



August 1, 2010

H.I.S. Ministries August Newsletter, covering July 2010

A happy and blessed summer to you. Summer is going way too fast. We had many plans for this summer that did not work out. We even had to cancel our trip to Bend, Oregon because of Dennis' work , a Conference, that we had planned for months to go to. But after he finished his work, we were able to take some time off and go camping in a remote area of Idaho. That was a huge blessing. We found a place familiar to us by Lost River, where we have gone so many times before during our nearly 45 years of marriage. Actually, we camped about 200 yards from a spot where we had our "honeymoon trip", which we spent in a borrowed bottomless tent! This time we "camped in style" in our little travel trailer – a lot more comfortable... There were no people in sight for miles. Weather was beautiful, days were warm and sunny, temperature in 80's, and nights were cool – down to 30 degrees - which allowed us to sleep well. We even fished a couple of days – with not much success, but it was fun. Our friend, Brenda, had given us several DVD's and CD's from various prophecy conferences to watch or listen to in the evenings. We had missed **The Berean Call's conference**, but to compensate that loss we had Dave Hunt's "**Living the Life of Christ**" series – almost 5 hours of excellent teaching - and Ruth Hunt's "**Come to Jesus and Rest**", and many more to hear and discuss. Dennis took long hikes in the early mornings while I still slept and he was able to photograph moose, elk, deer and even a Pine Martin that growled at him from a tree. In our campsite we had many ground squirrels that took a liking of us to the point that Dennis was able to rub their heads and pet them – it took a box of crackers to tame them to that point, but it was a fun experience for us. The cost of the entire trip was just diesel fuel to and from Idaho and food – but we would have eaten at home too... Our only monetary loss was Dennis' work-loss, for being self-employed, there is no income when he is not working – no vacation pay either 😊. But we are not complaining – our God is good and He takes care of us. We were able to get the rest we needed. We slept 9-10 hrs every night. Was that ever great or what! – We came home to over 400 emails... I'm back to writing and answering them...back to reality. Vacation is over! 😊

This last Thursday, July 29th, I was a guest on Doris Hanson's weekly Television show about polygamy, "**What Love Is This?**" Our discussion was about the false prophecies of Joseph Smith. We both presented several of them. It is amazing how blindly Mormons follow their founder and think that he was a true prophet of God even though it is a fact that his "*thus saith the Lord*" prophecies did not come to pass. The LDS scripture **Doctrine and Covenants** and Joseph Smith's other writings clearly prove that his "prophecies" and promises given in the name of the Lord failed and that he lied to his followers. The

Bible warns about false prophets who teach lies and lead their followers to destruction. (Isaiah 9:15b-16; 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1; Matt.7:15; 24:24.) The purpose of this program's discussion was to challenge the LDS people, both fundamentalists (polygamist Mormons) and main stream LDS, to test the prophecies of Joseph Smith (1 Thess. 5:21) to make sure they are not being led to destruction by following his teachings. I also presented our friend, Dick Baer's booklet, "**53 False Prophecies of Joseph Smith**", that is available and printable from our website, www.hismin.com/FlsPro.htm for those who want to learn more about the false prophecies than we had time to present.

It is very interesting to note that Joseph Smith referred to the religious freedom that would allow him to be either **a false prophet or a true prophet**. He said, "**Every man has a natural, and, in our country, a constitutional right to be a false prophet, as well as a true prophet.**" (Teachings, p. 344.) That statement alone should have motivated people, then and now, **to test him** before committing themselves to him. The Bible gives a criteria for testing prophets in **Deut. 18:20-22. One false prophecy is enough to dismiss a person as a false prophet - forever! Penalty in Israel for pretending to speak for God was death!** We examined a prophecy of Joseph Smith that it alone would have brought him a death penalty if he had lived in the Old Testament times: When Joseph Smith was questioned why his prophecy to go to Toronto, Canada, to sell the copy-right for the book of Mormon failed, (this was before organization of his church and publishing the Book of Mormon), he received another revelation from his Lord that said, "Some revelations are of God, some are of man: and some revelations are of the devil." (Reported in *Comprehensive History of the Church*, vol. 1:163, also in *Address To All Believers In Christ*, by David Whitmer, p. 31.) This should have caused his followers to run away from Joseph Smith; a man who claimed to be a prophet of God, but yet did not know the source of his revelations!!

Doris presented several Joseph Smith's failed revelations. One of them that Joseph Smith said he had received in September 1832, is recorded in the **Doctrine and Covenants as Section 84**. Verse one proclaims that it is, "**A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith Jun...**". Verses 2-5 declare that the **city of New Jerusalem and the temple** will be built on an appointed lot in Independence, Missouri, and that this temple will be "**dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith**". He also said, "**...beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation. For verily this generation shall not pass away until an [sic] house shall be built unto the Lord**". (D&C 84:4-5.) Joseph Smith was killed about 12 years later, and a temple still, 178 years later, is not built. **The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (RLDS), (later named "Community of Christ"), built their temple** (which is not for secret ceremonies for the living and the dead, as LDS temples are, but just a meeting house open to all people) **directly across the street from "Joseph Smith's temple lot"**. By the way, **this temple lot** is not even owned by the Mormon Church, but by another splinter group, **The Church of Christ (temple lot)**. When Dennis and I visited Independence MO, a few years ago, we met one of the apostles of this group and he said that the Utah LDS Church has for years tried to buy this lot from them, but they are not selling!

Our prayer is that this TV-program challenged all Mormons, both FLDS and LDS, to test Joseph Smith, his words, his scriptures and doctrines which totally and completely contradict the Bible, and to "**come out from among them**", (2 Cor. 6:17-18) and follow the true Lord Jesus, who longs to save them.



From our mailbox:

I will continue from last month (as I promised) with some excerpts from an LDS woman's letters and my answers to her.

She wrote: *"I hope we can build on what we have in common, our faith in God, and rely on the Holy Ghost, unless you left the Holy Ghost behind when you left the LDS Church. I can rely on the Holy Ghost and testimony and feelings that I received when*

I prayed to know the truth about the Book of Mormon (Moroni 10:4) and Prophet Joseph Smith and truthfulness of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints...The "Salamander letter" is a perfect example of what can happen to a testimony when it is founded on anything but the witness of the Holy Ghost. If we cannot trust the spirit testimony, we are all doomed... You ignore my testimony, and imply that I am not saved by my faith and that I am confused as to who Jesus really is – but so have a lot of other people been confused through the ages... I may believe differently than you do, but what evil does my Church encourage me to do? If my heart is pure and I sincerely believe what the spirit has testified to me is the truth...How can you say that I am not saved. Why can you not allow me that hope? K----"

My reply: First of all to have commonality of faith in God, we have to believe in the same God. Without that we do not have common ground on these issues. I receive many letters from LDS people who talk about "faith" as if faith does not have to be **reasoned faith**, based on facts, but only feelings that seem pleasant and good to them. *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end there of are the ways of death."* (Prov. 14:12.) When I was introduced to Mormonism and taught by their missionaries about Joseph Smith, Book of Mormon and the LDS Church, I was asked to pray to know if what they taught is true. It seemed to me then as a safe and good idea! The question after each topic was always, **"Have you prayed about this? How did it make you feel? Did you feel the spirit?"** Sure enough, I felt the "spirit", but I did not test, nor did I even know to test **what or who that spirit was**. Since it *"felt good"*, and *"seemed good"*, I assumed that it must be from God. I did not even think that good feelings could come from *"another spirit"*, i.e. demonic spirit! Had I been familiar with the Bible that commands that **we test all things** (1 Thess. 5:21) **by the Word of God that God has given to us**, and **"study to be approved to God"** so that we would not end up ashamed for accepting something that is not so. (2 Tim. 2:15.) **Had I done that, I would have come to see that what I was taught by the Mormon missionaries about Joseph Smith and his vision of two physical Gods that came to him could not be true**, for the Bible says that **"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."** (John 1:18.) Not testing what is peddled from door to door as genuine message from God has allowed the devil to make a mockery of the Truth of God. Had I known the Bible, I would have also known that our feelings (heart) more often than not are *deceitful* and even *wicked* (Jer. 17:9). **I also would have known that there are other spirits** eager to give *"testimonies"* for lies, if we ignore God's Word that says, **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** (1 John 4:1.) I was accepting all that the LDS missionaries said, and the feelings I received, without testing if Joseph Smith could be one of those false prophets warned of in the Bible, and they deceived me. I was biblically illiterate – I was gullible, naïve and trusting. I did not know that the God of the Bible has not asked people to pray if they

could **feel** that someone (as Joseph Smith) is a prophet, or **feel** that a book (the Book of Mormon) was true (based on Moroni 10:4), a book that I had not even read (excepting a few verses). Because of my biblical ignorance I ended up making wrong choices and I joined the Mormon Church. The truth is that we all may receive "*feelings*" that seem good, but they may be, as in my case, just results of wishful thinking based on false information.

It is interesting that you mention "*Salamander Letter*" in connection with a testimony **not received from the Holy Ghost**. I am not exactly sure what you mean by that, but what I recall from this incident in LDS history (in 1980's), is a good example of how the LDS "*prophet and apostles*" were deceived by their "*own deceiver*", Mark Hofmann. Have you wondered how come they did not have discernment if they had *the Holy Ghost* and also *an apostolic calling*? You might want to research this incident now and discover that the LDS "*prophet and apostles*" were fooled big time to accept Hofmann's document as genuine, when it was later proven to be phony. This is excellent proof of their **non-apostolic calling**. They too were "**deceiving and being deceived**". (2 Tim. 3:13.)

You asked if I left the Holy Ghost behind when I left Mormonism! When I was LDS I did not have **the Holy Spirit of God**, but "*another spirit*" warned of in 2 Cor. 11:4 that also warns about "*another Jesus*" and "*another gospel*" that originate from "*false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*" (2 Cor. 11:13-15.) After I left the Mormon Church and repented from my false-god worship and from all my sins, **I was saved by the true gospel of Christ. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph 2:8-9.) I was born again. That was when I received the Holy Spirit, never to depart from me. I became a child of God** as John 1:12-13 promises. The Holy Spirit has increased my understanding of God's Word during these more than 20 years after Mormonism.

You are correct that there are a lot of confused people in the world, having a false concept of God, Jesus and salvation. They may be sincere, but sincerity does not bring salvation. Only God's Word and its truth brings us to salvation. "**Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.**" (1 Pet. 1:23.) Think about this: there are 1.5 billion Muslims, most of them absolutely sincere and even willing to die for their testimony of **Mohammed, Koran and Islam**. I don't mean to be judgmental, but I do not think they are on their way to heaven! There are similar numbers of Buddhists and Hindus that sincerely believe that their faith is correct. The Bible is a God-given standard, a measuring stick of all truth. **Jesus, who is God Almighty** (John 1:1, 14; 8:24; Rev. 1:8) **and Truth personified**, said that **there is no other way to heaven but through Him** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). False Jesus' as Islam, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hare Krisnas, Moonies and Mormons teach cannot not take them to heaven. *That way is narrow* (Matt. 7:13-14; John 14:6; Acts 4:12) and even exclusive – according to the Author of Salvation, **Jesus Christ – who is not our brother, but eternal God**. (John 8:23-24.) As I said to you before, Mormons are *pretty good people*, humanly speaking, and many of them are even a *good advertisement* for their church. Unfortunately that is the way most deceptions grow, by *appearance of goodness*. (Matt. 23:27.) That is the secret of growth of any deception – the better they make it look outwardly, the more effective they can be in bringing others to their group. I am not saying this to be judgmental of you personally, but to encourage you to check by the Bible if what you believe

now is according to God's Word. I would like you to think about this: **Do you believe in God of the Bible (Isa. 43:10; Ps. 90:2) or gods of Joseph Smith? Do you believe in Jesus of the Bible, Jesus, who is God (John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24) or in LDS Jesus who is a created being and your brother and a brother of Lucifer? Do you believe in the gospel of God declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 1:6-9; Eph. 2:8-9, or do you believe in a "gospel of laws and ordinances of the LDS Church" (3rd Article of Faith).** These were questions I too had to reason with: to trust the Bible or trust Joseph Smith? The most important doctrines for us to know are **WHO is God? Who is Jesus?** (John 17:3.) **And how can we be saved?** (Eph. 2:8-9.) After reasoning from the scriptures I had to leave Mormonism, for it is not teaching biblical doctrines that lead to salvation and eternal life with God. I do not think that I would have ever joined the Mormon Church if I had known that what the Bible teaches about these essential doctrines is totally different than what Mormonism teaches. My understanding and knowledge of God and His plan was lacking, but even without it, I would not have agreed to participate in anything that I would have perceived as evil – even though it ended up being *evil, for worship of false gods*, as gods of Mormonism are, goes against the 1st Commandment (Ex. 20:3), and in God's eyes, **is the most evil thing to do. I was sincere, but wrong!** Same can be said of all followers of false religions – they may be sincere, but they are sincerely wrong. God in His love for mankind has given us His Book, which is a "*How-to Book*" to heaven, i.e. **the Holy Bible**. Millions of people have the Bible, but it only collects dust on their shelves, and does not help unless they read and study it, and repent from their false concepts of God, Jesus and salvation and forsake their wrongful life and accept God's gift of Grace. (Eph. 2:8-9.) I finally started a serious Bible study which brought me to repentance, and after the Holy Spirit entered my heart nearly 30 years ago, He made it easier and easier to comprehend what God's Word is all about. The Holy Spirit does reveal the Word of God to an earnest seeker, for He is the Author of the Word. (2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16.) That is what I did, and I hope and pray that you do too. If you want to write again, I would be glad to continue our discussions. Sincerely, Rauni

Last month I promised to answer several former LDS people who have expressed their fear of losing their salvation. Much what I will say here I have learned from Dave Hunt's tract, "Once Saved, Always Saved", and I will use his teachings to answer these dear people, who have difficulty understanding that after one is **born again**, they cannot be "*unborn*" from their spiritual birth any more than they could undo their physical birth. If and when these troubling doubts come to our hearts to cause us to question our salvation, we first need **to examine ourselves and recall the time when we first believed.** (2 Cor. 13:5.) **Did we believe and accept the gospel that saves?** (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9; John 14:6.) We need to see that there is a difference between a head-knowledge and belief in existence of God, and **having faith and trust in Jesus for eternal life.** James 2:19 says that *even the devils believe that there is God*, but their belief is not saving faith. Doubting or questioning is not a bad thing. We all can have doubts periodically. **Doubt is to your spirit what pain is to your physical being – it alerts us to examine, to find out what is wrong and why, and fix it.** We can "*fix*" our concerns by studying some more of what the Word of God says about our new birth and salvation and acting on it, if changes are needed.

When God created man in *His image* (which, of course, is spiritual image, for "**God is Spirit**"), "**He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul.**" (*Breath* in Hebrew "*neshimah*", same word as spirit.) (Gen. 2:7.) Man became spiritually an eternal being as God is eternal.

The Tree of Knowledge of good and evil was given to man to test his obedience. The penalty for violating the commandment was death (2:17), which meant instant spiritual death and progressive physical death. After the fall, when God's Spirit departed from man, and sin and death entered the world, our eternal destiny is determined by whether **or not** we are willing to receive a new (spiritual) birth, accept God's grace and salvation through Jesus, and receive life with God in heaven forever. **The fact is that we all will live forever, but where, is left to our choice.** *The gospel, good news*, was clearly presented by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:1-5, where he says, **"...I declare unto you the gospel...By which also ye are saved...I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how 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."** [This was all foretold in the scriptures.] Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches how we can receive this great salvation, **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it (grace) is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast."** **So what is grace? It is undeserved favor or gift of God.** Works and grace simply do not mix. Paul explained grace and works in Romans 11: 6, **"...if by grace, then it is no more works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be by works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."** Salvation cannot be partly by works and partly by grace. Our works have nothing to do with our salvation! Our works demonstrate or give evidence of our salvation, as James 2:18 says. By our works, **after we are saved**, we demonstrate that **we are saved and we love our Lord** who rescued us. Since salvation cannot be earned by good works, then it cannot be lost by bad deeds. Our works play no part in either earning or our keeping salvation. If they could, then those in heaven could boast that even though Christ saved them, they kept themselves saved by their good living and thus God would be robbed of having all the glory in eternity. Salvation can be given to us as a free gift **only if the penalty of our sin** (past, present and future sin), **has been fully paid. When Christ died for the sinners**, as we all are, **He cried, "It is finished"**, *"telesta"* in Greek, is an accounting term, **meaning that debt had been paid in full**, and thus God could, as Paul wrote, **"be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."** (Rom. 3:26.) Because of what Jesus did, God offers eternal life in heaven as a free gift. **But as it is the gift, to be applied to us, it must be received.** It was Hal Lindsey who asked us to think about this: **"How many of your sins were yet future, when Jesus Christ died on the cross?"** We answer: ALL OF THEM – and when we receive Jesus and His forgiveness of our sins, **it means that all our sins are forgiven at that very moment.** Many Mormons have accused Christians of promoting **"cheap grace"** because scriptural salvation does not involve good works. *In fact saying "cheap" implies that too small of a price was paid for our salvation, and that we need to add to that price by doing good works.* **God paid an infinite price, a price that we could not pay** – for a man to even think that he could contribute to salvation one iota is what cheapens and devalues God's infinite gift and lowers it to level of human effort. Apostle John wrote that ***we, who believe in the name of the Son of God, can indeed know now that we have eternal life.*** (See 1 John 5:13.) Would God offer us *"eternal life"* if we somehow could lose it? *Promise of eternal life to them who believe (trust) in Jesus Christ was given* in John 3:16, **"whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."** Jesus, in John 5:24, says that God gives *everlasting life* to them that believe in Him. He said that *they will not come into condemnation* (judgment), *but will pass from death to life.* He couldn't say it more clearly than this: **"I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand."** (John 10:28.) If eternal life could be lost after it was received, it would make Jesus a liar! Since we all are sinners, even after receiving our new birth and salvation, we are told in God's Word, that **"If**

we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us [but] if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:8-10.)

Confessing our sins will not make us “saved again”, just forgiven. Note that **after receiving Jesus** (John 1:12) and being born again, **we have become sons and daughters of God**, and God, in His love, chastens His own children, just as we discipline our own children when they need it. [Reading Hebrews 12:3-11 will help you better understand why **those who are not God’s children**, will not receive His chastening either.] Paul wrote (Romans 9:8), **that those who are not children of the promise** (i.e. *spirit-born children of God*), are **“children of the flesh, these are not the children of God.”**

After we have *become children of God*, our works may be counted for possible rewards. They are tried by fire at the **judgment seat of Christ’ before which all saved people must appear** (1 Cor. 3:12-15 and 2 Cor. 5:10). [This is not the last judgment (Rev. 20:11-15) where **only unbelievers are judged.**] As Jesus said; those who believe in Him **“shall not come into condemnation** (judgment)”. (John 5:24; Romans 8:1.) **Our good works, done for Christ, will bring rewards; but lack of them does not cause loss of salvation.** A person who has not done even one good work is still saved, **“yet as if by fire.”** (1 Cor. 3:15.) We have assurance that one who has truly received the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior, **even if he cannot prove his salvation by works, is still saved and shall never perish.** [Think of the thief on the cross who absolutely could not do anything at all, but he received a promise of heaven from Jesus.] Of course we must encourage each other into good works, and if we have any doubt of our own state before God, we must examine our faith (2 Cor. 13:5) and look into our mown hearts, for if we are not desiring to live fully for Christ as Lord of our lives, can we honestly say that we were really sincere with our whole heart when we committed ourselves to Him at some time in the past?

“Our confidence for eternity rests in His unchanging love and grace and the sufficiency of God’s provision in Christ - not in our own worth or performance. Only when this is clear do we have real peace with God. Only then can we truly love Him and live for Him out of gratitude for the eternal life He has given to us as a free gift of His grace – a gift that He will not take back and which He makes certain can never be lost!”

Our thankfulness goes to all of you who pray for our ministry and in many ways support our efforts and encourage us to keep on keeping on. THANK YOU!!! You mean so much to us and you are in our prayers also – every day. Our help comes from the Lord, but He uses His very own to act on His will.

Please pray for Doris Hanson. Her work is very hard and stressful. These few times that I have been a guest on her show, I have seen how much work and preparation this weekly show requires, and that is not all she does. She has *Shield and Refuge Ministry*, rescuing women from polygamous marriages. She cares very much for these people, herself being raised in polygamous cult and having escaped from it. There is a lot of emotional stress that comes with counseling these deeply hurt and troubled souls. Please agree with us to include her in your daily prayers.

We would like to remind you that the Christian Band and Ministry, Adam’s Road, will be in Utah during September as we informed you in our last newsletter. Pass that information to all pastors in Utah so that they could invite them to come to their churches. These young men are former LDS

missionaries and now born again Christians. Their stories are unique and powerful witness and their music and songs will encourage all Christians to become bold witnesses for the Lord Jesus of the Bible. For more information go to www.adamsroadband.com

The Lord has answered many prayers this last month. Bruce is very optimistic that his settlement will soon (in October) be solved. Keep him in prayer that nothing will hinder it now. Don't forget to pray for Max, Dick, Dale, Heber and Jim. They are improving, but not completely well yet. There are also several LDS persons that are seriously questioning validity of their faith in Mormonism, and without listing their name, we are asking that you'd pray for them, and for us as we talk to them and answer their questions.

We will start another Understanding Mormonism class at Calvary Chapel a week after the Labor Day. It will be Sunday evening class – from 6:00 to 8:00. It will continue until Thanksgiving.

May the Lord bless you abundantly.

In His love,

Rauni and Dennis Higley

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Website: www.hismin.com. If you have missed our newsletters in the past, they can be read and printed from www.hismin.com/newsletter.html Our email: hismin@xmission.com

Thought for today:

“Putting our trust in God and depending on his intrinsic goodness frees us from the need to find explanations for everything that happens to us.” (Frank Retief)

Gifts to H.I.S. Ministries are tax deductible [IRS code 501 (c) (3)] – and much appreciated.