



***[H.I.S.] He is Savior, Acts 4:12**

April 1, 2019

HIS MINISTRIES APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER, COVERING MARCH 2019

It has been raining and even snowing here – but that is good for *April showers bring May flowers*. Spring is my favorite time of the year and also the most beautiful time of the year.

Palm Sunday is this year on 14th of April and Easter on 21st of April. This celebration is most important to all mankind. It reveals what God did to give mankind a way to Him, forgiveness of sins and direction how to have eternal life with Him. That story will not change from year to year, but remembering and celebrating it is utmost important for all who know Jesus and God's love for mankind. ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believed in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*** (John 3:16.)

The following is part of what we wrote last year about Easter, and what we will relate every year during this time until He comes back to take us to Him:

"Spring is a time of hope and a new life. For us as born-again believers in Jesus Christ, this is also a time of renewal of our determination to live for Him, to glorify Him through our lives and be eager to share Him with those who do not yet know Him. Our lives can take on a new dimension if we truly recognize Him and promise to serve Him with all that we are and have, no matter what the cost. We hope and pray that this season, from ***Palm Sunday to Resurrection Day*** and from that day to ***the Day of Pentecost***, recorded in Acts 2:1-4, will fill us all with a desire to be faithful to Him till the end and share the Good News with the lost.

Many of us have LDS friends and relatives. We want them to be with us when He comes, which could be at any time. ***"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with the shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*** (1 Thess. 4:16-18.) ***"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."*** (John 5:39.) We will come to know *Him* and love Him if we carefully and diligently study His Word. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.)

Palm Sunday was the day when our Lord, nearly 2000 years ago, **rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to fulfill what Zechariah had written over 500 years before.** ***"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."*** (Zech. 9:9.) (At this time rulers/kings were riding on horses, not on donkeys.) According to the Hebrew calendar this day was the very day predicted by Daniel (Dan. 9:24-26), the day that the Messiah will be presented, and then killed, ***"cut off, but not for Himself"***. [This ***"presentation day"***, was exactly 173,880 days after Artaxerxes Longimanus had (on the 14th of March 445 B.C.) given the commandment to ***"restore and build Jerusalem"*** – as prophesied by Daniel. (This shows detailed exactness of biblical prophecies.) **[This took place four days before the Passover, which was the day when the Passover lambs were to be presented and to be kept four days before they were to be killed on Passover – according to Ex. 12:5-6.]** On that day Jesus rode to Jerusalem as ***our Passover Lamb*** (John 1:29) among about 250 thousand sheep that were driven to the city to be offered as sacrificial lambs on Passover.

When the multitudes saw Jesus, ***“they cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”*** (Matt. 21:9,KJV.) The Pharisees commanded Jesus to rebuke the people for declaring Him as their King, but Jesus answered them, ***“... if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. ...He beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, if thou hast known, even thou, at least this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thy eyes.”*** (Luke 19:38-42. KJV) This was ***The Day***, according to Daniel’s prophecy. Therefore He allowed Himself to be hailed as their King, fulfilling Ps. 118:26 & Daniel 9.

From the New Testament we read that people had many times wanted to declare Jesus as their Messiah-King, but He always, before this very day, had said ***“My time has not yet fully come”*** (John 7:8,30), but ***on this day*** He not only allowed it, He arranged it. (See Matt. 26:17-18.)

But they (the leadership of Israel) ***did not know what the scriptures had foretold about “this thy day”! But they should have known*** for all scriptures were written about Him so that they could recognize Him when He comes. (Luke 24:25-27, 44; 2 Tim. 3:16.) ***But they did not!***

Scriptures had told about His Virgin Birth (Isa. 7:14), ***His place of birth*** (Bethlehem) (Micah 5:2), ***His Davidic lineage*** (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22-23), ***His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver*** (Zech. 11:12-13), all that and more were recorded in the Old Testament among hundreds of prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus’ earthly life. Even the details of His death and burial was prophesied: ***“He made His grave with the wicked*** (plural in Hebrew), ***and with the rich*** (singular) ***in His death.”*** (Isaiah 53:9.) He indeed was crucified with transgressors, one on each side of Him, and His body was laid in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock of Golgotha for Joseph of Arimathea, a rich disciple of Jesus who gave his tomb for Jesus’ burial place. [Chuck Missler used to smile and say ***“Why not, it was just for the weekend!”*** ☺]

Two disciples of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus prepared His body for burial. (John 19:38-40.) ***But the grave could not hold Him. HE IS RISEN! And He will be coming back!*** (Acts 1:9-11.)

We must study the scriptures for His Second Coming is prophesied in them also. Signs for His Second Coming are written mainly for Israel for when He comes, He comes to ***reign from the Throne of David*** as was told to Mary. (Luke 1:32-33.) However, we as believers in Him need to know also that He has promised (1 Thess. 4:13-18) to take us, His Bride, up to His mansions (John 14:1-3) for the ***“week of years” (7-years)*** before He comes publically for all the world to see. (Matt. 24:30.)

Preaching the Gospel, as we all are commanded to do, means teaching who Jesus is, God with us, (John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23; John 8:23-24) ***and that He came to die for our sins, that He was buried and He rose again on the third day, all according to the scriptures.*** (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) ***His sacrifice brought forgiveness and eternal salvation to all who receive Him as their Savior and Lord, God with us.*** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 12, 14; 8:24; Eph. 2:8-9.)

His resurrection celebration is commonly called ***“Easter”***. This word appears in the King James Version of the Bible only once, in Acts 12:4. It is actually a *mistranslation* of the Greek word, ***“pascha”***, which means *Passover*, a Jewish Feast. ***For us as Christians, Easter is a festival or a “feast” that commemorates the resurrection of Christ in place of the Passover.*** It is celebrated at this time of the year, according to the Jewish calendar, ***on the first Sunday following the full moon.*** [If the full moon falls on Sunday, it is celebrated a week later, thus the time of *Easter* falls between March 22 and April 25.] ***Easter replaced the Jewish Passover (“pascha”) among those Jews who had accepted Jesus as their Messiah and Savior.*** The trouble with the timing of *Easter* (until about 8th century) was caused primarily by the fact that the Jews observed a calendar based on lunar months. *Passover* was celebrated on the 14th of *Nisan*, and it was not therefore tied to any day of the week. The first dispute was whether Christians should celebrate this festival on a weekday or the following Sunday. Eusebius (4th century,) in his ecclesiastical history, describes, ***“The Christian communities of all Asia [i.e. the Roman province, so-called] thought, according to a very old tradition, that the feast of the Savior’s pascha ought to be kept on the 14th day of the moon, on which Jews were ordered to sacrifice the lamb, and that therefore on whatever day of the week this might fall...But the churches in the rest of the world were not accustomed to observe this practice: in virtue of an apostolic tradition they followed the custom now in force and considered that no other day was right...but that of our Savior’s resurrection [which was Sunday, the first day of the week] ...”*** Every Sunday was then called a ***“little Easter”***. *Passover* is the basis for our *Easter*, but ***“Easter”, by that name, was originally a pagan festival honoring Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of light, spring and fertility, celebrated around the same time as Passover.*** *Easter*, celebrated by pagans, was focused on spring at the time of the vernal

equinox (when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are equal in length). We, as Christians, do not identify or have anything at all to do with pagan festivals, but we do need to know, if asked, where some of these names came from and why. We need to know that we, as believers in Christ Jesus, do not celebrate Easter with fertility symbols of eggs and Easter-bunnies as unbelievers do, we simply celebrate the resurrection of the Lord that took place at this time of the year!

In Jewish homes, all over the world, *Passover* is still celebrated, which they also call the *Festival of Redemption*. They observe the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* at that time. They eat only unleavened bread during the entire Passover week. Passover is the most sacred event in Judaism and stands as the cornerstone of Israel's identity and purpose. The Passover Lamb is the symbol of God's deliverance of the Jewish people from bondage in Egypt. They also partake of bitter herbs, symbolic of bitterness of their bondage, and unleavened bread that symbolizes hurriedness of their flight, and also their need to purge sin from their lives. Exodus 12:15 explains that there must not be yeast (leaven) found in their homes during the entire Passover week. [God uses "everyday items", like bread and leaven/yeast, to teach us His truth.] Leaven, i.e. yeast (in Hebrew 'homez') is used throughout the Bible as a symbol of sin. Leaven is sour, and like sin, it "sours" life. Leaven changes that which was before unleavened; it puffs up and corrupts. Putting a rotten apple into a barrel of good apples spoils the rest of them, but we cannot make a barrel of rotten apples good by putting a fresh apple in it! That is how it is with sin, it contaminates what it touches. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." (1 Cor. 5:6.) Sin does the same thing, it makes us self-centered and puffed up, and *the sin of pride* causes us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to, while adding no substance at all. Jesus warned against the "leaven of Pharisees and of Sadducees" (Matt 16:11-12), which was their hypocrisy and malice. Just as a small amount of yeast puffs bread-dough up, and as the dough rises, it does not have any more weight or substance than unleavened dough, it just takes more room. In order to understand this symbolism better we need to be aware how yeast/ leaven works. My grandmother in Finland used to make sour-dough rye bread weekly. Each time she saved a small part of the dough, with its original culture of leaven, and when it was put into a new batch of dough, it *leavened*, "corrupted" the new dough and it *puffed up*. Paul's instruction to the Corinthians was to "purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened." (1 Cor. 5:7.) Jews had to clean their entire homes and "purge out" all leaven, symbolic of sin, before they were allowed to celebrate the Passover. We must likewise purge out all that is not good in our lives, examine our hearts, so that we too can celebrate Resurrection Day we call Easter wholeheartedly and meditate in the meaning of the Gospel (1. Cor. 15:1-4) which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

It was during the *Passover Feast/Celebration* with His disciples that Jesus instituted "*the Lord's supper*", *communion of bread and wine in remembrance of Him*. (See Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.) As death passed over all Hebrew homes in Egypt that had blood of the lamb brushed on their doorposts, we also are saved from eternal death by the Blood of the Lamb. (John 1:29.) When we take communion, we use unleavened bread (bread without yeast) for it symbolizes the sinless body of Jesus, our Passover Lamb, broken and sacrificed on the Cross of Calvary for you and me. Red wine or red grape juice that we also take, symbolizes His blood, that cleanses us from all sin. (1 Cor. 11:23-29; 1 John 1:7.) [Mormons, do not even have that right! The Mormon Church uses as their "sacrament" puffed up "Wonder Bread", made with yeast, symbol of sin, and instead of wine, they use water that could not symbolize the blood of Christ! LDS "sacrament" can be symbolic only of "another Jesus" and "watered-down" "another gospel", Paul warned about in 1 Cor. 11:4, 13-15. While we were blinded in bondage of Mormonism, we did not notice the emptiness and meaninglessness of taking this "sacrament" of leavened, puffed up bread and water, which was taken every Sunday, it's frequency making it even less special.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and our salvation through our faith in His finished work, let us not forget that He is coming soon. As His first coming was foretold of in the scriptures, so is His second coming. We must not be ignorant and be taken by surprise, but we must be ready, expecting Him to come at any time. He comes first for His Bride, the Church, saved by His grace (Eph. 2:8-9), and meets us in the air (1 Thess. 4:13-18), and seven years after that He will come as the King of kings and the Lord of lords to reign on earth from Jerusalem, Israel, for a thousand years, and after that He will Judge the unbelievers of the world. (Rev. 19:7-16 and 20:4, 11-15.) Rev. 21 begins, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth..." This begins our eternal state where there is no sin or death.

(Parts of this are excerpts from our April 2009 and 2018 newsletters.)

Our dear sister in Christ and our friend for nearly 40 years, Kathy Stewart, passed away on 23rd of March, 2019 at 8:41 AM. Preston, her loving husband of 39 years, their daughter Kalli, Preston's sister Merridy and Kathy's LDS sister Nikki were with her when she passed, and also two nurses who had been taking care of her for the last several days. We weep now because we miss her, but this is also happy news for she has graduated to the Lord's Mansion (John 14:1-3) to be rewarded greatly for her faithfulness to Him. We will see her there some day and rejoice with her and with all who, as the Lord's own, are now there welcoming her, and us too when we are called home.

[We wrote about Kathy's illness in our March 2019 Newsletter, on p. 4. It can be read from our website: www.hismin.com under Newsletters.]

[This picture here is the one Kathy had sent to us in February, just about a week before her illness was discovered. We have that picture on our refrigerator. She is in this photo with her little 3-month old granddaughter, Grace, she has been taking care of while her daughter Kalli is at work. Kathy's little "rescue-dog" was cuddling with her and baby-Grace.]



Preston had called us from the hospital in SLC on 2/23/19 when they had met with the doctors and received the diagnosis of her brain cancer. Doctors let them know the hard fact that Kathy will have a only very short time to live, and to lengthen her life even for few weeks, they would have to perform surgery and chemo therapy after that. Preston and Kathy then talked to the Lord about this and they were assured in their hearts that the best for her is just to go home and enjoy her life with her family whatever time she has left without being sickened from surgery and drugs that would be part of the medical treatment.

She was and is an amazing lady – she believed firmly that this was *her appointed time to go* (Hebr. 9:27) – and she was determined to use the days she had left to present the gospel, be a witness for the Lord, and make sure that all who would come to see her now would not leave without knowing what comes after death, and how great it is to know that we belong to Jesus, our Lord.

Dennis and I were able to go to Vernal and visit Preston and Kathy and family on the 9th and 10th of March, 2 weeks prior to her passing. That time was precious to us. Kathy talked, laughed and smiled as we went back down our joint "memory lane". We also talked about the time when she came to a acknowledge that Mormonism was not biblical – she even credited me for bringing that realization finally to her, for Preston, his parents, Pat and Max, his sister Merridy and her husband Butch had already accepted the truth and were born again, but Kathy, as a "temple-Mormon", had a harder time accepting that what she had believed, what her parents and family had been part of was not the truth. But when she received Jesus Christ of the Bible, she became a real soldier for the Lord and from that day on, she let everyone know to whom she belongs and what she believes. (John 17:17.)

Having been born and raised in Vernal, she has a lot of friends, both now Christian and some still Mormon, who, after hearing of her illness, wanted to come and see her. Her daughters, Kalli and Megan, were there making a schedule for visitors so that there would not be more than 1 or 2 visiting at a time, giving Kathy an opportunity to talk to each one of them about what is ahead of everyone after death. She had her cute smile (as in this photo) when she told us that she didn't have time now to "beat around the bush", but that she had to question each one of them if they knew where they were going when they die. If they said, "I hope or I wish I will go to heaven", she then told them that hope or wish was not enough – they needed to know (1 John 5:11-13), and then she presented them the gospel, even to those whom she had assumed were already Christians, just to make sure they understood!

She was looking forward to being with the Lord and also with her little 3-year old granddaughter, Cici, who suddenly died 3 years ago, and also with Preston's mother, lovely Pat, who passed away 2 years ago. We can picture her now dancing with Cici there, and laughing and singing with Pat. We wait to see her there "or in the air" if the Lord should come before we die and in the Rapture take us to be *there* with Him and them. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.)

Life in the Lord is good. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." (Ps. 116:15.)

Our prayer is that we all determine in our hearts to share the truth of the Gospel declared by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:1-4 with all we meet and be saved by faith as explained in Ephesians 2:8-9 and be as faithful to our Lord as Kathy was.

We received a short letter from a Christian lady in college:

“ Thank you for your website and your personal story as a former Mormon. I am a student at the University of Illinois. Yesterday two young men, no older than 20, came to my door to tell me about Mormonism. I am a born again Christian and I have always been under the impression that there were things that were “off” about Mormonism, but I have never been able to find much information on it. When talking with the two gentlemen yesterday, they described to me something that seemed very much like Christianity, even after I probed them on what are the differences between Mormonism and Christianity. They have plans to come back and talk some more, which I am excited about, but also worried about. I do not think that I have good grasp of Mormonism and don’t know how to approach that topic. They both seemed very well trained and almost mechanical and rehearsed when talking with me. I understand that the doctrine of Mormonism is very much engrained in them, but I also hope that I can somehow help them to leave that church and really find the true God. If you have any pointers to offer me, it would be greatly appreciated, for it seems overwhelming to talk to them about their religion when I do not know that much. I think it was amazing how open you seem to be about your history with that church and I know that God will use you to help those who are still in it.”

Excerpts from my a bit longer reply to her: They may sound Christian but they are not. Mormonism is counterfeit Christianity. They have borrowed all Christian terms but they have given them a different meaning. For example when they say “God”, they are not talking about *Eternal Triune God who is Spirit* (John 4:24), but their god (or gods) who progressed from a mortal man into a god. When they say “Jesus” they are talking about their elder brother who also is a brother of angels and Lucifer, and **not God who became a man, but a man who became a god as they believe they too can become**. When they say that they are bringing to you *the restored gospel*, they are in actuality bringing “another gospel” (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15, Gal. 1:8-9) LDS “gospel” means “obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church.” (3rd Article of Faith.)

Before they go on their LDS missions, they spend several months in BYU, Provo Utah, in the *Missionary Training Center*, where they are taught what they are supposed to say. Both my husband and I were similarly trained before we served our missions for the LDS Church. Most of the missionaries do not know much about Mormon doctrines or history – after all, they leave on their missions right after finishing high school and many of them only go because they are pressured to go to bring honor for their parents. I suggest that you would not meet with them without having with you a mature Christian who knows the Bible well and who also has some basic knowledge of Mormonism. You need to be aware that Mormons are under a different spirit and they bear their testimonies under the influence of that spirit. **We must test the spirits** (1 John 4:1 and 1 Tim. 4:1) **and doctrines they bring by comparing them to the Bible** (1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Tim. 3:16). Apostle John gave a serious warning about those who bring *different doctrine* (2 John 10-11) and told *not to receive them into your homes*. I warn you also for the reason that I had no one with me when I had meetings with the Mormon missionaries – I myself was not Christian then, nor did I know the Bible. I fell for their trap because I was young and biblically illiterate. They took 20 years of my life. I would be glad to help you more. I am attaching some papers on how to witness to Mormons. I pray that the Lord be with you in your effort to reach them. - Rauni

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The Lord has answered our daily prayers, and sent people whom He knows we could help, to contact us. We have had a busy ministry over 30 years, but during the last several months we have had even more and more calls, visits and emails asking for help. We are happy to report that the Lord has opened many eyes, ears and hearts to His truth and results have been great and spiritually rewarding to us too.

We mentioned last month a local LDS couple, Tracy and Britney, who contacted us the first time in January. We have been in touch with them ever since – having meetings here at our home during the weekends and answering their questions by email also. They have now – about 2 weeks ago sent a letter to their bishop asking that their names be removed from the records of the LDS Church. We have given them NKJV Study Bibles and they have been diligent in their Bible studies. We gave them Chuck Missler’s over 30 hrs. long *John-study* and they have now finished it and were asking for more. We gave them Missler’s Galatians Study to help them to understand that *law was not given for salvation, but for knowledge of our sinfulness that requires God’s intervention*. (Gal. 2 & 3.)

They have also bought Bibles for their children and excitedly told us that as they are studying the Gospel of John with them and that they are asking more and more questions that they can now answer having gone through that gospel

themselves. Teaching what they had just learned themselves, opens their hearts and minds even more. The Lord is good. Please keep them in your prayers.

Please pray for Amy in Cedar City, Utah, who has been in contact with us and is studying the history of the LDS Church, even though her husband is opposing her studies. She has 3 sons, one has already served his mission for the Mormon Church and one is currently on his LDS mission. She is hoping to gain enough knowledge of the Church history to perhaps prevent her youngest son from going on a mission. She has visited us a few times and we surely hope and pray that she will be able to continue her search for truth regardless of her husband's opposition. We are asking that you keep praying for her and that her heart opens also for the truth of God's Word, the Bible .

Pray also for Lisa who has left the LDS Church, accepted the Lord Jesus, and will be baptized *into Christ* (Rom. 6:3-4) this month at the Calvary Chapel in St. George. She is a brave woman for she has done all that without support or approval of her husband and family.

We also ask that you'd pray for Matt in Hawaii who has written to us and who has already stopped reading the LDS scriptures and attending their meetings, and is focusing in the Bible alone. His wife is not supportive, and he asked that we pray for her. She has now agreed to read our booklet, " *What is the Truth About Mormonism* ", that he said opened his eyes and mind to the search for the truth.

We are in communication with many more that we cannot name yet, and are asking that you'd keep our ministry work in your prayers. The Lord is in charge of all that and He will not fail even if we make mistakes.

Dennis is also in frequent touch with our new Christian families in Australia, and we keep praying for them and for some of their friends that are still hesitant of leaving Mormonism all together. Your prayers will be needed for them also. It does take a lot courage to step away from what has been *their whole life* and leave behind all that is familiar, even if they already see that it is not truth. We surely can relate to all that turmoil that turning away from Mormonism can cause. That transition can take a long time, even if some go with you...but when there is opposition from spouse or children and other family members, it is much slower and harder road to freedom in Christ.

We want to thank you who pray for our ministry and for us personally for health and provision and assist us in many ways. We do not mean to complain, for we are doing quite well considering that Dennis has had to cut his working hours some in his carpentry work because of his high blood pressure and his arthritis pain in his hands. He does not have a heated shop to work in, so winter months have been hard for him, but summer is coming and arthritis pain is usually less when the weather is warm and dry.

We are asking prayer for Max, Preston's father who turned 90 on 3/8/19. He has had severe arthritis for decades. We saw him too when we went to visit Kathy. There are many others that have health problems – as Cynthia, Scott, Al, Sandy, Dwayne, Judy, Dale, Sharon, Tom, Mary and Dave. We ask prayer for Aira, Heber, and *another* Sharon and also Don's ministry in Canada. We ask prayer for Lee and Kathy Baker's salvation for we heard that they have denied Christ and left Christianity. Pray for those who are planning on meeting with them to bring them back to faith, if all possible.

Serving the Lord Jesus with gladness,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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Something to think about:

"I'm not afraid of failure, I am afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter." William Carey, India

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