



*[H.I.S] He Is savior, Acts 4:12

November 1, 2018

HIS Ministries November 2018 Newsletter, Covering October 2018

As Christians we glory in the Cross of Jesus for that is where death was defeated and salvation for us made free. With Paul we too say, *"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world."* (Gal. 6:14.) *"For the preaching of the Cross it to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are the saved it is the power of God"*. (1 Cor. 1:18.) Let us as believers in Christ join with Paul and say, *"I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand. By which also ye are saved... For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures."* (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) The gospel is not a "list of dos and don'ts", or requirement of obedience to laws and ordinances, but *it is the good news* for us all. *It is a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, who, according to the Old Testament scriptures, died for our sins. When we, by faith, receive Him into our lives and are born again, we, in that instant, become children of God and are born again.* (John 1:12-13; 3:3, 7.) Eph. 2:8-9 explains, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it [grace] is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*



More than a decade ago Dennis made a large *Story-Cross* (5' x 7') [like you see on left] for Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake City in declaration of our victory in Jesus for our salvation. As you know, Dennis is a woodworker, and he selected various woods to tell the story of salvation that is offered to all through the Cross of Jesus. (John 3:16.) We are presenting here for you the *Story of Salvation in the woods* you see in this Cross.

[Please read the included scriptures as you look at this picture of the Cross of Jesus.]:

The Center of the Cross is made of Zebra wood, representing the scourging that our Lord received at the hands of Roman soldiers. (1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5.) **Next to the zebra wood is a Black wood, called Wenge (wen-gay) that represents our sins and our lostness.** (Isa. 53:6; Romans 6:23.) **He took our place. "He was made sin for us."** (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 1:9.) **The next wood on the Cross is appropriately named**

Bloodwood. When we confess our sins we come under the blood of Jesus Christ, who, by His blood, paid for them all. (Matthew 26:28; Romans 3:25; 5:9; Eph. 1:7; Hebr. 9:22; 1 John 1:7; Rev. 1:5; 5:9.) **The last wood around the cross is white Holly wood, representing us now as the saved, born again believers, placed in Christ's body, which is His church.** (Isa. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:54-55, 57; Col. 1:18, 24.)

As new creatures in Christ Jesus we now should *"show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* (1 Peter 2:9.)

Dennis has, over many years, made dozens of smaller versions of the large cross he built for Calvary Chapel. He has given, along with a pamphlet he wrote, these small crosses as gifts to the new believers we have come to know and have been blessed to help in this journey . Many of them have hung these crosses somewhere in their homes to remind them of what the salvation we have freely received, cost our Lord. Dennis just made five more 15" x 20" crosses, and about 2 weeks ago he mailed them to Zibby and her family in Perth, Australia to be given to these five now former Mormon couples and their families who during this year have come to *the Lord's marvelous light*.

On Oct. 26th Zibby wrote: *"Hooray – your lovely gifts have arrived. I saw Elmien, Alex and their husbands tonight at a Bible study group, so I passed your gifts right onto them. We all are so thrilled with your beautiful wooden crosses that have so much meaning in them. Thank you so much for such a thoughtful and personal gifts...I can't wait to have ours up on the wall. I've chosen the dining room for ours. Thank you, thank you. We love you. Zibby."*

Elmien and Leon also wrote an email to us letting us know how much they appreciate this concrete reminder of the love of Jesus and salvation He has freely provided. Here are some excerpts from her email, *"Thank you, Dennis and Rauni... It was so wonderful to hear more of your story and to learn that you have, for over 20 years, been making these crosses for those you have helped to bring to the knowledge of Jesus of the Bible... We love your story of the cross of Jesus in wood and a pamphlet you wrote, including scriptures that had been foretold in the OT...We checked out all the scriptures you included in it and they made us appreciate the love of Jesus even more... We are glad that you write about us and our experiences in your newsletters... We hope that our stories in some little ways can help and encourage someone else who is going through a similar situation... We will send a group picture of us to you soon. Lots of love, Elmien and Leon."* Dennis commented on seeing Leon wearing a cross in the picture we received today of him and his wife, and they replied...*"We wear our crosses every day... We want the world to know that we are followers of Christ, our beautiful Savior."*

The most rewarding blessing to Dennis and I during the last nine months with these lovely people, has been to be in constant contact with Zibby and Carl, who were the first ones to start *this exodus from Mormonism* in Perth, and then others... hearing about these couples, one by one, coming to know the biblical truth about Jesus, studying the Bible together and gaining the courage to leave Mormonism as families. We praise the Lord for His love for them, and for us. We pray that this faithful group of new believers in Perth, and beyond, will continue to grow and worship the Lord in word and deed and share the truth with others trapped in Mormonism. God is good – all the time.

A few weeks ago we received an email from a young Christian lady, Sierra, in Sydney, Australia. She informed us that she has had concern for Mormons and their salvation, and she has been going to their ward meetings trying to entice someone to start a discussion with her about the Bible. She had met a young LDS man, a fairly recently returned Mormon missionary, who, upon her suggestion, began to read from our website about the doctrinal differences between Mormonism and biblical Christianity. She said that this young man's Mormon parents got very concerned, and sent their son to Utah for a month where they have relatives in order that he would *"gain his testimony back and see that Mormonism is true"*. Sierra asked if we would meet with this LDS man when he gets to Utah, and if he'd be willing to talk with us. He has been in Utah now for a couple of weeks. He called us, and we invited him to our home. He came last Sunday (21st) and we had lunch together and spent several hours talking with him. He told us that his mother had arranged for him a meeting with one of the General Authorities of the Church. He told us that he had just, a few days ago, met with one of the Presidents of the Quorum of Seventy. He was quite surprised that this GA couldn't (or wouldn't) give satisfactory answers to his questions. For example when he asked about late apostle Bruce McConkie's statements about Jesus (i.e. that Mormons do not pray to

Jesus or worship Him, etc.), he had replied, not agreeing with McConkie, saying that during McConkie's time there was not much supervision on what the apostles were teaching in their General Conference talks, but today they would have to coordinate their talks with other GA's... This young man had many questions for us, and we were happy to be able to prove what we say is according to the LDS teachings that we have in print in abundance in our library. When he was here talking with us, he also asked about Ezekiel 37:16-17, about what *the LDS Church teaches is a prophecy that the Bible and the Book of Mormon will be becoming joined together as one book*, thus verifying Mormonism to be "biblical".

We were able to verify to him that Ez. 37:15-23 was just God's command that Judah and Israel (Joseph or Ephraim) will come back together as one nation and have one king over them. He could see that "sticks" in Ezekiel 37:16-17 were not books, but demonstrated that 2 groups of Israel, now "2 kingdoms", had been torn apart in the days of king Rehoboam. God wanted them united as one kingdom with one king. It started to take place already - see Ez. 37:22. We have received this same LDS statement about *the Bible prophesying about the Book of Mormon* often and I will be answering that question again below in this letter.

He will be leaving back home to Sydney, Australia in a week or so, and we are very confident that he will soon be a firm believer in Jesus of the Bible. He said that he has continued to talk with this young Christian lady in Sydney, even while he has been here – and that he will meet her again when he gets back home. Is this wonderful, or what! I do not believe that meeting this young Australian man now was a coincident at all, but part of God's plan. As the Orthodox Jews often say: *Coincidence is not a Kosher word, but God's plan coming forth.*

From our mailbox: A local Christian woman has been meeting with the Mormon missionaries who have been trying to convert her to Mormonism. She did not know how to refute some of the scriptures they presented, as Ezekiel 37:15-17. Missionaries "gave her a *proof*" that the Bible had prophesied about *coming forth of the Book of Mormon*. They (Mormons) say, "*since the Bible talks about it, therefore the Book of Mormon has to be true.*" – They quoted from Ez. 37:15-17 (KJV): "*The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.*"

She asked us: *Is this really speaking of another book, the Book of Mormon? Thank for any help you can provide.*"

Answer: Thank you for asking. This scripture is not talking about books at all, but of two nations or kingdoms. Immediate answer to your question (of vs. 16-17) is already there in Ez. 37: 22, that says, "And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all." We must always read verses in context – verses taken out of context will not explain anything. To better understand this, you need to read all of Ezekiel 36 and 37. You will see that Ezekiel is talking about Israel as a nation in that location where Israel was and is – in the Middle East, not about books, Book of Mormon showing up in America, etc.

During the time of Rehoboam Israel was divided into two kingdoms, but God's will was that they would be united back into one nation. This command had an immediate partial fulfilment, and continuing in chapters (38 and 39) deal with final gathering of Israel from among the nations of the world. That has been taking place since Israel became a nation in 1948, after 2000 years in exile. - "Stick" (vs. 16-17) is simply a piece of wood, comparable in this context to a ruler's staff or rod, representing two kings over two kingdoms. God wants them to unite and have one king over His one nation.

If you have a Strong's Concordance of the KJV, which includes Hebrew and Greek dictionaries, you will discover that this Mormon-claim makes no sense at all. Hebrew word is "ates", translated "stick". It is only used once here in Ez. 37 and only two other times in the entire OT (2 Kings 6:6 and in Lamentations 4:8), but never in connection of any writing of books or records. Hebrews were record-keeping people who wrote many books. Hebrew words for writing materials were never "ates" ("sticks"), but "separ" or "seper", "kathab", "scroll, "scorole" or just "roll", used hundreds of time in the OT – and translated into English as books, records or writings. (See Ge. 5:1; Ex.17:14; Numb. 5:23; Deut. 28:48; Josh. 1:8; 8:31; 1 Kings 14:29; 2 Kings 14:6; 1 Chron. 9:1; 2 Chron. 34:21; Ezra 6:18; Ester 6:1; Job 19:23; Ps. 40:7; Isa. 34:16; Jer. 36:2; Ez. 2:9; Dan. 12:1; Nahum 1:1; Mal. 3:16 etc.) Ezekiel 37 doesn't say anything about books, writings or records! I hope this will help you to see how deceptive Mormonism is. Very alarming. They try hard, and at times are even able to bluff people who do not check or test what they say. (I was once one of these "fooled ones".) The Bible commands us to study (2 Tim. 2:15) prove and test all things before we accept and believe things that can affect our eternal lives. (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15.) Let me know if you have further questions on this matter, or anything else that these LDS missionaries present.

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We are blessed, and we praise God for it all, regardless of trials we have been going through. We thank you, our supporting friends, for praying for us, and helping us. We ask the Lord to reward you according to your needs. We know that the Lord is able to do all that and more. He hears our prayers and He answers them according to His will. (1 John 5:14-15.)

We are asking that you pray for our friends: – especially for Sandy in Arizona. She had heart valve surgery, but she still has another internal problem that doctors have not been able to solve as of yet. Judy who had a stroke 3 years ago needs a lot of help in her ability to walk and use her left arm. Kathy is trying to diminish her breast cancer with mostly vegetarian diet (it seems to be working well), and she needs prayers for strength.

Pray also for Preston's and Kathy's daughter Kalli and her new baby that is expected to be born this coming week.

Max is doing amazingly well, in spite of his severe arthritis and his advanced age. He appreciates our prayers.

We are also asking prayer for Sharon in Florida and her move and her potential new job.

Tom, Mary, Dave and Dale are also in our daily prayers and we ask you to join us. There are many others in our prayer list – the Lord knows them by name. He knows their needs, and He answers according to His will and His plan for their lives.

We pray that the Lord will protect all of us during this particular time that all evil forces are at work.

Let's pray for each other and that the Lord will be honored in and through our lives, leading others to Him.

Serving the Lord with gladness till He comes,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

Email: hismin@xmission.com – Website: www.hismin.com

Phone: 801.943-5011; Postal address: 2890 E Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093

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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 the belief that God will provide as we seek to do His will. 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 all of you who partner with us in this ministry, and we ask daily God's blessings for you. **Our postal address: HIS Ministries, 2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093-2044. We also have a PayPal account for donations on our website.**

