



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

July 2019

HIS MINISTRIES JULY-AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER, COVERING JUNE 2019

It is finally warm enough to plan for our camping trip this coming weekend. This will be a *family-camping*. We have reserved three camping spots. There will be nine of us – two camp-trailers and 3 tents. Where we go is our favorite *Forest Service Camp-Ground* (near Mt. Nebo) with lots of trees and shade and a fast flowing creek right next to our camping spots. This camp-ground's altitude is high enough to give us very cool nights and we look forward to good sleep and over-all rest. (No cell or internet connection there. 😊)

Our months and days in our ministry work have been full – we have been very busy with many people who are yet *members of the Mormon Church*, but who want their questions, their leaders do not want to handle, answered. We have been glad to welcome them and share our library with them and help them learn the truth about what they had trusted and believed all their lives, but without knowing the facts. When their eyes begin to open, getting angry against the Church that had not told them the truth, is their first emotion, but after that comes relief! Most of them then realize, *"It is not our fault that we believed all that - we were deceived!!"* Pretty soon they become concerned about their loved ones, and ask: *"What can we do now? How can we help our active Mormon family and friends to see what Mormonism really is?"* They also wonder, *"If we tell them what we have found out, are they going to believe us?!"*

[Our offer at that point always has been to say that anyone wanting to know is as welcome to our home as they were. They can come with questions and check out the answers in our library where we have hundreds of their own LDS books and records.]

We see this taking place with just about everyone who comes willing to open their eyes and minds and see for themselves what the truth about Mormonism really is. When they realize that, we do all we can to direct them to the REAL TRUTH, & JESUS CHRIST of the Bible, beginning with the Gospel of John: *"For God who so loved the world that He GAVE is only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16.) "Whosoever" is every one! There have been many of them who have, during the last few months, accepted and received His truth and have *become children of God* through a new birth. (John1:12-13; Eph. 2:8-10.) *"Jesus said ..., Today salvation has come to this house...for the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:9-10.)

We pray daily that the Lord will send all those to us whom He knows we could help. And He has done so!

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A list of questions from LDS we have received, asking for documentation from LDS sources:

- #1. You have in your writings said that the angel who brought information to Joseph Smith about the gold plates was not Moroni, but Nephi. Where do you get that information?**
- #2. You have also written that the Book of Mormon plates were made of gold, size 6x8 inches, and thus much too heavy (over 200 pounds) for Joseph Smith to carry them under his arm. Our Church (Mormon) has**

informed that they were not actually made of gold, but appeared to be “golden”, thus much lighter in weight.

#3. There were three witnesses who saw the plates and even handled them and testify that they were real and translated correctly. Why can you not accept their word and believe them?

My answers are below in the same order as asked above:

#1. Information you asked about is found in *the History of the Church* by Joseph Smith. See volume 1, p. 11, Footnote reads: “...In the original publication of the history...[angel’s] name appears as Nephi (instead of Moroni)... referenced to D&C 27:5”, which was published much later, 1835... [However, it is necessary to compare D&C 27 to the original of Joseph Smith’s “revelation” that was recorded in *the Book of Commandments (BoC)*, Chapter 28. In the original “revelation” in the BoC there is nothing about Moroni. Moroni was added to *later editions of Doctrine and Covenants* (D&C 27), where BoC 28, verses 5-7, were changed, and the rest of that Section was just added into it - (all without notification.)

In *The Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, p. 203, Joseph Smith wrote (in 1838) that the name of the messenger who had appeared to him and revealed the location of the gold plates’ was “Nephi”. In this same book, on p. 667, we read that it was B.H. Roberts who (in 1920’s) changed the name Nephi to Moroni when he was preparing Joseph Smith’s 7-volume history for publication – (as I noted above). Even in the 1852 edition of the *Pearl of Great Price* the angel’s name is given as Nephi. However, we see on the top spires of all Mormon temples **a golden angel Moroni (not Nephi) blowing a golden trumpet, signifying that **he is an angel of light who brought the gospel to Joseph Smith**. (See *Introduction to D&C*, prior to 1981.)**

Paul in Galatians 1:8-9 warned, “...even if we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” [This warning about **another gospel, another Jesus and different spirit is clarified in 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15 and where it came from.] **That gives us all a serious and even urgent reason to make sure we know what is the Gospel preached by Paul and all Christ’s apostles! To know what the saving gospel is, we must read 1 Cor. 15:1-4 where Paul begins, saying, “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel, which I preached to you and in which you stand, by which also you are saved... For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: 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.” That is the Gospel, meaning “good news”, and when we receive it, we are saved.** (See also John 1:12.)**

Does the LDS Church’s gospel present this same *good news of salvation*? No! What does the LDS Church say about how salvation is received? “...all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinance of the Gospel.” (3rd Article of Faith.) **There are no laws or ordinances in the gospel of Christ. Salvation is God’s gift to all who receive Jesus and believe the gospel. (Eph. 2:8-9.)**

#2. About the gold plates, see the *History of the Church*, volume 1, p. 12, where Joseph Smith says that the records were “*written upon gold plates*”. Later changes are just that, “changes”, decades after Joseph Smith. *Gold plates* are now “*golden plates*” – referring only to color, not what they were made of. This new revelation makes the story of Joseph Smith running over 3 miles with *gold plates* under his arm, and even fighting three attackers while running, only believable to some...

#3. There are several more points that make this story of *the plates* unbelievable. First, Joseph Smith had said that if he shows the plates to anyone, he “*would be destroyed*”. (HoC vol. 1, p. 13.) Why? If people are allowed to read the text (*translation*), *i.e.* what was written on these plates, then why could not the plates be allowed to seen also? [Answer given has been “*because they are sacred*”! What is sacred, what was written on them or the gold?] Later “*the Lord*” relented as Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer and Martin Harris had asked that Joseph Smith would request the Lord that they would be allowed to see the plates and by seeing them they would become **special witnesses for the plates and testify to people that they are**

real and that the translation is correct. (See vol. 1, pp. 52-55.) Joseph Smith then asked the Lord, who gave him a *special revelation, in June 29, 1829, permitting these three men to see the plates.* He reports that at first they couldn't see the plates, and they had to pray some more... actually several times before they said that *they saw the plates, but only in a vision... i.e. they didn't see them with their "physical eyes", but with the "eyes of faith".* People with a normal eyesight do not need "eyes of faith" to see physical objects that are before them! Also note that this supposedly took place in June of 1829, many months before Joseph Smith had finished his "translation". How could these men *testify that the translation was correct* when it was not even finished yet, and moreover, they didn't know the language from which it was supposedly "correctly translated"? Later, when the BoM was completed and published, it states (Mormon 9:32-34) that *no one else knows that language... ("reformed Egyptian").* Besides: "Reformed Egyptian" does not even exist!

While you have volume 1 of *the History of the Church by Joseph Smith* in your hands, you might as well check a few more issues that are not talked much about in your church any more, as page 315 that says that *"The Book of Mormon is a record of Western tribes of Indians, descendants of Joseph who was sold to Egypt..."* [It is not talked about anymore because DNA-testing has proven that Indian tribes (called "Lamanites"), are not Israelites but related to Mongolians from Siberia.]

On page 323 you can read that Joseph Smith's father prophesied (in 1833) that *Joseph Smith will continue in the office of Priest until Christ comes.* (He was killed 11 years later, at the age of 39.)

On page 324 is an important note. It says that Joseph Smith "completed the translation of the New Testament" on the 2nd of February, 1833.

From pages 368-369 we see that on July 2nd 1833 *Joseph Smith had finished the rest of his translation of the Bible*, i.e. the Old Testament too. Now I ask you: *Why has the LDS Church not replaced the KJV of the Bible with Joseph Smith's translation of the Bible? Why do they still use the KJV that is only believed with reservation "as far as translated correctly"?* By not replacing KJV with Joseph Smith's translation of the Bible, can only mean that they actually questioning that Joseph Smith's "inspired translation of the Bible may not be correctly translated"? (They only use Joseph Smith's Bible-translation as a reference to other LDS scriptures in the KJV, the Mormon Quad.)

I have received many more similar requests from Mormons for documentations/verifications on LDS doctrinal teaching that we have called into question. I will answer more of them— perhaps even in our next newsletter that will come in September 2019.

Writing a shorter letter in the summer time is perhaps best for our readers too! ☺

We appreciate your prayers on our behalf and your support very much. We absolutely couldn't do all this without your help! This our work is HIS Ministry, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and we pray every single day for you, asking that the Lord will meet all your needs, whatever they are, as He is meeting our needs.

We praise the Lord that Dennis' heart has been doing well, but his blood pressure is still high considering that he has had two heart attacks in the past. Thus his heart-doctor had prescribed for him three different blood-pressure medicines to keep him from further heart trouble. We thank you for remembering him in your prayers as he works hard on his carpentry work and in our ministry.

I am asking for prayer for me too. At the end of July I have to have another cancer surgery (it came back as cancers often do). I also have some other health issues to take care of that are not covered by our insurance. We are asking the Lord's healing as He healed my thyroid tumors! [I had an ultra-sound of my left-side thyroid 2 months ago for our doctor to determine about surgery. I was scheduled to have it earlier,

but to everyone's amazement, *ultra-sound now showed that tumors had vanished since the last test!* That just does not happen, so "*they*" think! But our God is able! We praise Him for this miracle! When we ask, God heals *if it is according to His will*, so we dare to ask again... (1 John 5:14-15.)

We are working with 6 LDS people here locally at this time, and some in other states and a few even overseas. They need a lot of prayer for the enemy of their/our souls is not happy about this. Four of these people are very close to their decision to have their names removed from the records of the LDS Church. They have said to us that they will do it soon. We'd like to see them be *born again* before or at least *when* they take that step – then they will have the indwelling Holy Spirit who will strengthen them (John 14:26) when attacks start coming from many directions, for they will come.

We had our friend, Don McAvery from Canada stay with us from Tuesday till Thursday on his way to Manti to help Christian efforts for declaring the truth at the Mormon Manti Pagent. Don stopped by again Sunday on his way back to Calgary. He was very glad that he came for he had done some good "*seed planting*" there at Manti and he said that his over 2000 mile round trip was well worth it.

Please pray with us for Max, Preston and *our dear Stewart-family* in Vernal who are missing their sweet beloved Kathy who went 3 months ago to be with the Lord, waiting for our Rapture there. Prayer is also needed by Sharon, Dale, Tom, Mary, Dave, Aira, Scott, Cynthia, Al, Sandy, Dwayne, Judy, Suzi, Dan, Kristine, Neil in England, Tracy and Britney and their children, Amy and her family, Lisa and her family, and also Matt and his family in Hawaii. There are others that we cannot name as of yet, but the Lord knows their needs as He knows our needs, even before we ask. Our prayers are continually with our dear Australian friends we have written about in our past newsletters. They have made such a huge difference in their community by coming out of Mormonism and becoming the *Lord's forever-family*, declaring His salvation by getting baptized into Jesus as Romans 6:3-4 says.

Every citizen's responsibility is to pray for our country and for our president, whether we personally like him or not. [We even prayed for Obama...] 😊

We must be committed to pray daily for our country and for our President who is under incredible stress – something he more than likely did not anticipate when he, 3 years or so ago, decided, *if elected*, come to work for our country and thus for us all, and even without pay.

Tuesday morning I read Bill Keller's LivePrayer-message (6/25/2019 LivePrayer.com 2559809) and he made me see better why things are so hard for most of us to understand. *It is politics, they say*, but don't we need to know what is going on in order to make a difference for the better?

Bill Keller is a true Christian and a thinker. I appreciate his daily messages. I have learned a lot from him, but that is not to say that I am always in agreement with everything he says, not even in this message.

[He has written in the past very sharply about Mormonism and other pseudo-Christian religions and he has gotten a lot of flak for that, but he is all for the truth and salvation of the lost and deceived.]

I'll share here few excerpts from what he wrote now:

"LivePrayer is a work of God to battle a culture in spiritual freefall!!! As someone who is 61 years old, I have sadly lived through and given personal witness to the incredible spiritual erosion within our culture over the past 5 decades. Anyone who has been reading the Daily Devotional and/or watching the Liveprayer TV program for any period of time, knows that I have not only been warning about what was happening in our culture almost daily, but challenging Christians to take their stand or we could ultimately see the full wrath and judgment of God poured out on our land. Lest you think like many have accused me over the past 2

decades that I am being over dramatic and speaking in hyperbole, just read the Old Testament! How many times did we see the children of Israel, God's chosen people, turn away from God and His Truth and embrace the sin and evil of this world. More important, despite many warnings and His continual grace and mercy, God ultimately rained down His wrath on His people for their rebellion, their sin and wickedness! Are we so arrogant to think that Almighty God, who spared not His wrath and judgement on the children of Israel would not also pour out his wrath and judgment on this nation?...Just under 3 years ago, God sent [to our] nation a sign ... we couldn't see how God is allowing a lifetime hedonist who has demonstrated little moral or ethical restraint in 40 years of a very public life, a man who had never ran for or held any political office in his life, to become the 45th President of the United States!

Whatever our political or personal thoughts about President Trump may be, we know from God's Word that it is God who allows men to rise to power, and God who takes men out of power. (Rom. 13:1-7) So we know that each President of the United States has been divinely appointed to that office for the time they led our nation, and that includes the current President, Donald Trump!

It is simply a fact that under the 8 years of the Obama Administration, the nation was being governed by a man who was no friend of Christians, on top of opposing God on every spiritual issue of the day. Issues such as sexual deviancy, the perversion of God's Holy Institution of Marriage, life, Israel, and Christian liberties. Again, regardless of your personal thoughts, in deeds not words, President Trump has been the most pro-life, pro-Israel, pro-Christian liberties President in the history of our nation!!! "

Something to think about!

We are going to take some time off to recoup and rest. We have not had any time off for a long time – Dennis works in his carpentry work 5-6 days a week, plus evenings and weekends with me in our ministry work. We love it, but we are tired and in a need of rest. We will be pulling our little travel trailer behind Dennis' truck – so we have everything with us – no need for motels or even restaurants. We can stop at rest areas to fix our lunches, and find a peaceful place to spend a night or two here or there away from any noises, hearing only sounds of nature and birds. Does that sound great? We think so. ☺

Thought for the month - Quoted from the Berean Call of 6/24/2019:

"Christianity was born for endurance; it is not an exotic, but a hardy plant, braced by the keen wind; not languid, nor childish nor cowardly. It walks with strong step and erect frame; it is kindly, but firm; it is gentle, but honest; it is calm, but not facile; decided, but not churlish. It does not fear to speak the stern word of condemnation against error, nor to raise its voice against surrounding evils, knowing that it is not of this world." Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

We wish you a very blessed and great summer.

With the love of Christ,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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