



***(H.I.S.) He is Savior, Acts 4:12**

September 2018

September 2018 Newsletter, covering July-August of 2018

Our hot summer is almost over. It went fast. During the first 2 weeks of July we had my cousin, Marja-Liisa, and her 17-year old grandson, Juho, visiting us from Finland. They are the only relatives of mine who have ever visited us. We were able to share our faith in Jesus with them, and though they are Lutherans, they have not been *born again*, which is not clearly taught in their church. [They are only “Christened”, “baptized”, *sprinkled with water* as babies and that is when they *are dedicated to God and assured of heaven.*] Sharing the gospel with persons who consider themselves already Christians was a comfortable experience that we do have often have – no doctrinal debates about God and Trinity as the case is with Mormons. She was excited to be able to learn more about salvation and what the Bible actually teaches. We spent most of our evenings studying the Word and she took a lot of notes as a guideline for her to continue studying when she gets back home.

It was too hot to even think about taking them to see the National Parks in Southern Utah where temperatures were between 105 and 110F, so we spent most of the evenings here at home talking about the Lord and how important it is to share the gospel and other doctrinal issues they were not as familiar with.

Of course they wanted to see “the Utah-sights” too, but instead of traveling South, Dennis took them to *Antelope Island* in the *Great Salt Lake* to see the buffalo-herds, which to them was an exciting experience. They took a lot of great pictures to share at home. The next day we bought some buffalo meat ☺ and Dennis made authentic buffalo-burgers for us, and they were delicious. Our temperatures every day even here in Sandy were over 95F and even up to 102F, so during hot times of the day Dennis took them up to the Mountains where it is 20 degrees cooler. When at the *Snowbird Ski Resort*, they rode the Tram up to a *Restaurant* at over 11 thousand feet, which they enjoyed tremendously. [I didn’t go – I have a fear of heights, as my friends know well - ☺] Dennis was their tour guide also when they wanted to see the 2002 Olympic-event training places in and around Park City, and many other places around Salt Lake City.

I had warned them long time before they planned their trip to visit us that from mid-June till mid-August Utah is a very dry and very hot place to visit. Now they know. They agreed that if they come again, it will be earlier in the spring or later in the fall.

After they left to go back, we loaded our trailer and went to Whitefish, Montana for a few days to see our dear friends, Mickey, Eric & Nicole and their 3 darling young sons. It is so wonderful to have true Christian friends like they are. When we left Mormonism, we lost all our friends we had there, but God has given us a joy of helping Mormons out of Mormonism and all whom we have helped out have become our everlasting friends. As they came to know Jesus Christ of the Bible and were born again, they became our family, our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We have now more true friends than we ever had among Mormons. God has been good to us.

We cannot lose anything for His name’s sake that He does not abundantly resupply.

As you might have heard in the news, the prophet and president of the Mormon Church has announced that they do not want to be called *Mormons or LDS (Latter-day Saints)* any longer, but *they are to be called members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, and for example, the Tabernacle Choir will not be called *The Mormon Tabernacle Choir* either, but *the Choir of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, etc. It is going to be rather cumbersome

to use that long name in everyday talk, but their prophet's announcement, so we have been told, is to be taken seriously and that they all must conform to that.

However, emphasis on Jesus Christ in the name of the church does not change their false doctrine of Jesus. There has been made no announcements of changes to their doctrinal teaching about Jesus Christ, who He is, why He came, or who is his father-god. They continue to teach that *Jesus is not God* who became a man to pay the sin penalty of all who receive Him, **but that He is their brother and brother of all mankind**, who later "*became a god*". They believe that the father of Jesus is the *same heavenly father* who is also a father of them and all mankind, *a former mortal man who progressed into godhood and that his wives in preexistence gave birth to all human spirits and angels, Jesus being God's firstborn son and Lucifer one of the next.* Thus Jesus referred to in the church's name is **NOT God's Only Son**, as taught in the Bible, **but one of the billions though the eldest son**, who later "*became a god*" as all Mormon men can also become if they live according to Church's teachings, marry in a temple, and fulfill all requirements for godhood. This *Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* is indeed just "*their Jesus*", "*another Jesus*" warned about by Jesus Himself (Matt. 24:5, 24) and also by Paul (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9) along with a warning of "*another gospel*" that teaches *obedience to the "laws and ordinances"* (LDS Articles of Faith # 3) *as a way to salvation*, rather than salvation by *God's free gift of grace* (Eph. 2:8-9) given to all who repent and *receive Jesus, and through a new birth become sons and daughters of God.* (John 1:12; 3:7.)

Most of the Christian world has rejected (and properly so) Mormonism as a non-Christian religion, a counterfeit gospel. The leaders of this church assume (we think) that emphasizing the *name of Jesus Christ*, when they identify themselves as members of this religion, will make them accepted as real Christians among Biblical Christianity.

Robert Kirby, a long time Salt Lake Tribune writer, referring to this name change in his column, wrote (August 19, 2018), "*Mormon by any other name is still Mormon*". Kirby continued, "*I've been all kinds of Mormon – a bad Mormon, an indifferent Mormon, an inactive Mormon, a hostile Mormon and blindly following Mormon... but, like the other kinds of Mormon, I've always enjoyed 'my kind of Mormon' the best. I plan to be that kind of Mormon the rest of my life. Now we have come to an attempt by the church [leaders] to shed 'Mormon' from public usage, particularly in the media. Instead of 'Mormon' or 'LDS' we're now supposed to (so I've heard) say 'the church formerly known as Mormon'. [How] to use it in a sentence? OK. 'The Choir Formerly Known as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir will now perform ...' Seems clumsy... a big fat waste of time. You can't change the way people see you. It's been Mormon this and Mormons that for far too long... that's what we have been saying for almost 200 years... For now I will stick with 'Mormon'. It works for me, and for good or bad, it contains all information necessary for everyone else. If rebranding had been foreseen as needed, it should have occurred when we got a fresh start in Utah (1847). It is too late now.*"

We'll see how this Church's attempt to deceive by this focus on the name works among non-Mormons. Are they able to see that this just continues the deception, **counting on people's ignorance of not knowing what Mormonism really teaches about Jesus Christ? We all ought to remember that ignorance is a curable disease.**

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From our mailbox: An LDS man sent me a long list of scriptures from the New Testament that he claims prove that the Bible teaches that men are to learn how to become gods as their God has become – *and that results from obedience to laws and ordinances of the LDS gospel.* Some examples from his long list included John 5:18-19, 36; Luke 2:52; Hebr. 5:8; Rom. 8:16-17; 1 John 3:2; Matt. 5:48 and more. He says that he will wait for my response and *my agreement with him that these scriptures prove true LDS prophet Lorenzo Snow's teaching, 'As man is, God once was. As God is man may become'.*"

My reply: Thank you for asking. I have inspected your long list of scriptures! However, you have missed that the Bible, as all books, has to be studied and understood in context. Isolated scriptures cannot "prove" something that is not taught in God's Word as a whole. The Bible, from Genesis through Revelations, teaches that *God has been God from everlasting to everlasting* (Ps. 90:2). *God is Spirit* (John 4:24). *God has never been less than Eternal Almighty God in three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.* (1 John 5:7.) **There are no other Gods anywhere – not before Him nor after Him.** (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8b.) I would suggest that you'd go to our website: www.hismin.com and click on *Understanding Mormonism*. We present there a comparison between doctrines of Mormonism and doctrines of biblical Christianity. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.) You can there learn who God of the Bible is, who Jesus is and what

salvation means. These articles document what the Bible teaches in context of the entire Word of God, the Bible, and also documents what Mormonism teaches – in contrast to the Bible.

In summary: God was not once a mere mortal man who “progressed into a god”. Men will not become gods. (Isaiah 43:10.) Jesus, who is *Truth* personified (John 14:6), has set us free from all false beliefs through His Word. (John 8:31-32.) **Eternal God is Triune God - without beginning and without end.** From God’s Word, the Bible, we know **Triune God as the Father, the Son (the Word) and the Holy Spirit, and that they three are One.** (1 John 5:7.) **The Son, Jesus, is God who became a man. He is the Second Eternal Person in Triune God. He, Jesus, is Immanuel, God with us.** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14.) **“In Him dwells the fullness of God bodily”.** (Col. 2:9.) There was a time when He, God the Son, became a man (for our sake), but **there was never a time when He was not God – He was 100% God, and 100% man.** He has eternally existed as God, co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. **He is God Almighty.** (Rev. 1:8.) We must learn what the Bible teaches and then believe that **Jesus is God, the Great I AM,** and that He died for you and for me. (John 8:23-24, 58.) He said, **“If you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.... Before Abraham was I AM.”** If you die **“in your sins” your sins will not be forgiven and you will not go to heaven.** (Rev. 20:11-15.) Jesus refuted preexistence of mankind by saying that **men are not from “above”, but from this earth.** (John 8:23.) **Only Jesus came from heaven – we did not.** (John 3:13, 31; 8:23-24.) **When we receive (believe) Him, then and only then we can BECOME God’s children** (John 1:12), **and God the Holy Spirit comes to indwell us permanently.** From that moment on **when we are born again (John3:7), thus we are no longer “children of the flesh” (i.e. Adam’s posterity) but children of God. “... those who are children of the flesh, these are not the children of God.”** (Romans 9:8.)

I hope this helps you to get started into **your personal relationship with the true God of the Bible, and His Son, Jesus, whom He has sent.** (John 6:29.) I am sending this to you with prayer, Rauni

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We have received more fantastic news from Zibby in Perth, Australia. We have talked about Zibby just about every week from last February on - since her first letter to Dennis in January 2018, and back and forth emailing continuing ... Quite soon after that, she, with her husband Carl, and their 3 daughters, left the Mormon Church. They started to share the *truth about Mormonism* with their close LDS friends, and several couples soon joined them in this heart-breaking, life-changing study/effort. They all, together with Zibby and her family, have been eagerly studying the Bible and they have come to faith in the biblical Jesus. There has been even more Mormon families joining them in their Bible studies and coming into realization that Mormonism is not Christianity nor biblical. They are full of joy in knowing that they are now saved. Their reports we have been receiving remind us of *our awakening time in Vernal, Utah* in the 1980’s when we left Mormonism, and literally hundreds of Mormons joined us and also responded to the Lord’s call, **“come away from among them and be saved”**. At that time, when it became known what we were saying about Mormonism, we were personally attacked, and we were going through hardships that we couldn’t have imagined could come upon us, but all that turned out to be God’s blessing later on. These friends in Australia are earnestly seeking the Lord’s will and direction, and we are sure that it all will turn to their blessing as well. These dear souls in Perth are also having a hard time, but not quite as it could be when leaving Mormonism here in Utah. At that time in Vernal Utah, we had a new pastor in the First Baptist church in Vernal, Herb Stoneman, who had an incredible love for the lost, and particularly for Mormons. God had raised him for this time, it was evident. Vernal, a small eastern Utah town, became known all across the nation as *God’s miracle-revival-town* during the following few years. (This little older Baptist church grew from 75 members to over 250 in a couple of years, and just about all new members were former Mormons! ☺) Among Southern Baptists in the nation, Vernal was spoken of as an example of what the Lord can do if there are willing, bold and brave people who respond to His call. We are sure that this is how Perth, Australia will be soon known too. **Mormonism has been quite strong in that part of Australia – and all these people who were the first ones to step away from it and come to the Lord Jesus of the Bible, had been strong generational LDS, and their leaving signaled an awakening that is inspiring to see and hear.**

Dennis was invited to go to Perth, Australia (almost 10 years ago) by former Mormons and they felt a call in their hearts to learn more about Mormonism so that they could help others. **We see that his trip there, though a few years have passed, was not in vain.** Dennis took with him a large suitcase full of the most important LDS books, DVDs, CDs, and also Bible study tapes etc. for their use. It is good to know that these resources are at their disposal in Perth. We just heard from Zibby that there are again new ones seeking information and help and who are having problems with their families. It very seldom happens that both husband and wife and children are immediately *on the same*

page, but as these couples and families coming out are meeting together, they will be blessed as they unite in Christ Jesus of the Bible. Please pray for all these people – for the battle is not over - it has just started.

We are also asking prayer for our local truth-seekers. It is hard here, for most are not rejected only by their families and friends, but many have LDS employers and their livelihood could also be in danger.

However, let's remember that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose..." (2 Tim. 1:7-9.)

It is hard to believe that we have been doing this, the Lord's work, for over 30 years, but you, our friends and partners, have made it possible, and that without us asking! We thank you for your partnership and sacrificial help that has enabled us to fulfill God's call by allowing us to provide good quality Bibles (without LDS references in them), and much other needed materials for those Mormons who come to us for information.

I quit my Real Estate work many, many years ago to dedicate all my time for HIS ministry. There is no income promised for this work, but **eternal benefits are enormous, literally out of this world!**

But since we still have a mortgage and other life's expenses, Dennis has had to also continue his carpentry work, and he will obviously have to keep it up till the Rapture takes place – or the Lord calls us home.

The Lord has truly blessed us – regardless of some health problems that have come to test us - but we have passed these tests, and are, with gladness, able to "occupy till He comes" or when "that time" is here. However, my skin cancer is back and I will have to have another surgical procedure for that on September 17th – please pray for that!

We have noticed that there is no retirement age mentioned in the Word of God! Moses didn't even get started till he was 80! We are thankful for this understanding **that we are to work "till He comes"**. It gives comfort and courage to us, regardless of circumstances that we are in that are at times, very trying. We had a very special "sign" from the Lord about 2 weeks ago when we were traveling, and it gave us confidence that He watches over all details in our life, **and we know that he takes care of us and provides for our needs. God is good, all the time!**

We'd like to ask you to pray for Judy especially. She has a lot of pain in her paralyzed foot and leg and her doctor was going to surgically correct it (surgery was scheduled for the 31st of August), but she called yesterday and said that she is too afraid now and wants to get *a second opinion* – which could be a good thing. Let's pray for that!

We praise the Lord that Max is doing well in his care center home and with less pain than before. Please pray that Kathy's cancer will continue to heal. We also pray for Kalli's healthy pregnancy (due date in November). Scott needs the Lord's direction and help in finding a better cardiologist – he has a serious heart problem, and we pray also that Cynthia's knee surgery is by now healed. Others needing help in health issues are Sharon, Dale, Sandy (her heart valve is a problem), Al, Merridy, Tom, Dave & David. Please pray with us about trials that Jenn, Suzi, MaryAnn, Suzanne, Heber, Cheryl, Aira and Helen are going through and the Lord's blessing for Don's ministry in Canada for JWs and Mormons.

May the Lord bless all of you,

Love, Rauni & Dennis

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Thoughts for the day: Faith results from verifiable evidence that the Bible presents. If you have not read **Mark Cahill's 10 Questions from the King**, ask us and you shall receive – free. **It will open your mind and heart for the coming King.**

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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.**