyone, even unbelievers and ungodly people to do His will. He will respond if we, as His people, humble ourselves and pray to Him and return from our wicked ways, then He will forgive our sins and heal our land.* (2 Chron. 7:14.) *As the Lord did with Israel, He is able to give us also a better a future and a hope.* (Jer. 29:10-13.) Let's thank the Lord God for His mercy and goodness to us though we do not deserve it.



Around midnight on December 2nd, Caryl Matrisciana passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her family and friends. Caryl was a devoted mother and grandmother as well as a film maker, author, speaker, and valiant defender of the biblical Christian faith. She has left a legacy that many will draw from for many years to come. Please pray for her family during this time. There is a memorial service planned for January 2017. Details will be posted on her webpage when they become available. - Caryl Matrisciana, 1947-2016. www.caryltv.com

We received sad news that our dear friend, Patricia Stewart, passed away on 12/20/2016 of a sudden heart attack. Pat and her husband Max became born again Christians in Vernal, Utah, shortly after we did (in 1982). Their son Preston, his wife Kathy, and Pat's and Max's daughter, Merridy and her husband, Butch, soon after received the Lord also. We have been very close friends with all of the Stewarts since 1977, **when we all were still LDS.** We miss Pat very much, but we are comforted by knowing that she is with the Lord Jesus, and she is there also with Cici, her little 3-year old great-granddaughter, who died unexpectedly in her sleep a year ago, December 12th 2015, after her tonsillectomy. We are asking you to pray for the Stewart family, especially for Pat's husband, Max, who has been very ill for a long time. Pat's sudden passing is extremely hard for him. They have been married 68 years. Dennis has been asked to give a closing prayer at Pat's funeral, 12/30/2016 in Vernal. It is an honor to pray for Stewarts.

From our mailbox: *"Dear Mrs. Rauni Higley, I am a young woman from Maryland. I was born and raised by devout evangelical Christian parents and I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and was born again at a very young age. About two months ago two young Mormon men came to my door questioning my faith and asking if I was a Christian. I told them that I was a devout believer in Jesus, and they stated that they were as well. That caused me to be taken back for a second, even though I am not very informed about all the "ins-and outs" of Mormonism. As I engaged in further conversation with them, I became sure that they do not believe in the same God as I do. I believe firmly, based on my studies of the Bible, that the Only True God is the Triune God: The Father, the Son and The Holy Ghost. I became concerned about their salvation and wanted to help them, but since I have never been a Mormon, I thought that perhaps best for me would be to talk to someone who has been a Mormon and who has forsaken it after discovering that it was not a biblical religion. As I have been searching information about Mormonism from various LDS sources, I came to see that though they seem to be sincere, good and moral people, their doctrine is not right with the Bible. I have noticed also that in all doctrinal points they teach that by warm and positive feelings they can determine what is truth, and by opposite feelings they can determine what is not truth.*

The Bible does not teach that – but instead emphasizes that only by "searching the scriptures (the Bible)" (John 5:39) and testing all teachings by it (Acts 17:11) we can know the truth, and that we are to accept only teachings that are in the Word of God.

I read about you I thought that you perhaps can understand the best a person who was a convert to Mormonism (not raised in it) and how difficult it might be to realize your own error of choosing to become a Mormon. Your husband can perhaps also better understand a person who was "born-and-raised" a Mormon, who himself didn't choose to become a Mormon. He would know how difficult it is to give up family and heritage after seeing that Mormonism is not same as biblical Christianity and after learning that, having to give up all that was natural and familiar to him.

This is why I am writing to you two and asking, are you willing to help me?

I believe that God has a plan for me in this situation and I would like to bring it out about in the most God-honoring way. I have made a brief list of questions that I am pondering: 1. What might be the way to prove authenticity of the Bible compared to the Book of Mormon? 2. How should I go about making it clear that these two books do not agree in major doctrines, as who God is, who Jesus is and what eternal salvation means? 3. How can I leave them with doubt concerning their religion? 4. What can I do or say that will cause them not to have irrefutable defense for Mormonism? 5. What can I say to best defend the Biblical Christian faith? 6. Could you explain what they believe about authority and priesthood that they talk about? I'd love to have you help me, if you will. Can you direct me where I can find answers to these and more questions I have? Thank you. Your sister in Christ, D. P."

Reply: Thank you for writing. I am happy to know that you are a strong born again believer in the biblical Jesus, who is **God with us** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14), and that you also have a desire to bring these erring teachers (LDS missionaries) to truth. You have correctly observed that Mormons do not believe in true doctrine of **God, Jesus and salvation found in the Word of God, the Bible**, and thus they cannot be Christians. **True Christianity is believing the Bible doctrine of God. God gave His Word to us so that we can know it. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for DOCTRINE, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."** (2 Tim. 3:16.) We must, and can with confidence, use God's Word and **correct** falsehoods and prove what the truth about God is. **"Truth"** is one of the titles of Jesus Christ. (John 14:6.) When Jesus, before His crucifixion, **prayed for all His followers, then and now, He prayed, "Sanctify them by Your truth. YOUR WORD IS TRUTH."** (John 17:17.) **"The entirety of Your Word is truth. And every one**

of Your righteous judgments endures forever.” (Ps. 119:160.) God Himself magnifies (elevates) His Word even above His Holy Name. (Ps. 138:2.)

The Book of Mormon, though claiming to be a real history, cannot be proven historically or doctrinally. It is supposedly a record of about 20-30 Jews who sailed to Americas from Israel about 600 B.C., and who relatively soon, in less than 20 years later – (BoM, 2 Nephi 5) divided into 2 groups – one civilized, building even a temple which **“construction was like unto temple of Solomon”** (v.16), and built many fantastic walled cities etc. etc. The other group was a warring, wild and **“loathsome”** group that the Lord God cursed with **“a skin of blackness”** (vs. 21-26). That second group ended up killing all the righteous and civilized people in about 400 A.D. The Mormon Church claims these people of the second group are the ancestors of American Indians that Pilgrims met when they arrived here. **However DNA research has proven that American Indians are not Hebrews from Jerusalem, but a Mongoloid race from Asia.** In addition to this evidence against the BoM, there is no archeological evidence of a civilization on this continent that matches to the claims found in the BoM. Even the doctrine of God, Jesus and salvation taught in the BoM is not the doctrine taught in the Mormon Church today. The LDS Church teaches that God was once a mere man, who had a God above him etc. and that Jesus is a spirit child of God and His wife (one of them), that he is a brother of mankind and Lucifer from a planet, near **Kolob**. That Jesus is the **physically begotten son of this LDS-god** is also taught by Mormons, contrasting the Bible that says that **He was conceived by the Holy Spirit.** (Matt. 1:20.) This Mormon-Jesus is indeed **“another Jesus”**, warned about in 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15, including **“a different gospel and a different spirit”** (v. 4). Paul says that this is taught by **“false apostles”** who received this doctrine from **“an angel of light”**, which is Satan (vs. 13-15).

In contrast to the Book of Mormon, the Bible is proven history, verified by archeology, history (secular and biblical) and prophecy. Every coin mentioned in the Bible, has been found in abundance, and most of the cities talked about there are still in existence. We all know where Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Damascus etc. are. Even all the 29 Kings talked about in the Old Testament have been found recorded in other records or monuments outside the Bible itself, but **no coin, city etc. talked about in the BoM has been found, even language, reformed Egyptian, does not exist.** **As to the Book of Mormon, serious scholars, some of them LDS, have found the BoM to be a plagiarized fiction with scriptures taken from the Bible to make it sound authentic.** [17 full chapters in it are copied from the KJV of the Bible, and even New Testament writers are quoted in the BoM long before there was a New Testament.] The BoM talks about **followers of Jesus Christ, Christians, church, etc., hundreds of years before there was Christ or His church. Logical impossibility!** How could there be **followers of Christ** before there was Christ!?

Answers to the rest of your questions can be found in our website www.hismin.com, including what **Priesthood in Mormonism is vs. the Bible.** We have there over 30 documented articles on various LDS doctrinal teachings. Go to: www.hismin.com/understanding-Mormonism. You can find Mormonism contrasted with Biblical teachings, and you can print and use these when discussing doctrinal matters with Mormons. As you might have more questions when you read this, please do not hesitate to write or call. May the Lord bless you and reward you of your diligent studies in order to be able to help those bound in erroneous doctrines.

We are very grateful to you, our partners and prayer-warriors. **God has been good to our ministry through you!** We were able to finish this year **in black**, even though just barely. ☺ Though there is not much left over and above our needs, **we have been able to fulfill all requested help** – the Bibles, DVDs, books, booklets and other needed proofs for those questioning and asking for more information. Because we have been able to respond with proof, there are now many grateful new believers **who have become part of the family of God. We praise the Lord for your help and support and His directions to us as we speak and write and seek to do His will.**

I mentioned last month that I had a 48-hour heart-monitor test. I went to see the cardiologist again and he explained and went through with me pages and pages from the computer screen. He explained and pointed out rhythm problems I have – my heart rate during these 48 hours went between 60 and 124 beats per minute – taking pauses and sudden **speeding-ups**. I am on medication that is supposed to regulate the heartbeat, but I have had that same medication for many years already. **He said that at this point there is not much else that can be done - unless it gets worse.** The doctor said that my **condition is very “uncomfortable” to have, but with care and needed resting, I can do fine.** (Whatever that means! ☺) I have noticed that if I rest about an hour during the afternoons, I can work better. ☺ In the mornings Dennis brings me 2 cups of coffee that acts as **a starting fluid for my heart** and after drinking that I can start my work. Dennis comments, **“You couldn’t make it as a Mormon. Mormons cannot drink coffee!”**

Dennis will have his cardiologist appointment on January 9th. He has been taking every other week shots of this expensive medication the doctor prescribed. His doctor gave these as samples (free) for a month, but we cannot afford to buy it. (It would cost 1,500.00 per month!). We will see if it even made a difference when they take tests on the 9th.



Many of you know that I have had a **Yellow-nape Amazon Parrot, Coco, for 35 years**. She died on 2nd of December. I have been crying *my eyes out* ever since. She was my companion and friend. She sat on my shoulder as I was doing my work, typing at my computer or studying and writing. Her cage was in my office – and she talked to me all the time, even when she was in her cage. I loved that bird so much. - Dennis made her a nice coffin and placed her in it, wrapped in a soft little blanket. She will be buried in our back yard, under a birch tree, as soon as snow melts and ground thaws. Our artist friend, Jeff Johnson in Vernal, has already painted her picture, and after we get it framed it will be hanging in my office, on the same wall where her cage was.

Please pray for health blessings for Suzi, Heather, Judy, Kristine, Dale, Tom, Dave, David, Max, Merridy, Sandy and Al. There are others needing prayer as Aira, Bruce, Sharon, Patti and Heber for the Lord's help and direction in their trials. **Please pray for the family of Caryl Matrisciana** for losing Caryl on December 2nd, and **for the Stewart-family in their sorrow of losing Pat** so suddenly on 20th of December. Though we miss them tremendously, ***we do not sorrow as those who have no hope, for we know that we will see them again, maybe soon.*** As we all grow older, our time to depart from this life is getting closer and closer, even though we are expecting the Lord to come and take us in the Rapture. ☺ ***Here is the proof for that from the Word of God: "I do not want you to be ignorant...concerning those who have fallen asleep (who have died), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him (Jesus) those who sleep in Jesus. For this I say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep (have died). For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (raptured) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."*** (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) ***The message of the Rapture is indeed comforting. We will meet Caryl, Pat, Cici, Rich, Dick and other loved ones who are there already in the air when the Lord comes for us. Maranatha!***

We want you to know that you, our friends and partners in this ministry, are in our daily prayers as we praise the Lord for you – you support us in so many ways – through prayer, uplifting letters and financial gifts you give to make sure we can give what is needed by those who ask for help and information. (Col. 1:9-14.) **Your rewarder is the Lord.**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.) ***Jesus of the Gospel is all we need.*** (1 Cor. 15:1-4)

We wish you Happy New Year and God's blessings throughout it.

We are serving the Lord with gladness,

Rauni & Dennis Higley – Website: www.hismin.com; email: hismin@xmission.com

"Faith must be built on facts, not fiction. Faith in fiction is a damnable false hope." (Thomas Edison)

H.I.S Ministries is IRS approved 501 (c) (3) Ministry. Your gifts to this ministry are tax deductible. We give books, Bibles, CDs, and DVDs, etc., free of any charge to all LDS people asking for them. We have, from the beginning, operated on belief that **God will provide as we seek His will and His face, and He has done that.** We do not make appeals for financial help, although we operate primarily on freewill donations, trusting that the Lord will direct His own to give so that we will be able to do our work. **We thank you who partner with us in this ministry and ask God's blessing for you.**

Our postal address is HIS Ministries, 2890 E. Willow Bend Drive, Sandy, Utah 84093-2044.

P.S. On our website www.hismin.com we have PayPal donation site up again – if it works better for you use it.

We will be sending receipts for your income tax purposes in about 2 weeks. Watch for that.

