



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

September 5th, 2019

His Ministries September Newsletter 2019, covering July-August 2019

In our last newsletter we were **hoping for a warm summer** to arrive so that we could go camping... And did we ever get it!!! **Hot, instead of warm!** July and August have been exceptionally hot in Utah and elsewhere too. We had many plans for summer camping – even to go to Idaho to visit our dear friends, Bob and Sally Wilkinson, who had built their new summer home in McCall (later to be their retirement home).

But I got severe back problems in the middle of June and that changed most of our summer plans. We were able to go for just a weekend with our family to a campground near Mt. Nebo (only 88 miles away). We were hoping that by the end of August (Labor-day weekend) we could go camping there for a few more days. I went to see my doctor who sent me to St. Mark’s Hospital for x-rays that showed that I have *arthritis in my spine* and also showed my old spine injury that I got in a skiing accident when I was 12 years old (in Finland). Doctors in Finland had told I then that only back surgery could heal it permanently, but I would have to be in a full body-cast from 6 months to a year... Need I even say I didn’t want that! So I have had *off-and-on* bad back aches ever since, usually lasting only 2-3 days - sleeping on a hard floor using heat and ice, but this time my pain is more severe than before and has now lasted over 2 months and nothing has helped. I even went to see a chiropractor who tried to use acupuncture, but after my second visit to him in July, my pain only got worse. I have been on *over-the-counter pain medicine* (I cannot take any stronger medicine than Ibuprofen or Aleve), but of course pain pills do not heal, they only cover the pain for a few hours at a time.

Dennis needed rest from his work (he would not rest at home - too much to do...) so we took a few extra days off and went camping anyway during this the last weekend in August. I was not even able to go for long walks with Dennis in the mornings, so I spent my days just reading books we have had for a while, but had not had time to read. The books I/we read and can recommend for you too are **Pastor Billy Crone’s** very inspiring new book (2019), ***“The Final Countdown, Tribulation Rising Volume 1 – The Jewish People and the Antichrist”***. We also read ***“The Deeper State – Imminent Final Empire”*** by Lt. Col. Robert Maginnis. In addition to these, Dennis also read an interesting and informative book, ***“The Unseen Hand”, An Introduction to the Conspiratorial View of History*** by A. Ralph Epperson. Weather was beautiful and our camping spot was secluded and peaceful. Suzi and Sally made a surprising visit to us on Thursday and even brought a great dinner for us all to enjoy! It is wonderful to have such caring friends!

I made my days a bit easier by wearing a back brace while not lying down. ☺

Sometimes it is hard to understand why these things happen and I often ask *“why, Lord?”* but I have also learned that there always is a reason that we can only see when we look back and see what took place during these hard times, people that we couldn’t have helped if we were away... Even now, during these months we had several questioning Mormons call and come to talk with me/us and ask questions they had not been able to get answers from their LDS friends or their church leaders. After a few long discussions and showing them answers from LDS books and publications we have in our library, they were thankful to see that their questions indeed had answers that now *sets them free from bondage to Mormonism. Truth indeed sets us free*, just as the Lord had promised. (John 8:31-32.) Even our friends from France who, before they left (in July) to go back home told us that they will be taking their names off the records of the LDS church and are studying the Bible and getting to know the Real Jesus and His Gospel of Grace. God is good, all the time! He is God who knows the end from the beginning (Rom. 4:17) and directs our lives so that we can be responsive to His call for those who are seeking truth – i.e. Him who is the Truth. (John 14:6.)

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We are saddened and even alarmed how anti-Israel propaganda and anti-Semitism is growing not only in America, but around the world. Some say that **modern Israel is a mistake** and that people living there now (since 1948) are not even “real Jews” regardless of DNA testing and many historical evidences that show that they indeed are true Jews, descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **Modern Israel is a miracle from God** and it is very important for us Christians to understand this fact because **Israel’s existence is crucial to our salvation**. Jesus said, “**Salvation is of the Jews**” (John 4:22) and when Jesus came to redeem mankind that message of salvation was to be presented “**to the Jew first, and also for the Greek [Gentiles]**.” (Rom. 1:16.)

Israel’s return to her own land about seventy years ago (1948), after almost 2000 years of exile, demonstrates **God’s faithfulness to His promises for Israel** regardless of Israel’s unfaithfulness to Him. (See: Ezekiel 36:19-36.) Our commitment to God’s Word *tests our own desire to know biblical truth* and shows if we really believe God’s Word that records the **covenant promises that God has made to Israel**. Paul wrote (Gal. 3:15-18) **that salvation comes through everlasting promises God had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel)**. These promises cannot be annulled or changed. They include land, a nation and the promised Redeemer, and God’s purpose of bringing His complete plan of salvation to all humanity, if they only would receive Him. **This has to take place in Israel for Israel and the land are inseparable. The Lord’s Second Coming could not happen if Israel was not back in her land.** (Zech. 14:4, 9.)

We ought to know and remember that God had even earlier (500 years before Jesus’ birth) removed Israel from her own land when Israel sinned against Him, but **He brought the nation back to the land before Messiah’s arrival to fulfill what Micah (5:2) had prophesied.** God’s Word is true in all details. God has not forsaken Israel – and He never will. **He loves Israel with the everlasting love.** (Jer. 31:3, 10, 17.) **Our Christian salvation is also rooted in God’s promises to Abraham** (Rom. 11:1-32.) Anyone who believes that God has forsaken Israel is **cutting off their own roots, not realizing that if the roots of a plant are destroyed, it dies**. Paul, in verse 18 warned Roman believers not to “**boast against the branches (Jewish people) ...[but] remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.**” God’s promises to Israel form the basis (or root) and if He fails to fulfill them for Israel there is no salvation for us either. **God has not rejected Israel** (v. 1)! **He has restored Israel back to her land to bless all nations through her.** (Gen. 12:3.) **Israel’s restoration proves that God is keeping His promises.** God will not go back on His election of Israel – for **His gifts and callings are irrevocable** (v. 29). But because most Jewish people have not accepted the gospel, yet, God has allowed the salvation message (that was meant to go **to the Jews first**) to go to the Gentiles (v. 25), perhaps **to provoke Jews into jealousy** (Rom. 10:19.)

That we are living in the last days is evident! God is preparing a major phase in His redemptive plan that includes also **restoring His creation and His Kingdom on earth**. God had subjected all creation to the curse after Adam and Eve sinned. **The entire creation is eagerly waiting for redemption to its pre-sin condition.** (Rom. 8:19-23.)

Jesus’ Second Coming would not be possible if Israel was not back in her land for God’s redemptive plan comes to its fulfilment through Israel if the Bible is true – and it is true! (Zech. 14; Joel 3; Matt. 23:37-39.) We can begin to see that this is why Satan has been and is now working so hard in the entire world to destroy the Jewish nation in every way. There are even many Christian churches and organizations that are spreading anti-Semitism and who are currently pushing boycotts to injure Israel economically in an effort to destroy the Jewish nation. **Modern Israel is proof of God’s faithfulness.** If God were not to complete His plan through Israel **just as His Word proclaims**, then we could not be sure of our salvation either. God’s Word testifies that when He made the land covenant with Abraham, **God swore by Himself.** (Hebr. 6:13-18.) Thus we **can be sure that God will complete His redemptive plan regardless of Israel’s unfaithfulness.** God’s plan for Israel depends only on **God who is faithful and true.** (2 Tim. 2:13.)

We must hold to **the literal interpretation of Scripture** and know that **God says what He means and means what He says.** We must not try to twist or “*spiritualize*” the clear words of God. Allegorizing God’s words have led some believers to accept so-called **Replacement Theology** (teaching that Israel has no role in God’s plans, and that the Church has replaced Israel and receives the blessings [but not curses] God has promised to Israel.) **They even claim that Israel is the cause of all the trouble in the Middle East and thus they do all they can to destroy the Jewish nation.**

It is the enemy of God (Satan) that sees Israel as trouble and surely she indeed is “**trouble**” **in that through Israel God Almighty is bringing redemption to all who believe in Christ Jesus, the Messiah of Israel.**

We all as believers in the God of Israel and her Messiah, who is also our Savior and Lord must **bless Israel as God has commanded** (Gen. 12:3), and **pray for the peace of Jerusalem** (Ps. 122:6.)

We need to keep in our minds that **all that was written in God’s Holy Word, the Bible, was written for our learning** (Rom. 15:4). Jesus Himself said that **we must search the Scriptures for in them we have eternal life** (John 5:39).

That Scripture is the Old Testament! Just recently *“a popular pastor of a major evangelical church in the United States suggested that Christians ‘unhitch’ their faith from the Jewish Scriptures...”* By *“Jewish Scriptures”* he meant the **Old Testament!** That is the Scripture that the gospel was preached by Jesus and by His apostles and that scripture testified of who Jesus is. (Luke 24:25-27, 44-45.) The New Testament was not in existence then. **But now, we all as believers in Jesus, are waiting for His soon appearing, and we are in a battle for truth that is found only in the Bible, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.** Jesus warned that the last days, before His Second Coming, are going to be like the days of Noah, people just caring about their earthly lives and not listening to what God says in His word **about these last days.** **God is indeed a God of Love, but He also is a God of Judgment.** (Matt.24:37-39.) (Much of this information above are excerpts taken from Jim Showers’ article featured in *“Israel My Glory”* magazine, May/June 2019.)

[I cannot now sit long periods at the computer because of my back problems so I am going to paste below answers I gave to an LDS man some time ago. **These are questions that are very often asked of us by many Mormons.** I hope you can find them useful to you when discussing the differences between Mormonism and Christianity with people you know or meet.]

An LDS man from Brigham Young University wrote:

*“Your comments on LDS doctrine (on your website, www.hismin.com) are very interesting. I have come across most of the information you give on your page in my own studies, partly due to my family relations (I am related to many of the early leaders of the Church) and my general interest in history. You also presented some new information that I’d like to know more about – I will look them up, for here at BYU I have access to a great wealth of historical documents that many others may not ever see. I can respect your opinions, especially in the light of conclusions that you have drawn from Mormon history. You seem to be very sincere and good people...My questions to you are: **1.** Since leaving the LDS Church, have you joined another Christian faith? **2.** If so, how do you feel about your particular new-found group and about Christianity in general? **3.** Do you sincerely feel that somebody like me – an active Mormon, who really tries to follow my Savior and is trying to learn more about the gospel and who feels that the Mormon Church is helping me to do that – is a lost cause? Do you believe that I am damned to hell? **4.** Have you simply come to the conclusion that the LDS church could not be true based on its history and that other Christian churches offer you more in way of learning to live a Christ-like life?*

I am not trying to attack you or anything like that; I just appreciated your article because it grouped together many historical items in the LDS Church that I’d like to know more about. I feel that you have presented your positions and conclusions on those issues well, and so the unanswered questions to me are the ones I presented above. Thanks, and best luck to you – and Lord bless you. B___”

My response: Thank you for your kind letter. I will number my answers according to your questions:

1. Since leaving Mormonism we have been part of some Christian churches. Our faith is not in any church, but in the *Word of God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ of the Bible who is God with us* (Matt. 1:23) *who alone can forgive sins and save.* (John 14:6; 8:24.) [i.e. He is not our spirit brother and a created being as we had learned in Mormonism.] We have found like-believers in many Evangelical congregations and we fellowship with them. [The Bible recommends that believers in Christ assemble themselves together often to encourage one another in their walk and life in and with Christ (Hebr. 10:25)]. We are not limited in our fellowship to just one church or one congregation, for the Church, biblically speaking, is not a denomination or organization, but all born again believers are part of one another as one body, Jesus being the head of the body (Col. 1:18, 24), regardless of where they go to church.

2. Once we learned what the *church* biblically is (i.e. all believers as one body, regardless of denominational lines), as well as learned what it means to be a *Christian* (biblically speaking). Thus we have sought to have a deeper fellowship with those, who like us, *have received Jesus* (John 1:12) *and are, in reality, born again* and part of us through the Holy Spirit. *These indeed are our true brothers and sisters in Christ.* We have also learned that not all who attend Christian churches are *Christians* in the true meaning of the word, regardless of how *“nice”* they may be. We mingle with all people, believers and non-believers alike from all walks of life, in an effort to present the gospel of Christ to those who do not know it, so that they too could become part of *the real church, the Body of Christ.* (Col. 1:18, 24.)

3. According to Mormonism, “all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel [of Mormonism].” But there are no laws or ordinances in the biblical Gospel. Salvation comes and is received by faith alone, in Jesus alone. Paul declares what the Gospel is in 1 Co. 15:1-4 saying that the Gospel is a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. There are no works, no laws or ordinances included in the gospel. (Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:16-21.) We can be saved only if we believe, accept and receive God’s gift of salvation through our faith in the cross and gospel of Christ. **Jesus said that we must know that He is God** so that our sins will be forgiven, for only God can forgive sins (John 8:24; Mark 2:7). That means that **if one believes in “another Jesus”** (2 Cor. 11:4), [who, in the case of Mormonism, is a “brother of all mankind and angels”], but who is not God who became a man for our sake, **then he cannot be saved**. Jesus said (John 3:7) that **we must be born again** of the Spirit of God in order to enter the kingdom of God. The Bible teaches that only those who have believed the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4) and received salvation by the grace and gift of God will go the heaven. (Eph. 2:8-9) Others will go to hell (torment) (Luke 16:19-31), and that by their own choice having rejected the gift and grace of God. There is only one gospel, and **“If any man preach any other gospel than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”**(Gal. 1:8-9.)

4. Yes, we have come to the conclusion that **Mormonism is not true**. That is based on their teachings of who God is, who Jesus is and how to be saved, and more. **Teachings of the LDS Church are not biblical, and thus not true. It is the Bible alone that sets the guidelines for what we must believe in order to be saved**, and how we are then to live as believers in Jesus should live. Studying the **History of the LDS Church helped us to start seeing that something was not right there**. However, I have to say that history of Christianity is very disturbing also – and we can see **that following men, any men, can lead to trouble – we must follow Christ Jesus of the Bible, who is unchanging God, literally “God with us”** (Matt. 1:23) **and in whom we can trust. He is the Word of God, personified.** (John 1:1,14.) We do not depend on any church, but only on Jesus and His Word. He will never lead us astray. The Bible-teaching Christian churches offer us fellowship with like believers, and we can strengthen and encourage each other to follow Christ, study His Word and live for Him. We have found many true believers in Christ in various Christian churches. They help us to stay strong in this struggle we call life. My prayer for you is that you would study the Bible in earnest and find the true Jesus, receive Him and be saved. (John 1:12-13; 3:7; Eph. 2:8-9.) There is true freedom in Christ. May He open your eyes and save you as He saved us. (John 8:31-32.) Rauni

“It is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in your hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”(2 Cor. 4:3-6.) We acknowledge that it is *“the light that God has given you”* that has prompted you to become our partners in this work, praying for us and supporting us. We pray for you every day and ask that the Lord will meet all your needs and that He gives you joy with us for all those *who now are “the saved”*. Without your help we would not be able do our work, and keep on giving the Bibles, books, needed informational videos, CDs etc. for all who come to us for help and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

God has blessed us again during the last few months with many new truth seekers and some of them have already received Jesus. We praise the Lord for helping us to open the eyes of those whom *“the god of this world had blinded”* (2 Cor. 4:4) **but who now can see**.

I received a call from my doctor that our Healthcare has approved for me to have an MRI of my lower back to see what is wrong. That test will be 9/11/19. Please pray with us that this can be solved/healed according to God’s will. (1 John 5:14-15.)

I have good news in that my skin cancer can be treated with “light” (radiology) instead of surgery that I was already scheduled to have at the end of July. Mickey, our dear friend, had some time ago informed us that *Gamma West Cancer Service treats cancers without surgery!* [As you may recall, I had skin cancer surgery 2 years ago, but cancer has come back, as cancers often do.] I called *Gamma West* and they asked me to come and meet one of their doctors for evaluation. This *Gamma West* doctor whom I met there, *“just happened to be”* a **former LDS missionary who had served his LDS mission in Finland!** [What are the odds that he *just happened to be assigned to me* from among about a dozen other doctors there? *Could it be that the Lord has some plans for him too?*] He told me how much he loves Finland, and he told me also in which cities he had served while in Finland! *Those two cities both just happened to be cities where I had lived – one was Jyvaskyla, where I lived when I was a child, and the other was Oulu, where I lived*

when I joined the Mormon Church!! All just coincidences? Hardly! Orthodox Jews teach that “Coincidence is not a Kosher word!” I.e. God does not deal with “coincidences” – He plans all things according to His will and His foreknowledge! He is full of surprises. ☺

I am asking that you’d pray for this doctor and for me and that I will find a way to present the true gospel to him. I know that it means that I have to *first create a need for him to hear me out.* [I.e. Mormonism vs. Biblical Christianity.] He will be giving me short radiology treatments about two months, four times a week.

God works wonders – we’ll see what He will do with this one! ☺

We are asking prayer for health for Sharon, Dale, Tom, Mary, Dave, Aira, Cynthia, Scott, Al, Sandy, Dwayne, Judy, Suzi, Max, Merridy and Preston and family. Please pray for our new believers, Tracy and Britney and their children they are teaching the Bible now and Amy and her Mormon family, Lisa and her Mormon family, Matt and his family in Hawaii and also for our Australia-friends who are diligently witnessing to other Mormons. We also ask that you pray for our Mormon relatives and friends we have witnessed to for years, but who are not willing to hear – sigh- there are so many that are not willing!!!

May the Lord bless you as you pray for them all. We know that He hears our prayers and that He draws people to Him – we pray that He will send to us those whom He knows we could reach.

Your prayers are much needed help in our work. – If you have any questions or comments for us, we’d be happy to respond.

We hope that this fall will be mild and beautiful for all of us to enjoy. We love the colors that our Creator-God paints all over the hills. He is awesome!

We are serving the Lord with love and thankfulness for His goodness towards us.

May our Lord bless you and keep you.

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Thoughts for the month:

“Truth is Eternal. Knowledge is changeable. It is disastrous to confuse them.” (Madeline L’Engle)

Purpose for life is to get ready for eternity. It is tragic to miss doing so.

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