



# H.I.S. Ministries International

He Is Savior



June 1, 2009

## H.I.S. Ministries June-July 2009 Newsletter, covering May, 2009

[This letter will be a bit longer than usual, for we will include an email-  
“dialogue” with a LDS man we just had, hoping that it will be helpful to  
those of you who often have doctrinal discussions with LDS people. ]

Many happy greetings from Utah’s summer. It is warm, some say HOT, and beautiful.

We were glad to have been invited to take part in the *Compassionate Boldness Conference*, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May. We were glad to hear Bill McKeever on his topic of “*LDS Church and Christianity – has anything changed?*” And Dr. James White, Director of Alpha an Omega Ministries, who spoke on subject of “*Trinity*”, and on “*Responding in LDS Church 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith.*” We were also able to attend Marv Cowen’s good lecture on “*Universal Apostasy and Restoration, Did it really happen?*” Our topic was “*Salvation as taught in Mormonism, compared to biblical Salvation.*” We had a good turn-out and many expressed their appreciation for the information we gave in our lecture. We gave all attending our lecture a paper on salvation to take with them as an witnessing tool.

Truth about this matter of salvation is of the utmost importance, for if we do not know God and Jesus, we cannot have salvation either. Erroneous religious teachings of God, Jesus and salvation can only give a false hope that will come to a cruel end the minute one dies.

To have salvation requires that we know the Author of Salvation – Jesus Christ. We must know who He is, not just His name. Jesus equated that knowledge with eternal life itself when He prayed for us and said, “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3.)

Unless we believe that Jesus is God, we will die in our sins – and thus cannot enter heaven. He said, “if ye believe not that I AM He (God), ye shall die in your sins.” (John 8:24.)

God alone can forgive sins. (Mark 2:7.)

The world ,and its many hundreds of religions, present their “Jesus”, claiming that they believe in Him too, and thus they should be accepted as authentic religions and even as “Christians”.

But who is their Jesus? Is He God as John 1:1, 14 says that Jesus of the Bible is? Indeed, is He “*God with us*”, as Matthew 1:23 proclaims? If their Jesus is not God Almighty (Rev. 1:8), then He cannot save anyone. There is no salvation in any other. (Acts. 4:12.)

We have, in our past letters, presented “Jesus” of the Jehovah’s Witnesses, who is not God, but Michael the Archangel, and “Jesus” of the “Moonies”, who, according to Rev. Moon, failed His mission, and is now presented to the world in Rev. Moon himself, who says that he is Christ, and thus is this “Jesus” not God either. Since Jesus of Jehovah’s Witnesses or Jesus of Moonies’ is

not God who became a man, then they cannot offer true salvation and heaven to their followers, only an illusion and “*damnable false hope*”.

This is not a new phenomenon. Peter already warned, “*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*” (2 Peter 3:1-2.)

Let’s now see what the two religions that both claim to be “*the fastest growing religions in the world today*” have to say about Jesus – namely the Mormons and Muslims.

Mormonism teaches that God the Father is a former man, and that we all were born to him and his many wives in the pre-existence. Mormonism teaches that we all came from heaven with a purpose of becoming gods as God is now.

But Jesus said that He alone came from heaven – mankind did not, “*ye are of this world; I AM not of this world*”. (John 8:23). There is no preexistence of men – we are not His brothers and sisters, but we are created by Him and for Him. (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.) Jesus of Mormonism is not God and thus not a Savior of men.

Let me tell you a brief story:

*“Many years ago there was an unlearned young man who spent much of his time in prayer and reflection. While alone one night, an angel of light appeared to him and said that he had been called by God to be a prophet and to restore the true religion and the true word of God to the earth since the truth had been lost for some time. In subsequent years this new young prophet received many revelations. His scribes wrote down what he had to say, because he himself did not have much education. A lengthy book was published. It was proclaimed to be an inerrant word of God, even the most correct book on the face of the earth. Later he introduced his followers to polygamy, promising even more wives (virgins) to them after this life. The prophet and his followers were persecuted severely, but eventually they prevailed and grew into a large and powerful religion.”*

Millions of followers of this prophet bear their testimonies that this is a true story of the prophet of God, and they are willing to sacrifice everything, *even their lives if necessary*, to follow this man’s religion.

Who is this prophet? Is this a story of Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, or is it a story of Mohammed, the founder of Islam?

When I first read it, I was sure it was a story of Joseph Smith. But I was wrong. This is the story of Mohammed, and the year is 610 A.D. and the book mentioned is the Quran and the religion he started is Islam. Mohammed was not just “unlearned”, he was totally illiterate. He did not know how to read or write. Islam is today the largest religion in the world, having nearly one and a half BILLION members worldwide, about nine million of them in America. We have seen their willingness to sacrifice their own lives in service to their religion. They fervently testify that the Quran is the true word of their God, Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.

The teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are quite familiar to most people in our country, but the teachings of Islam are not as familiar, yet, but with events of the last decade or so, interest in Islam has increased. When a study of Islam is conducted, we see many, many similar things in Mormonism and Islam, even from the very beginning of both religions.

Let us now look at what Islam says about their God. Is he the same as the God of the Bible, like many leading men in our country have proclaimed? And what about Jesus, is he the same Jesus known to biblical Christians?

Allah, God of Islam, who is he? He is Il-Allah, one of 360 gods, that Mohammed chose to be his one and only god. He was known as the moon-god.

Thus Allah is not same as the God of the Bible!

Islam teaches that Jesus was a Virgin born son of Mary, but not a son of Allah, for Quran teaches that Allah does not have a son. We see that these differences are huge.

*God of the Bible loved the world so much that He gave His Only Begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him may have eternal life with Him. (John 3:16.)*

Jesus of Islam is not the Son of God, who came to redeem us from our sins. Jesus of Islam is revered as a mighty prophet and a teacher, who was called by Allah to prepare the world for the coming of the great leader (Mohammed). Islam also teaches that Jesus did not die on the cross for the sins of people, because salvation is predicated on the works of men and their faithfulness to Allah and Mohammed. They teach that someone else (maybe Judas?) was crucified in Jesus' place, and Allah took Jesus to heaven, as he later also took Mohammed to heaven. They teach that since Jesus did not die, he was not resurrected either.

They believe that their Messiah (12<sup>th</sup> Imam) will return to defeat the anti-Christ, and prepare the world for the final judgment, and to make sure that all will be converted to Islam.

When comparing Mormonism and Islam, we see them as similar as twin brothers, and so are their founders, Mohammed and Joseph Smith.

Both were visited by an angel – Mohammed by Gabriel and Joseph Smith by Nephi (later named Moroni).

Both were told by an angel that true religion was lost and did not exist any more on earth.

Both were to restore the one true religion.

Muslims claim that Adam, Abraham and Jesus were all Muslims, and Mormons claim that they all were “Mormons”.

Mohammed wrote the Quran and Joseph Smith wrote the Book of Mormon, both books supposedly came from God through an angel.

Both Mohammed and Joseph Smith had none or very little education, and thus their books are considered miracles that “prove” they came from God.

Both Mohammed and Joseph Smith say they believe the Bible, but only with reservation. They both claimed that the books of the Bible have been altered and corrupted and many of them lost.

Both Joseph Smith and Mohammed claimed that their holy books (the Quran and the Book of Mormon) are the most correct and perfect books on earth, and thus elevated high above the Bible.

Both Mohammed and Joseph Smith claimed that the original copy of their holy book was taken by an angel back to heaven.

Both Mohammed and Joseph Smith claimed that they were called by God to make a “final restoration” of the gospel.

Both Mohammed and Joseph Smith were polygamists with many wives.

Both borrowed from paganism and polytheism. Mohammed chose his God, Allah, the moon-god, from among 360 known pagan gods to be his one and only god. Joseph Smith, later in his religious inventions, created his own gods by borrowing from Masonry and “pyramidology”, and other magic systems, as he too wanted to become like the gods he served.

Both Mohammed and Joseph Smith were fascinated with magical stones. Islam has a “Black stone”, Joseph Smith had his “seer stones”, several of them, one of them was the one he used when translating the Book of Mormon. (This stone was on the altar of the Manti temple when it was dedicated. Today it is stored at the LDS Church's archives.)

Joseph Smith boasted that he is a “*second Mohammed*” to his generation. He is also reported as saying that “*he would yet tread down his enemies, and walk over their dead bodies...and that he would make it one gore of blood from Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic ocean; that like Mohammed whose motto for treating for peace was, ‘Alcoran or the Sword’, so should it be eventually with us, ‘Joseph Smith or the Sword.’*” (See History of the Church, vol. 3, p. 167. emphasis added.)

Both religions require that converts to their folds must embrace a mandatory belief in their prophets (Mohammed in Islam and Joseph Smith in Mormonism), before being accepted into that religion. Islam claims that the Bible predicts the coming of Mohammed, and Mormonism claims that the Bible predicts the coming of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon.

Both religions are simply teachings of men to promote their own ambitions in search of power, money and fame. It is more than likely that it was indeed the same *angel of light* (Satan, as 2 Cor. 11:13-15 predicts) that appeared to Mohammed in his time and to Joseph Smith in his time.

The Bible is the only true Word of God. Gabriel never appeared to Mohammed, and there is no such an angel as Nephi or Moroni. Dead men do not become angels. Angels are special creations of God, created before man was created. They are not the same species as men.

Similarities between Islam and Mormonism and their closeness to each other is acknowledged by the Mormons. BYU's Vice-President, Noel B. Reynolds, some years ago, made the following statement concerning Islam and Mormonism, when he spoke in behalf of then BYU President, Jeffrey R. Holland (who is currently an apostle of the LDS Church):*"There are many important elements of Mormon thought in which we (the Mormons) would feel closer to the followers of Mohammed than to the contemporary Christian culture in which we have been located since our beginnings."*

The Bible says, *"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, IF ANY MAN PREACH ANY OTHER GOSPEL UNTO YOU THAN THAT YE HAVE RECEIVED, LET HIM BE ACCURSED."*(Gal. 1:8-9.) Jesus of the Bible said,

*"I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me."* (John 14:6.)

All God's Revelations to mankind are found in the true Word of God, the Bible. There is none other. The Holy Spirit testifies and teaches us as we study His Word. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16; John 16:13-15.) We are to earnestly *contend for the faith*, which is the gospel of Christ. (Jude 3.) *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear, having a good conscience that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."* (1 Peter 3:15-17.)

In order to bring people to truth, we must be clear in our witnessing who God is, who Jesus is and what does the Bible teach about salvation. We cannot allow anyone to mistake "Jesus" of Jehovah's Witnesses', Moonies', Mormons' or Muslim's or any other cult, to be the One Who Alone Can Save, JESUS of the Bible, WHO IS GOD WITH US. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14, 8:24.)

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**From our mailbox, an email conversation with an LDS man (this is long, for I wanted you to read it all):**

(His words are in italics, my answers in regular text below his questions or arguments. Those who receive these newsletters electronically will see my answers in red text.)

**My comments to him first:**

I will answer your comments/questions/arguments below your statements, using red text for clarity. I will give references to KJV of the Bible where my information comes from.

**I will not take time to type them all here for you, for I assume that you have a Bible and can read them for yourself. However, unless you read them, you will not get my point.**

**Also, since you asked, I rely on Peter's counsel "... and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having good conscience that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation**

**in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.” (1 Peter 3:15-17.)]**

**(The subject line on his e-mail was, “you are out to lunch”).**

***Hi. I read your anti-Mormon literature and want to say that I find it inexcusable for you to publish a bunch of stuff you know nothing about.***

My reply:

You obviously think that you know it all. Good for you. But how did you get to know it all, the deep doctrines of Mormonism? From missionaries or from your ward SS and Priesthood teachers? “*Real Mormonism*” is not taught by missionaries nor by most of the ward leaders, for most of them have no clue what it really is.

After my mission, I came to work for the LDS Church as a translator, language coordinator and interpreter (of Mormon doctrine). I learned what the doctrine really is from the High Leadership of the Church (GA's), working over 14 years in Church Headquarters, where I also did research into the history of the Church – starting from the very beginnings. Just so that you'd know, I had to know the doctrine and even history, for I was translating doctrinal materials that required more knowledge than is ever taught to an average Mormon.

***When every other church and kingdom collapses and the kingdom of God is left standing you will be surprized when you discover that the “stone cut out of the mountain without hands” is in fact the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS. (It is still the fastest growing Christian faith in the world ... for a reason)***

My reply:

There is no “*kingdom of God on earth*” until the King comes. **The Kingdom is here only when the King is here. Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, but He has not come to rule, yet.** (See Rev, ch.19; and 20:1-6.) The earthly kingdoms (all of them) now belong to Satan, until the Lord Jesus comes back to take over His Kingdom – i.e. the whole world. All who do not belong to Jesus, who are not born again Spirit-filled Christians, are under the “***prince of the power of the air*** (Satan)” (Eph. 2:2) “***whom the god of this world*** (Satan) ***hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God*** (Col. 1:15), ***should shine unto them.***” (2 Cor. 4:4.) **The Mormon Church is not the stone spoken of by Daniel, the prophet, it is Jesus Christ, our King.**

As a matter of fact, **the LDS Church is not the fastest growing church in the world. It is Islam with about 1.5 BILLION members.** In the USA Islam has twice as many members as the LDS church. (There are about 9.5 million Muslims in the USA, where just about 30-40 years ago there were only a “handful”.) **LDS membership in the USA is still about 5 million or under**, and when we consider that **Mormonism started in the USA about 179 years ago, it has not grown fast at all.** Even Jehovah's Witnesses, that started later than Mormonism, also in the USA, has about the same number of members as the LDS Church in the USA. **Pentecostalism has grown much faster than either of these two...** But I am not impressed with numbers. Numbers do not prove the truth, quite the opposite, for Jesus said that only very few find the gate that leads to eternal life, the rest go through the wide gate that leads to eternal damnation.

***What other chruch calls its members "saints"?***

My reply:

**The Bible calls true followers of Jesus and His Gospel, Saints.** (1 Thess. 3:13.) Jude admonished that we, the believers in **Jesus of the Bible** and the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4), where we have put our faith, must “**earnestly contend for the Faith that was**

**once delivered unto the saints**". (Jude 3.) ***Earnestly contend*** means to seriously "fight for the faith" that some are trying to twist. "***The Faith*** (gospel) ***was once delivered***". **No redelivery is needed or allowed**. It has, ever since the beginning, always been in the Word of God, the Bible. It was never lost – only unknown to those who do not read the Bible, nor test "new deliveries" with the True Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4.)

Paul also warned that **some will come and bring "another gospel"** (different than in 1 Cor. 15:1-4) and **"another Jesus"** (different than Jesus who is God with us – Matt. 1:23) and **"another spirit"**, that is demonic spirit, **teaching lies**. These falsehoods were brought by **false apostles** who do Satan's bidding, as 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15 declare.

***What other church claims priesthood power from God himself.***

My reply:

Claiming "priesthood power" is easy to do. It is just saying so. That does not mean that one has the priesthood. However, there never was any "power" in the Levitical or Priesthood of Aaron, which was the only priesthood that Judaism had. **Power is always in God alone. The priests of Aaron functioned as mediators between God and men.** They presented to God animal-blood offered for the sins of men. **That practice ended when Jesus died for our sins**, and no more blood sacrifices were needed, and thus **no more priests were needed. We now have one Mediator between God and men, Jesus Christ.** (1 Tim. 2:5.) There never was a "Melchizedek Priesthood" for men. **There was only a Person, Melchizedek, who was a type of Christ.** Melchizedek was a "**prophet, priest and King**", as is our Lord Jesus Christ. (See Hebr. 7:1-3; 24-28; 9:12-16.) Note that Jesus' Priesthood is **after the order of Melchizedek**, and it **cannot be given to any other** (7:24.) ("**Unchangeable priesthood**" means that it [the priesthood] "**passeth not from one to another**". i.e. **no one else can have it, but Jesus.**)

***All other churches are man-made, and will fall. Where did you get your authority to speak in God's name?***

My reply:

When a person is born again by the **Spirit of God**, that person has **God Himself living within** (1 Cor. 3:16). **God is the one who gives to every believer, whether male or female, His royal priesthood, i.e. authority to speak as the Spirit leads.** (1 Peter 2:9.) **We are called from darkness to God's Light.**

***A university? Where did the apostles get it? From Christ or other apostles***

My reply:

**Men who want to commit their entire lives to serve God, go to Theological Seminaries to learn Hebrew and Greek so that they can study the Bible in its original languages and get a better understanding of it.** (After years and years of studies, they can write commentaries based on original and deeper meaning found in Hebrew and Greek texts. They provide help to the rest of us who have not had an opportunity to study Hebrew or Greek.) God's command to us all is: "**STUDY to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.**" (2 Tim. 2:15.) If we do not know the Word of God well, we may start following **fables** (1 Tim. 1:4; 2 Tim. 4:4; 1 John 4:1) and **false spirits**, and end up **ashamed** because we have not tested them by the Word of God. Jesus said that "**searching the scriptures**" and finding knowledge of God there **will bring us to eternal life.** (John 5:39.)

**The apostles were taught by the Lord Jesus, who is the WORD (John 1:1, 14) and they, after receiving the Holy Spirit, went on preaching the Gospel.**

**Authority or “right” comes only from God at the very moment when we receive Jesus and become His sons and daughters.** (See John 1:12 and compare it with Romans 9:8.) When we accept Jesus and are **born again** (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet, 1:23-25), we are **joined together as one body, the church of God in Christ** (Col. 1:18, 24.). **There is no other way to have authority from God but through the new birth, becoming sons of God, having our sins washed away. That happens when we come to understand that Jesus is God, for only God can forgive sins.** (John 8:24; Mark 2:7.)

[By the way, as Mormons we were taught that Jesus is a created being, our elder brother from pre-existence, and a brother of Lucifer. **Not true! We did not come from heaven – Jesus alone is from heaven – we are not.** (John 8:23-24.) Lucifer is a fallen angel, created by God. (Ezek. 28:13-19.)]

**Christ called the apostles, but before they could act as His ambassadors to the world, they had to wait to receive and be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Apostles, along with hundreds of others, received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, not before.** (See Acts 2:1-4.) **The apostles did not have the indwelling Holy Spirit until after Jesus had ascended to heaven.** It took place just as He had promised. ( John 16:7-1.)

**The True Church is the Body of Christ, all believers joined together, regardless of denomination, or where people “go to church”. The word “church” is translated from the Greek word, “ekklesia”, which means “called out ones”, i.e. *people called by God from the world to follow Christ.* (See Col. 1:18, 24.) **During the time of Christ and even after, the Church was not a denomination or an organization, it was all born again believers in Christ, who is God, spiritually, through the Spirit of God, joined together, Jesus as the Head of the Body, and we all as members of His Body.****

***For your information, the symbolism of the stones on the temples can be seen in Revelation 12. The woman is the church, the 12 stars are the apostles at the head of the church, notice that stars give light in darkness and the wise will chart their course by them - (Christ's church has them at its head, where are yours?) the woman is clothed with the sun (a symbol of righteousness - There is one glory of the sun...) She stands on the moon. Hence the stones on the temple are in descending order, stars, sun, and moon. The child represents Zion, or the establishment of God's people. In the temple we are taught to love and serve God and our neighbor, thus establishing God's kingdom on earth. We also make sacred covenants with God to the end that we can become more like Him and His Son. Matthew 5:48***

**My reply:**

First of all, you need to do a deeper study on ***the Book of Revelation*** as a whole.

**You are so very wrong.** It would take a long time to explain this to you for it seems that your information is twisted and comes from Mormon misinterpretations. (They place the Book of Revelation in the “pre-existence”. A Mormon idea of pre-existence is false!! Only God pre-existed – men did not!)

**The Book of Revelation is the Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him (Rev. 1:1), **and John wrote it down. The book of Revelation reveals to all who will study it, what will take place “after these things (after the church-age)”. The Lord told John (Rev. 1:19) to write things *which he has seen before, what is currently taking place, and what will come after that.* In Greek, *Meta Tauta, after these things* (4:1), starts with the revelation of what will take place yet future, after the “church****

age” is over. (Revelation, Chapters 1-3, is our time, church age, still, but from chapter 4 on is yet future.)

**“After these things”** means that after the church age has come to an end, the **70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel will start** (Dan. 9:24-27)– and then **it is all about Israel** for 7 years, which we know as **the Great Tribulation** of Israel, and the unbelieving world. (Matt. 24:21.) (Which Mormons, by the way, are planning to live through.)

**The Woman in Rev. 12:1 is not the LDS church, but Israel.** (See **Gen. 37:9-10**. It is about Joseph’s dream that got him in trouble with his brothers. **It tells of Jacob or Israel and of his 12 sons** where the **12 tribes of Israel** come from.) (23 years later this dream of Joseph came true – Jacob/Israel and his sons came to Egypt and bowed down to Joseph.)

**The woman in Rev. 12:1 is symbolic of Israel. She gave birth to a male child (Jesus) (“seed of the woman” – Gen. 3:15).** This **“male child”** is the One who **was to rule all nations with a rod of iron** (Rev. 12:5; 19:15). The devil (the dragon) wanted to destroy Him as soon as He was born (Rev, 12:4)– and they (Mary, child Jesus and Joseph) fled to Egypt (Matt. 2:13.) **Jesus is “the son of David”, from the tribe of Judah, who is to sit on the throne of David and reign over the house of Jacob for ever.”** (Luke 1:32-33.) **Israel will flee to the wilderness during the last 3.5 years of the Great tribulation** (Matt. 24:15-).

**We must take the entire Bible as a whole.** It is a library of 66 books, but they all correspond with each other and explain each other. We must lean the **“whole counsel of God”** (Acts 20:27), all the books of the Bible, to know what He says through it all. Then we can have understanding.

My husband and I, have spent 26 years in an intensive, daily study of **God’s Word**, and it has been worth every minute of every hour. **God’s Word is Truth** (John 17:17; Ps.100:5; 119:160.) Falsehoods are accepted by the people who do not know the truth. As Isaiah said, **“if they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light** (God’s light) **in them”** (Isa. 8:20.) **False prophets will cause people to err, and those who follow false prophets are destroyed.** (See Isa. 9:15b,16.)

Symbolism of sun, moon, stars etc. comes from early on, from the Tower of Babel, when people (possibly under Nimrod – Gen. 10:8-11) rebelled against God and wanted to build a tower that **reaches to the heavens** (Gen. 11:4), **and worship the “host of heaven”, sun, moon and stars.**

**God has already forbidden making any images of anything in heaven (Exodus 20:4), meaning, of course, of sun, moon, stars and angels** (hosts of heaven). Salt Lake LDS temple displays all of them, and other LDS temples have at least “an angel” (Moroni) on top of each of them – and then some...(The new, rebuilt Nauvoo temple, has all Masonic/occult symbols on it – inside and outside!)

The LDS temple ceremonies are Masonic ceremonies and they have nothing to do with serving the true Lord – or even helping a neighbor. They are secret rituals to put people under a joke of organization in obedience to it. I think I know what it is all about for I spent several months in the SL temple studying the ceremony – all parts of it, under the instructions of the leaders of the Church, to understand how to translate it into my native language.

**Jesus is the one who has perfected us by forgiving our sins** (Hebr. 10:1, 14, 17,18). We have **put on His righteousness**, not our own (Romans 10:1-4).

**“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith of Jesus Christ...if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain”.** (Gal. 2: 16, 21; Read also Gal. 3 – all of it.) Eph. 2:8-9, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, lest any man should boast.”**

**As for your stance that the symbols on the temple are of the occult. Satan has always imitated the Lamb - notice the dragon with seven, a symbol of completeness, heads and then he appears as a lamb with two horns in the Book of Revelation. Don't be too surprised or so naive to think that he doesn't do it today.**

My reply:

**Who is imitating who? These symbols come from the Tower of Babel – about 4000 years ago... Sun, moon, stars, Masonic handshake, beehive, all seeing eye** (known from Egypt as the **eye of Egyptian false god, Osiris**, and is used in Masonry and in occult). Please check Dr. Cathy Burn's book of **Occult**

**Symbols** or Masonic Encyclopedia or any good resource for Freemasonry, or to read even more, go to [www.cuttingedge.org/fmcorner.html](http://www.cuttingedge.org/fmcorner.html).

You are right in that Satan is an imitator, and **so are false prophets**. This is exactly what Paul warned about in 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15. He told that **there will be those who bring "another gospel"** (different than the true gospel declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4) and **"another Jesus"** (different than Jesus of the Bible who is God Almighty (John 1:1, 14; 8:24; Rev. 1:8 etc.) – and **"another spirit"**, that gives *good feelings, and testimonies* to those who do not **test all things** as we are commanded to do (1 John 4:1; 1 Thess 5:21.) Paul bluntly said that **it is Satan, who comes as an angel of light, and he brings his ministers, who seem to be "ministers of righteousness"** (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) **"...which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars."** (Rev. 2:2) **All imitations!**

I understand how easy it is to be fooled – been there – done that – but I thank my Lord Jesus for rescuing me before it was too late. It is too late the minute one dies! There is no second chance after death. (Hebr. 9:27.) This life is the time when we need to seek the Lord.

**The reason we don't have crosses on our churches is because they represent His death. We focus on His life and resurrection. Crosses have, in many instances become a graven image that is worshipped. We stay away from that based on the second commandment. We are also not interested in being associated with traditional Christianity's doctrine which was established by Constantine, a sun-worshipper and murderer. The symbol of our faith has to be the kind of life we live. "Ye are the light of the world".**

My reply:

Listen to Paul, who said: **"For Christ sent me NOT to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect, For preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it (the cross) is the power of God."** (1 Cor. 1:17-18.)

The Gospel is a message of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4.)

**"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."** (Romans 6:23.) The cross is a reminder to us what our sins cost Him. It is **on His cross that my sins were nailed, when He took them away as soon as I believed.** (Col. 2:14. Please read all of Colossians 2 and Phil. 2:18-19.)

Jesus spoke of His cross before His death **as a symbol of full commitment to follow Him**, even to death of those who would be His disciples. (Matt. 10:38; Mark 10:21; Luke 14:27.) **The Cross symbolizes the glory of the Christian gospel** (1 Cor. 1:17), and that through this terrible means of death, the debt of our sin was nailed to His cross (Col. 2:14; 1 Cor. 1:23; Gal. 5:11). **To Christians the cross is a symbol of Jesus' love and God's power to save sinners.**

In other words, **to us who are the saved, it is indeed the power of God.** (1 Cor. 1:18.)

Use of the Cross had nothing to do with Constantine, who ruled as the Roman Emperor 306-337 A.D. We see the “*preaching of the Cross*” throughout the New Testament, written more than 200 years before Constantine!!

Constantine was a sinner, as we all are, but if he truly understood that Jesus, who died on the cross that is preached for salvation of men, is God and that He paid for the sins of all who ask Him to be saved, then his sins too were forgiven. We can list many others, even those mentioned in the Bible, who had committed murders, but were saved by grace of God. (I.e. Moses, David, Paul, Thief on the Cross, etc.)

***Seriously, who can understand or comprehend the doctrine of the Trinity? Who came up with that? It's not in the Bible.***

My reply:

**It is in the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation. Just because you, or someone else, cannot understand the Trinity, has nothing to do with the fact that it is true.**

**To ignore the fact does not change the fact!** There are many things I do not personally understand, but yet I know that they are true. I have no understanding how I can get TV pictures or radio transmission without any physical connections to anything... I have no idea how electricity works either, no matter how many times it has been explained to me. I have no idea how this computer gets my letter to you, and how I can send messages to the other side of the world in an instant, but because it is a fact and it works, I believe it. If I only used what I can understand, I would live like they did in the stone-ages.

To answer your question, “***Who came up with it?***”, my answer has to be: **GOD, for it is in His Book.**

***“All scripture is given by inspiration of God.”*** (2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:21.)

**The Trinity is a summarized word for what the Bible teaches about a Triune God. The Bible clearly teaches that the Father is God. It likewise clearly teaches that there is but One God, anywhere.** (Deut.4:35, 39; 6:4; 1 Sam. 2:2; 2 Sam. 7:22; 22:32; 1 Kings 8:60; Isa. 43:10; 44:6,8; 45:5-6,14,18, 21-22; Jer. 10:10; Gal. 3:20; Eph. 4:6; James 2:19; Mark 12:32, 34; 1 John 5:7.)

**It also teaches that Jesus is God:** Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 20:28.

**It says that in Jesus, who became a man (Phil 2:6-8) “dwells all fullness of the Godhead bodily”** (Col. 2:9.) It says that **He is an image of the INVISIBLE GOD, who is Spirit** (Col. 1:15; John 4:24; 1:18; 1 John 4:12). **The Bible teaches that Holy Spirit is God.** (Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19.)

In summary: **the Bible firmly teaches that Father is God, the Son (Jesus) is God and the Holy Spirit is God, and as firmly it also teaches that there is but one God. He alone is God, “from everlasting to everlasting”.** (Ps. 90:2.) Logical conclusion is that **these three Persons are One God** (Trinity), whether we understand it or not!

James wrote, ***“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”***

***What? Jesus prayed to himself? He commended His spirit into his own hands? Who was running the universe while He dwelt in mortality? Was He a ventriloquist in Matthew 3? The doctrine of the Trinity is based on man-made doctrines to appease everyone's philosophies and ideas. Really a bunch of jibberish.***

My reply:

**Triune God is three eternal, co-equal Persons, but One God. They talk to each other. They love each other. God is infinite. I am finite. I cannot understand Him,**

**but I can believe Him, for His Word is true.** (John 17:17; Ps. 100:5; 119:160.) **One of Jesus' titles is TRUTH** (John 14:6.) **His title is also The Word** (John 1:1, 14.)

**Of course Jesus prayed to His Father. He commended His Spirit to His Father's hands. The Father and the Holy Spirit were "running the universe" as well as Jesus, who is God. Jesus became a man, 100%, but He was also 100% God. While He was in mortality, He set His Godhood a side, so to speak, so that He could live a life of a man, for us.** (See Mark 1:13; Hebr. 2:18; 4:14-15 etc.)

Romans 1:22-23 warns, **"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image like to corruptible man..."** **Joseph Smith became a fool and made his god to be a man, like him (Joseph), but not until a decade after he had started his church. At the beginning (from 1830-1844) he taught that *the Father is Spirit, and that only the Son has a body of flesh and bones.*** (Lectures of Faith, 5.)

**Thus it is Mormon doctrine that is a man-made doctrine to appease those who are biblically illiterate.** The Bible teaches that God is NOT a man (Numb. 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Isa.31:3-4). **But Joseph Smith taught (in 1844) that his god was once a man who became a God, and that men must "learn how to Gods yourselves, same as all Gods have done before you."** (Teachings of Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346.) God of the Bible says: **"Ye are My witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I AM He: before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me."** (Isa. 43:10.) You can choose to believe the Bible or Joseph Smith. It is one or the other – not both!

**I would say that what Joseph Smith taught is 'jibberish'.**

***Just because you don't understand something someone else believes doesn't give you the right to interpret it, and you certainly don't have the right to slander other religions, "lest haply, you find yourself fighting against God".***

**My reply:**

I assume you are saying that I do not understand Mormonism. I would think that I understand Mormonism quite well – I have studied it over 40 years.

But now **I am standing on the Word of God that is TRUTH.** (John 17:17.)

If I knew that there was a deep canyon ahead and **the bridge over it was out, but if I just waived and smiled to the passers-by, rather than yelling "STOP, STOP, DANGER AHEAD, BRIDGE IS OUT", would I not be guilty of their death?** What do you think? **I know that Mormonism worships false gods, false Jesus and teach a false gospel – and these lead to an eternal curse and damnation** (Gal. 1:8-9). **Therefore, since I know that, I must do all I can to warn – but after I have warned and given reasons why Mormonism is false and that the Bible is the truth, I have done what God has asked me to do. I am just doing what God has commanded everyone to do who has found out what the truth is. In Ezekiel 33:7-9 God says that if I do not warn, He will hold me responsible of those who continue in a lie, but if I warn, and they do not listen, I have relieved myself from responsibility over them.**

***However, persecution and opposition to the truth is just another witness of its truthfulness.***

**My reply:**

Presenting biblical truth cannot be considered "persecution" in any stretch of the word.

***Can you explain John 10:16? No. We can.***

**My reply:**

The gospel was brought to **the Jews first, and then also to the Greeks** (Gentiles). (Romans 1:16.) **“Salvation is of the Jews.”** (John 4:22.) The Lord Jesus was a Jew. **The Gospel was not preached to the Gentiles until after the Jews had rejected and crucified the Lord. The “other sheep” are Gentiles.** Paul was called by the Lord to be **“the apostle of the gentiles”** (Romans 11:13) and Paul said that Jews as a nation were going to **remain in blindness as to the gospel, UNTIL the fullness of the gentiles has come in** (to faith in Jesus). (Romans 11:25.)

**Can you explain Genesis 49 and Joseph's blessing? We can.**

My reply:

Gen. 49 is Israel's (Jacob's) blessing to his 12 sons. The rest of the Bible pretty much “explains” it. There is no mystery in it.

**Can you explain 1 Corinthians 15:29? We can.**

My reply:

Psalms 49:7 states: **“None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him.”** There is no second chance for the dead.

**1 Cor. 15, the entire chapter, is about resurrection, not about baptism of living or the dead.** In verse 29 Paul simply asked a question of **why “they” (some others), not Paul or his companions, were baptized for the dead, when they did not even believe in resurrection!** (His main audience was the Sadducees, who did not believe in resurrection.) Paul did not teach baptism for the dead, nor did other apostles.

Paul had just a few chapters earlier said, **“I thank God that I baptized none of you...”**- as a matter of fact, he said that he had not baptized many. (1 Cor. 1: 14-17.) He said: **“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel...lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”**

What is the gospel? Paul answered it in **1 Cor. 15:1-4: “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, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 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.”** - **Baptism does not save the living and it surely has no effect on the dead! It is the blood of Christ that cleanses us from all sin,** not water baptism. (1 John 1:7.) **Baptism is for identification with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.** **“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”** (Romans 6:3-4.)

**Can you explain Revelation 12:7-9; 14:6-7; 20:12-15? We can.**

My reply:

12:7-9 - Even though Lucifer was cast out of heaven as his and his angels dwelling place (Isa. 14:12-14 and Ezek. 28:12-15), Satan still has access to God, for he is **“the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night”**. (Rev. 12:10). **Satan was defeated at Calvary**, but he has been the accuser of believers before the Throne of God ever since. It will come to an end, during **the Great Tribulation** (yet future) when Satan and his angels are permanently cast down to earth.

**Michael is the champion of Israel and a fighter for their cause (12:7 and Dan. 12:1) and he has angels at his command. When Michael is present, it indicates that the events relate to Israel and her enemies.**

**Rev. 14:6-7 Why did you stop at verse 7? There are three angels introduced, each bringing different announcements . Read 14:6-12 .**

**This is not the gospel that is presented now, during the church age, for the purpose of gathering the Bride for Christ. These angelic announcements, all of them, are for Israel, during the Great Tribulation time, declaring God's judgment, but yet saying that they can still turn to God for salvation.**

**20:12-15 (You need to start at verse 11, that declares this to be the *Great White Throne Judgment, judgment of unsaved, unbelievers*, most of them counting that their works, temple endowments, churches, popes or prophets can save them.) The One who sits on the Throne is the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:44, 27; 2 Tim. 4:1) – This is an awesome scene, for even heaven and earth fled away from His presence. This judgment is final and eternal. People are brought face-to-face with God the Son – and no one can escape.**

**Notice that there are “books”... and “another book”. The Book (singular) is the *Book of Life*, in which all who have trusted Christ alone are listed. “*The books*” (plural) contain the record of the works of the unsaved. They show the gravity of their sins to determine the degree of their punishment (Luke 12:47-48). They are all brought to this judgment seat – and at the end, all are sent to the lake of fire.**

**Verse 15 concludes that if your name is not in the *Lamb's book of life*, you are cast down to hell. This is an all-inclusive judgment – all men from beginning to the end of human history are judged there. No works, no matter how good people think they were, will save them – only Jesus saves. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:16-21; 3:1-14.) Salvation is not of “*works plus Jesus*” – it is Jesus! Period. If you add your works, you cannot be saved! Verse 15 says, “Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

**The Book of Life is a list of names of all who trusted Jesus alone. He had forgiven all their sins.**

**All who trust in Him alone will not come into judgment (Romans 8:1.) Only God can forgive sins. (Mark 2:7.) Jesus said that if we do not believe that He is God, we will die in our sins. (John 8:24.)**

**How do you get included in the Lamb's Book of Life?**

**By accepting Jesus, who is God, and committing your life to Him. (Romans 10:9-10.)**

**Our salvation does not include works of any kind. It is God's Gift to those who believe that Jesus is God who became a man to die for our sins. (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9.)**

***How about 1 Peter 3:19-21 and 1 Peter 4:6? We can.***

**My reply:**

**1 Peter 3:18-21: “For Christ hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. By which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the times of Noah, while the ark was preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us, (not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”**

**[“Preached” here in Greek is “kerusso” which means “to herald or publish” or “announce”. When preaching the gospel, they used another word, “euaggelizo”, the word we get our English word, “evangelize” from. In English we have not differentiated that fact, but used the same word for both.]** A natural reading of this passage is that salvation **was already preached through His Spirit to these people when they were alive** (1 Peter 1:10-11), i.e. **generations of Noah’ time** (Gen. 6:3). ***God was patient, “long-suffering”, with them.*** Noah preached to them 120 years while he was building the Ark. But they did not repent. Peter is here writing to Jewish believers who were quite engulfed in the pagan world around them. He reminded them of God’s long-suffering, and also God’s eventual judgment, by giving a reference to **Christ’s ministry to the antediluvian generation through Noah.** Christ, by the Spirit of God, went and **“announced” to these same spirits who were disobedient during the time of Noah** (v.20), that what was promised is now finished: **His death has brought salvation to all who believed while they were alive.** *The outward figure or picture of salvation in Christ, who is the “True Ark”, is water baptism. Water separated the righteous from the sinners of Noah’s day – and saved those in the Ark.* The same as with us. ***The Ark, which represented Christ, saved them. Christ alone saves us.*** Thus baptism is for those who ARE SAVED, **but baptism itself cannot save.** It is used as a *figure* – and it, as a picture, separates believers from unbelievers. Christ alone can save, and that by the fact that He was resurrected (Rom. 4:25). The result is **“...the answer of good conscience toward God”, which comes when we understand that Christ’s blood has removed our sin.** (Hebr. 9:14.) **1 Peter 4:6** *“For, for this cause was the gospel preached to the dead, that they might be judged according to men in flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”* [“Preached” here in Greek is “euaggelizo”, the word from which we get our English word, “evangelize”. It means ***to preach, to declare the “good news”.***.) We see from 1 Peter 1:10-11 and 3:18-20 that **Christ had preached the good news through the Old Testament prophets to those who are now dead.** He did not go to Hades and offer a second chance to the dead! Hebrews 9:27 declares to all who question this, **“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”** **After death comes judgment – not a second chance!** Because unregenerate man must face God’s judgment, the gospel (the salvation message) **had been preached also to those who are now dead.** Anyone who believes the gospel of salvation, even if he be judged in this life by men, he will live spiritually according to the will of God. (Paul writes in Romans 1:19-20 that men by their nature do not desire to know God even when they could.) **All who have not believed and thus not received the gospel message into their hearts are spiritually dead even while still physically alive. That is the very reason that we must be born again, to make us spiritually alive in Christ** (John 3:7.). Before the death and resurrection of Christ, the dead were “housed” in two separate places – “Paradise”, also called “Abrahams bosom”, where believers went, and “Hell” or “Hades” where unbelievers were waiting for their judgment day. (Luke 16:22-23; Rev. 20:11-15.) **Between Jesus’ death and resurrection He went to announce His victory over death.** And more than likely He also announced that **Paradise will be emptied after His resurrection. After His resurrection all believers in Christ will immediately, upon their death, go to be with the Lord.** (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21-23.)

***Many more, too many to mention. As far as your belief that the Bible is infallible, compare Acts 9:7 with Acts 22:9. Notice the contradiction? Obviously one is***

**wrong, but which? You'll never know unless you believe in a modern prophet and modern revelation.**

My reply:

The word in Greek is “akouo” which means, in various senses, either a voice that “comes to ears”, or “hear noise” or “understand”.

**Acts 9:3-7.** Verse 7, “And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, **hearing a voice, but seeing no man.**”

**Acts 22:6-9.** Verse 9, “And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but **they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.**”

[The grammatical case is different in these accounts: **9:7**, “**hearing**”, the genitive case, **acknowledges a source where the voice came from**, and **22:9**, “**heard**” is the accusative case, indicating that they did not “**hear**” it as **intelligible speech**, but still, in both cases, the **voice is identified as a male voice, even if it was to them just “a noise”**.]

We say often the same thing. When someone talks to us, and if we did not hear it clear enough to understand what they said, we ask, “**What did you say, I did not hear.**”

**What about Exodus 33:11 and verse 20... How can that be? There are mistakes.**

My reply:

**There are no mistakes. “Face to face”** is an expression. Even blind persons can have a “**face-to-face**” conversation with others.

Jesus said that **no one has ever seen God as He is, for God is Spirit.** (John 1:18; 4:24; 1 John 4:12; Hebr. 11:27.) Jesus came to reveal God to us. **He is the Image of the invisible God.** (Col. 1:15.)

**Why did God always command His people to build temples and yet you don't?**

My reply:

Pagans build temples: Hindus have temples, Hare Krishna's have temples, Buddhists have temples, Masons have temples, etc.

**The one God of the Bible has one Temple, and it has always been in Jerusalem.**

There is no Temple in Jerusalem now, for it was for the Old Covenant that required blood sacrifices. (See 1 Kings Chapters 6-8.) Temple-sacrifices ended when Jesus died as our ultimate sacrificial lamb. **We, the believers in Christ, are the temple of God.** (See 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16.) No other temple required.

**The Gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored in its fulness as promised in the New Testament and Isaiah (Can you explain Isaiah 2? or 29, or any of it for that matter? We can)**

My reply:

Gospel of God was “**once and for all delivered to the Saints**” (Jude 3) – it does not need restoration.

Isaiah 2:1-5 refers to the Millennial Kingdom. **Mountain of the Lord's house** refers to **Mount Zion**, also known as Mount Moriah where the temple was built. When Isaiah, wrote this, Solomon's temple was still standing. **This passage speaks of the coming Millennial Kingdom and the Temple will be in Jerusalem as a place of worship during His rule on earth. “All nations”** refers to **gentile nations** (in Hebr. the word is “**goyim**”, meaning gentiles).

Both the **law of the kingdom** during Jesus' rule and the **word of God** will come from Jerusalem. **Zion** is the **City of David (Jerusalem)** (2 Sam. 5:7; 1 Kings 8:1; 1 Chro.11:5; 2 Chron.) **Zion** is also used of Israel as people of God.

Isa. 29:1 speaks of **Ariel**, which is a name of Jerusalem.

You may be referring to a Mormon interpretation of words of a **sealed book** in 29:11-12? Any book of the Bible can appear “sealed” if it is not understood for a lack of study and willingness to understand, and also because of unbelief. **I see unwillingness to believe the Bible in many LDS people.**

***I invite you to set aside your prejudices and open your heart to the truth.***

My reply:

I have spent some time answering your letter, for I truly hope that you will open your heart to the Truth of **the Bible that is the infallible Word of God.**

***Call me and I will be happy to answer any of your questions, but please stop spreading half-truths and lies about the church. You'll be glad you did.***

My reply: I will not call you, at least not until you answer this my letter and demonstrate that you are interested in knowing the truth about God, Jesus and salvation.

Rauni Higley

[A couple of days after sending my reply, we received his response which said,  
” **Wow! You are obviously too far gone to recover. Good luck! See you in the afterlife, I hope. That should be interesting. You are obviously in the category of those who leave the church but can't leave it alone.**”

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We are asking your prayer to continue for Heidi and her entire Family. They are still in the same struggle, but they are keeping their faith strong in the Lord. God knows what is happening and why. **We not only know that God can do miracles, but we trust that He will do them, in His time.**

Bruce is doing better, and we continue to pray that his 4-5 year battle with the insurance company will soon also be settled and he can start *living his own life*. As you may recall, this car accident (not his fault) that made him unable to ever be able to work in his line of work, **happened within weeks after he had become a believer in Jesus Christ of the Bible.** It is obvious that the enemy wanted to destroy him after he left the bondage of Mormonism. We know that “*Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world*”, and we know who will win this battle – we have read the end of God’s Book!

Please pray for our friend’s daughter, Nichole, who has been taken captive, even if “voluntarily”, by an evil man who seems to have a cult-like hold on her, and who has isolated her from her family and friends. **She needs to return to her family that loves her unconditionally, and wants her back.**

Please pray for a family of new believers who are standing firm on Jesus and truth, but have relatives and friends that are causing sorrow in their otherwise new joy and happiness in the Lord. They are seeking a church that their daughters will find friends and be happy in. We have many other persons we are trying to help, so please pray for them.

We are having a couple coming from Finland this month, and we ask you to pray with us that we can help them to find security in the Lord during their three week time that they will be with us.

This seems to be a very busy summer for us. We are not sure when we can take our annual camping trip, but not at least until August. These annual camping trips are our only vacation, for Dennis works 5-6 full days a week in his remodeling/woodwork job, and then rest of his time in the ministry. I work in ministry 6-7 days a week. We love to do it, but we are very tired. Our ministry account is near zero, and our personal finances are not much better, so your prayers are much needed, if we are to continue. The Lord is good and we trust that as long as He wants us in this work, we will continue, but we cannot send as many Bibles and other materials to people seeking information - as we have done in the past. We look toward the Eastern sky – He must be coming soon, but until He comes, we must be about his business.

We thank you who are trying to help us as much as you can, and we thank you also for praying for us. **This is warfare, and we know “that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” We have put on “the whole armor of God”, and we use the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God”, to fight the enemy of souls.** (Eph. 6:12-17.)

May God bless you and keep you safe in these troubled times – and **do not forget to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.** (Ps. 122:6; Gen. 12:3.)

Serving Him with gladness,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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**Note: Next Newsletter will be sent in the first week of August.**

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