



January 1, 2010

January Newsletter, covering December 2009

Wishing you Happy New Year, and all the blessings of our Lord during the coming year of 2010.

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." (Isa. 9:2.)

"Imagine being in a cave without a flashlight. Can you see any shadows? You cannot even see your hand! Shadows are only visible in the presence of light. Regardless of how dark, how large, how absolutely ominous a shadow appears, it is only there because there is light. David says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." Why? Because "Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). Jesus has taken the sting out of sin and the fear out of the grave. He has empowered us with the Holy Spirit to give us confidence that He will always be with us and watch over us." (From "Light of Hope in a Dark World", by Adrian Rogers.)

When we are born again, we receive His light and we never will be in darkness again. We have received and accepted into our hearts the Gospel of God and praise the Lord for it. (1 Cor. 15:1-4). The Cross of Jesus is the foundation of the Gospel message that brings us to our new birth, but it does not end there – **He is coming back to rule and reign over the entire earth from Jerusalem.** Without hearing and understanding that He is coming back, we have not received the full Gospel message, for the **end time prophecy** is part of His gospel and what His mission was and still is. **"For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy."** (Rev. 19:10b.)

"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." (1 John 3:2-3.)

I was reading one of Bill Keller's *Liveprayer-letters*, not too long ago. I will use, with his permission, some of his words here, for he talked about the very things what I have been thinking also. He related that as we get older, each passing year makes us realize how short life really is. He said that it is only natural that we think about how we might be remembered after we are gone. The fact is that other than our family and possibly a few close friends, the memory of our life will fade quickly. Once we are gone from this life, there is very little left to remind people that we were even here. *"Some famous people may be memorialized by having a building or road named after them, others may have their memory honored by having an event named after them, but for most there will be little evidence of this life once it is over."* He also said that he did not write this to discourage, but to challenge in regard to how we can live on long after our life here is over. The only thing we will take from this life into eternity is our relationship with Christ, and our relationship with those whom we have lead to Him. Our works will be tested and much of what we do in this life will be burned up as wood, hay, and stubble. Only the works that will stand the test of fire are those *"eternal works"* done in service for the Lord. So it is with our legacy, what we leave behind. We leave behind our name, which may or may not continue. The most visible thing we leave is our children, but they too will one day die. **What we do leave behind that will not pass away are those souls who will live for eternity because we were obedient to our Lord and lead them to Him.** We understand that only the Holy Spirit can lead a person to the saving

knowledge of Jesus Christ. However, God uses human instruments to affect a person's life and bring them to that point. Your prayers, your kind words, your acts of charity, your unconditional love for others during your life will live on in that person who came to know Jesus for eternity! **The point we want you to understand is that it is never too early in life, or too late in life to impact someone for eternity. It is, after all, our purpose in this life. Our purpose is to serve and glorify God. Our service to God is our service to others, and it can have eternal consequences. It is our greatest legacy. It is the part of us that will live on for eternity. We live on long after we leave this life in the lives of those we touch along our journey.**

Our prayer for you is that you will take these words and meditate on them. We all go through those times in our life when we wonder what it is all about, if it really matters. **The answer is a resounding yes, yes, it does matter!!!** We need to be reminded from time to time that you and I are significant because God uses us in His plan and purpose to touch lives of others along our journey. We are appreciative to God that He has given us this wonderful opportunity to share the love and hope that we have in Jesus Christ and help bring people from false religion of Mormonism to His Sheepfold. We are focused now, more than ever, that the best way we can make our lives count, is in service to those the Lord allows us to meet and minister to. Our challenge to you too is to make sure you leave an eternal legacy, which will live on after your death in the lives of those the Lord allows to cross your path.

If any of you reading this are not 100% sure that if your heart stops beating this moment, you will immediately and forever be with Jesus, then please take a moment, pray that the Lord will open your heart to receive Him right now. (Romans 10:9-10.)



From our mailbox:

(As usual, we have received many letters from LDS people this month. I will pick just two samples for you, and my answers to them.)

An LDS missionary wrote just a few days ago, saying:

"hello, my name is ____ i am just wondering if there is anyway that you can supply me with some of the books that you were reading from to find out all of your information. Martin Harris took

the characters from the plates to a professor and the professor said that they were true ancient characters, am i not right? if not i would like to know why you believe im not and when joseph smith said he was the only one that could read the plates. the witnesses saw the plates and the professor confirmed the characters. also where does it say that joseph smith died a martyr because of his polygamy? Write back soon. Thank you. I would love to hear from you." (Spelling as in his letter.)

My reply (I wanted to be as thorough as possible, for I may not hear from him again...):

Thank you for your letter. I hope my answers will encourage you to do more research.

We have a quite large library in our home. Among them we have many, many LDS books, written by the General Authorities of the Church. We have the 7-volume **History of the Church** – which is **history written by Joseph Smith**, and we also have the 6-volume **Comprehensive History of the Church**, by B.H. Roberts (GA of the Church). We have all **26 volumes of Journal of Discourses**, which contain General Conference talks of prophets and apostles of the Mormon Church from 1840's till about the turn of the century. We have **Teachings of Prophet Joseph Smith**, and **teachings of all Mormon Prophets** from that time to present time. We have **Mormon Doctrine**, an encyclopedic volume of the doctrines of Mormonism, we also have books by apostles of the LDS Church from early on, as **Orson Pratt's and Heber C. Kimball's teachings**, and much more. I can show them to you if you want to come to Salt Lake City and inspect them. That is the way I can "supply" the books you are asking. I do not loan them out, but they are here for you to see and read, if you'd like. Or you can go to your local Public Library and ask if they have these books or any others you may name. If they do not have them, they may be able to order them. Many libraries do that. On our website article (www.hismin.com/AboutUs.htm) we refer to the LDS books we are quoting from – and most, if not all of them, can be checked out from LDS libraries or Public Libraries.

The main problem we find when talking with Mormons is that **they have never bothered to study their own history**, and thus when we point out **what their own books say**, they act like they have never heard or that they cannot believe it ...What we write is documented and true! Check them out if you want to know the truth.

We go to school to learn about history and other things so that we cannot be fooled by false information. People ought to likewise study their own religion and what it is based on, rather than rely on their “feelings” that Jeremiah says are “wicked” and not trustworthy (Jer. 17:9). Mormons rely on their “testimonies” that, more than likely, come from unholy spirits, (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1) **for the Bible warns about false spirits and false prophets, and says that we must test all things.** (1 Thess. 5:21.) It ought to be clear to all that the **Holy Spirit of God would not testify of unbiblical doctrines that are primary doctrines in Mormonism, as God being a former man and men becoming Gods, when Bible says that God is not a man, that there are no Gods before God nor will there be after Him** – (see Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8; Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9 etc.) **The Bible is our sure foundation and the source to know who God is** (and also who He is NOT), and **who Jesus is, and how we can be saved.** (John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24; Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10.) Paul warned about “another Jesus”, “another gospel” and “another spirit”, in 2 Cor. 11:4, **13-15** – (last 2 verses, 13-15, clarify that it is **an angel of light** that brings false apostles and false teachings to fool those who have not studied the Bible well enough to know better.) (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) Paul also said (Gal. 1:8-9), that **if anyone preaches any other gospel** than the gospel that he declared (1 Cor. 15:1-4), **they will be cursed.** Anything added to the gospel, which is **a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus**, makes it “another gospel.” **The Mormon Church has added “laws and ordinances” to their “gospel”,** and Paul said that law cannot save us (see Gal. 2:16-21), law only points out that we cannot live by it. (Gal. 3:19, 24-25). Christ is the answer. He alone can save us. (John 14:6.) If we even break one commandment we are guilty of it all. (James 2:10.) If you’d read all six chapters of Galatians you will see that Mormonism is not the gospel preached by Paul.

You are referring to what one of the “witnesses of the Book of Mormon”, Martin Harris, had said of “characters from the plates”, he took to Professor Anton. **Martin’s story is a hoax for at least a couple of reasons :**

1. The Book of Mormon says (Mormon 9: 32, 34) that “**none other people knoweth our language**” (“reformed Egyptian”). By that statement alone **professor Anton could not have known what Harris’ paper said.** (The fact, however, is that there is no “reformed Egyptian” language, anywhere.)
2. The second reason is that when Martin Harris went on saying that professor Anton had verified the translation as “correct”, **the professor publically refuted that and made a statement that he had never said anything like that to Martin Harris. He said that Martin Harris had brought to him scribbles that were not of any language at all.**

I would suggest that you’d buy or borrow retired LDS Institute and Seminary teacher, **Grant H. Palmer’s** book (of 2002), “**Insider’s View of Mormon Origins**”. (Palmer taught Mormon history and doctrine for 34 years. He is still LDS.) His book has a full chapter dedicated to these so-called “witnesses of the BoM”. **He proves that they were not credible men** – and that they later denied ever seeing the plates with their natural eyes, only “with the eye of faith” or “as in a vision”. Martin Harris changed his religion 8 times after Mormonism. He even went on a mission for the Quakers, and said that he had “a better testimony of their Roll Book” than he ever had of the Book of Mormon. Harris, in his later years, returned to Mormonism, but he was considered by most to be very unreliable man. You may go to www.amazon.com and order Palmer’s book if you cannot find it in your local library. It can be bought as a used book for under 10 dollars.

You also presented a question concerning “martyrdom of Joseph Smith”. **Joseph Smith did not die as a martyr. He died in a gun-fight and killed 2 men and wounded seriously a third one before he was shot. He was in Carthage Jail with his brother Hyrum for destroying a printing press that his former counselor in his first presidency, William Law, owned.** Wm. Law had printed the first edition of the **Nauvoo Expositor**, a newspaper that revealed Joseph Smith’s polygamy and other crimes. The second issue of the Expositor was going to reveal more. Among other things it was to report that Joseph Smith had tried to seduce William Law’s wife, Jane, and take her also as his polygamous wife. That had caused William Law to leave Joseph Smith’s church... **You may know that Joseph Smith had already “married” 11 other married women**, in addition to having two 14-year old “wives” and dozens of other “wives”. Polygamy was not only wrong and evil, but also illegal in Illinois, and everywhere in the USA. **Joseph Smith and other Mormon polygamists kept on lying about it, but now they were caught!** Arrest of Joseph Smith and his killing of two men is recorded in **the History of the Church** by John Taylor, who later became a president of the church (after Brigham Young). Taylor was in the Jail with Joseph and Hyrum when they were killed.

If you have further questions, please feel free to write again.

Sincerely, Rauni Higley - Email: hismin@xmission.com.



A Mormon lady wrote just a few days before Christmas and said:

"Dear Bro. & Sister Higley,

You both comment on your website that you were true and faithful members of the LDS Church before you began "leaning unto your own understanding" and finite intellect instead of the wisperings of the Holy Ghost for devine guidance. I invite you to once more consider what you knew was true before the spirit left you as you studied anti-Mormon literature. God Bless you in you quest for truth. Sincerely, M____"
(Spelling as in her letter.)

My reply to her is a bit long (again for the reason that I may not have another opportunity to clarify these matters to her):

Dear M____, Thank you for your concern. However, I see that you have completely misunderstood why we left the LDS church. We did not ***lean unto our own understanding***, as you say, **but on our studies of the words of the Mormon leaders and on recorded history of the Mormon Church**, from the beginning to this day. These books and writings are not hard to understand **if we take them at their words –i.e. that they say what they mean and mean what they say.**

I am sure that you have studied the history of the world etc, right? **The reason we study history (or anything, for that matter) is to know for a fact what is the truth - what happened, and when and how it happened. Studying clarifies what we had perhaps misunderstood before, or not known at all.**

Not studying, but instead relying on "feelings" or misinformation will keep people in a "fog", and allows them to imagine or accept as truth something that is not true at all. Our studies of Mormonism were the basis of our change of mind regarding the Mormon Church. I advise that you'd do the same and study to know the truth! (2 Tim. 2:15.)

We studied the history of the Mormon Church, starting from its beginning and continuing to the current date, and we found out that we had it all wrong. Things did not happen the way we had believed that they happened, or we had been taught that they happened.

Our new found knowledge did not come from "anti-Mormon literature", as you erroneously stated, but from LDS Church's own materials.

As you may already know, I worked for the LDS Church over 14 years as a translator and interpreter of mostly doctrinal information. I wanted to do my work well, so I was studying and researching from the Church's own archives what was taught in the past, what really happened, when and how it happened. We can assure you that we know what the truth is, as it is recorded by LDS leaders, and likewise - what is not the truth.

After many years of studying Mormonism from it's own sources, we, Dennis and I, took up a serious Bible study, study of the Word of God, and **we discovered that we had been led astray. The Bible does not teach what Mormonism has indicated that it teaches.**

Mormonism is not biblical at all.

We learned that all new religions (as Mormonism is) and all new teachings must be tested by the Bible. (1 Thess. 5:21; John 5:39.) Even the spirits that may give us "feelings" or "testimonies" must be tested in the light of the Bible. (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.) If "feelings" or "spirit-testimonies" do not agree or teach the same about God, Jesus and salvation, and otherwise agree with the written Word of God, the Bible, then these feelings or teachings have come from "another spirit" than the Holy Spirit of God, and thus are not true.

We tested and found out, among other things, that **God is not a former mortal man**, with Gods before Him, as Mormonism teaches, but **He is Eternal God, "from everlasting to everlasting"** (Ps. 90:2; Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Isaiah 43:10b; 44:6,8b.) **There never was a time when He was not God. God is not a man!** (Isa. 31:3-4; Job 9:32.) **God is Spirit** (John 4:24). **Jesus is "God, Emmanuel, with us", born of a Virgin**, as Isa. 7:14 predicted and Matt. 1:18-23 confirms, and **not conceived by an exalted man (D&C 130:22), Elohim, as Mormonism teaches** (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547). We learned from the Bible that **mankind did not come from heaven**, as Mormonism teaches, but that we are a creation of God, *from this earth* (John 8:23; 3:13; Zach. 12:1.) We are first born as "natural", or physical beings, and after we are born again, we become "spiritual" children of God, born of God. (John 1:12; 1 Cor. 15:46; John 3:7.) (See also Romans 9:8.)

Only Jesus who is God (John 20:28), the Second Person of Trinity (1 John 5:7), came from heaven. Only God preexisted, we did not.

Jesus is God who came to save us from our sins. **He is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins, if we come to Him alone in faith and be born again.** (Please read these verses again: John 1:1, 12, 14, 29; 8:24; 14:6.) **Jesus said** (John 8:24) that **unless we believe that He is I AM** (God) **we will die in our sins**, which means that we will not go to heaven if we have put our faith in a false Jesus, who is not eternal God. **Only God can forgive sins.** (Mark 2:7.) **Jesus of the Bible is the Almighty God** (Rev. 1:8), **not a spirit brother of men and Lucifer. Salvation comes only from and through Jesus** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12), not from “another Jesus”, or from any church.

We accepted His free gift of salvation and we were born again, and thus we became children of God. (John 1:12; 3:7; Romans 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9.)

Simply and briefly put: **Mormonism is unbiblical and thus not true. Since leaving Mormonism, we have devoted our lives to Jesus and we serve Him and Him alone.**

When people put their faith in a man, they will be misled. Ps. 118:8 warns not to put our trust in a man, but in God alone. **Joseph Smith led people after other gods.** (Deut. 13:1-5.)

We were fooled, but not any more! We repented from following Joseph Smith and **now we have the Holy Spirit living in us permanently. He will never leave us, nor forsake us.**

If you have more questions, please write or go to our website: www.hismin.com/AboutUs.htm
Sincerely, Rauni Higley

We are starting another **Understanding Mormonism** class on the 10th of January 2010 at Midvalley Bible Church, 13991 South, 2700 West, Bluffdale, Utah. We are planning on having 10-12 classes, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Sunday evenings, leaving perhaps some extra time for questions and answers.

It would be best for all who plan to attend, commit to coming to every class, otherwise they will miss important parts of the “Mormon Puzzle”, and thus will not be able to fully understand Mormonism and be able to answer LDS challenges and bring people to the biblical truth and salvation.

Those of our readers who have attended our classes before, are welcome to come and refresh their understanding and become again excited to help our dear Mormon friends and relatives to come to know who the real God is and how to be saved.

We are deeply thankful to all who have supported our ministry this last year – be it in prayer and/or in finances. Some of you have sent special gifts that have amazed us beyond words. Without your support we could not do what we are doing. We trust that the Lord will reward your sacrificial devotions to Him and these lost people. (Phil. 4:17.)

Dennis is still working full time to take care of our personal expenses. He helps me in the ministry during evenings and weekends with challenges we face daily. He also prepares all the power-point presentations and most of “physical and technical preparations” for our classes.

We give our lesson materials and documentations from LDS writings to all who attend our classes – to be collected into a 3-ring binder that will have more than 200 pages when our classes are over.

These binders will be your permanent resource to rely on when teaching your friends and family why Mormonism is not biblical, and thus not leading to salvation.



Prayer Requests & Answers

Please pay for Heber who is still having an annoying ringing in his ears that doctors do not seem to have been able to diagnose properly to give him help.

Please continue to pray for Bruce and his children and grandchildren and their salvation and protection from evil influences surrounding

them.

We praise the Lord for Dick Baer’s healing from his knee replacement surgery and pray that he will continue to do well with his therapy.

Judy is in need of the Lord’s direction in her life. She has faced some real hard times.

We have a list of LDS people needing prayer for courage and determination to choose truth, even though in many cases it may end up being “costly” as far as this life and friends and relations are concerned, but eternal rewards for choosing the truth are “out of this world-wonderful”, and well worth any discomforts and sacrifices that surround our lives here.

We have also a list of others that have requested prayers, without wanting their names published – but the Lord is aware of who they are – some of them need better health, some work and

financial help, some relational improvements – some need relief from drug addictions, and others recommitment to the Lord and to His direction. This life seems to be overwhelming to many, but trusting in the Lord *come what may* is the key to true happiness and contentment.

We praise the Lord for His goodness and allowing us to see many, nearly a dozen people coming to His salvation during the year 2009. There is a great joy in the presence of the angels of God for them – and we will rejoice with them now, and later in heaven. (Luke 15:10.)

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” (James 1:2-4.)

“From the trials and triumphs of Paul, we gather, too, that happiness is really not indispensable to a Christian. There are many ills worse than heartaches. It is scarcely too much to say that prolonged happiness may actually weaken us, especially if we insist upon being happy as the Jews insisted upon flesh in the wilderness. In so doing, we may try to avoid those spiritual responsibilities which would in the nature of them bring a certain measure of heaviness and affliction to the soul.

The best thing is neither to seek nor seek to avoid troubles but to follow Christ and take the bitter with the sweet as it may come. Whether we are happy or unhappy at any given time is not important. That we be in the will of God is all that matters. We may safely leave with Him the incident of heartache or happiness. He will know how much we need of either or both.” (A.W. Tozer Daily Devotionals.)

We are praising the Lord for His eternal love and protection.

We will work till He comes for us.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord,

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Thought for today: “A foolish physician he is, and a most unfaithful friend, that will let a sick man die for fear of troubling him; and cruel wretches are we to our friends, that will rather suffer them to go quietly to hell, than we will anger them, or hazard our reputation with them.” (Richard Baxter)

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