



June 1, 2010

## H.I.S. Ministries June Newsletter, covering May 2010

Greetings from Sandy, Utah.

May has been exceptionally cold and wet here. We are really waiting and hoping for summer, and we are sure that all of you living in the Western states are wondering how long this cold season will last – it has been cold ever since last October. What happened to global warming? ☺

*Psalm 119*, the longest chapter in the entire Bible, is our very dearest Psalm, all 176 verses of it.

After we left the Mormon Church and found ourselves in distress of every kind, Psalms became our island of comfort. The Psalmist, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, wrote even to us, when he said, *“Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and all that seek Him with the whole heart... I will praise Thee with uprightness of heart when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments... O forsake me not utterly... With my whole heart have I sought Thee... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee... Remember the word unto Thy servant, upon which Thou hast cause me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for Thy word hath given me life... I thought of my ways, and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies... Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now I have kept Thy word... It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes. The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver... I know, O LORD, that Thy judgments are right, and that Thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Let, I pray Thee, Thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to Thy word unto Thy servant. Let Thy tender mercies come unto me, that I might live: for Thy law is my delight. Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in Thy precepts.”* (Ps. 119:2,7-8,10-11,49-50, 59, 67, 71-72, 75-78.)

When we separated ourselves from the Mormon Church, we lost family and friends who had been dear and near to us. We also lost our businesses and eventually our home and everything we had worked so hard to have. After our businesses were liquidated, we moved to totally new surroundings, without friends and without jobs. But we had come to know the Lord Jesus personally and we trusted in Him and that He had a plan for us. We wanted to serve Him the rest of our lives, and we sought His counsel – and He is faithful. It took many years of struggles and heartache, even beyond what we thought we could endure, but the Word of the Lord taught us that

*it is good that we are afflicted; so that we might learn His ways.* Afflictions were and still are preparing us to serve Him if we only submit to them as coming from Him. The Lord draws us closer to Him through His comforting Word during the times of trials. It is true that people reach out to the Lord in times of sorrow and rejection more than in times of ease and comfort.

I am referring to this now because we know some new believers, our brothers and sisters in the Lord, who are wondering why they are having these trials, and even question if they are being punished for some wrong they might have done. No, that is not it. It is a testing time; our faith must be tested. This is an important truth for all of us to understand, so that we do not get discouraged. Seeds of doubt and discouragement sprout when we take our eyes off the Lord.

*"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.."* (1 Peter 4:12-13.)

*"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."* (Hebr. 12:11.)

Our faith must rest upon God's character and our confidence upon the One who made the promises. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

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**LDS news items:** Salt Lake Tribune reported on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, that the Encyclopedic volume titled *Mormon Doctrine* will no longer be printed because *the sales have been down*, saying that *"the demand is no longer there"*, and thus it is no longer profitable for the Church.

We think that the real reason for not making this volume available any longer is that it has made non-Christian doctrines of the LDS Church too easy to discover and expose, for this volume listed all major Mormon doctrines in alphabetical order. This SL Tribune article down-played the late LDS apostle Bruce R. McConkie's doctrinal work as *"mean spirited"*, and *offensive especially to Roman Catholics and blacks*. Let's look at this a bit closer:

The First printing of *Mormon Doctrine* was 1958, and since then it has gone through 40 printings, proving its popularity among members as well as others who wanted to know what the Mormon Church believes and teaches.

In the Preface of this First Edition, Bruce R. McConkie commented, *"Observant students will note that the standard works of the Church are the chief sources of authority quoted and that literally tens of thousands of scriptural quotations and citations are woven into the text material. Where added explanations and interpretations were deemed essential, they have been taken from such recognized doctrinal authorities as Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Joseph F. Smith, Orson Pratt, John Taylor and Joseph Fielding Smith"*, (who was McConkie's father-in-law and later the President of the Church.) McConkie continued, *"important counsel has also come from Milton R. Hunter and Thomas S. Monson"* (the current LDS prophet, seer and revelator). Both Hunter and Monson also agreed that the information in this book is supported by LDS scriptures, and what has been taught by the leaders of the LDS Church since the times of Joseph Smith.

Based on advice of other General Authorities, Bruce R. McConkie toned down the book's sharp language in the next printing, taken in 1966, and he also eliminated comments directly condemning the Roman Catholic Church, but left statements as "the titles church of the devil and great and abominable church are used to identify all churches or organizations of whatever name..." which, of course, included the Roman Church without mentioning it specifically. He continued, "There is no salvation outside of this one true Church, the Church of Jesus Christ." (pp. 137-138.) However it needs to be noted that McConkie's words about the RCC are hardly any more offensive than words found in *the Book of Mormon*, (1 Nephi 14:9-10) "...that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose founder is the devil".

[LDS Church members have from the beginning understood this to refer to the RC Church.]

It is interesting to note that even though there have been many LDS people critical of McConkie, especially because of his sharp language, they could not point out any doctrinal errors. He spoke the truth about what they all believe. After all, as McConkie pointed out in the Preface, he was taking his information from the scriptures and quoting the Church's sustained prophets, seers and revelators that he himself was one of... I would also like to remind you that in every April General Conference the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are ALL sustained by the members of the Church as prophets, seers and revelators. They all are entitled to receive revelations from the Lord for the Church, even though it is the President of the Church who presents them to the membership.

From *Teachings of the Living Prophets*, [Student Manual, Prepared for the Church Educational System, published by *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah*, chapters 1 and 2] we read: "Members of the First Presidency [and] Council of the Twelve... - because they are appointed and sustained as prophets, seers and revelators to the Church – are known as living oracles."

"Members of the First Presidency,[and] Council of the Twelve...- because they are appointed and sustained as prophets, seers, and revelators to the Church – are known as the living oracles."

The above mentioned Salt Lake Tribune article (5/22/10) also made a big deal about "McConkie's views of blacks", that anyone familiar with LDS teachings and conference sermons prior to 1978, knows to be the same as all LDS leaders views have been, including apostle Mark E. Petersen, quoted in this Tribune article as one, who, with Marion G. Romney, had reviewed Mormon Doctrine of 1958 for corrections in these matters. However, statements about blacks were not "corrected" or changed for the Second Edition (1966). Nothing on "the negro issue" was changed until after the Church changed its policy on blacks in 1978.

I want to also add that this same LDS apostle, Mark E. Petersen, was very racist, not just against blacks, but against all darker skinned people. He said, "Is there reason then why the type of birth we receive in this life is not a REFLECTION OF OUR WORTHINESS OF IT IN THE PRE-EXISTENT LIFE? ... Can we account in any other way for the birth of some of the children of God in DARKEST AFRICA, OR IN A FLOOD-RIDDEN CHINA, or among the STARVING HORDES OF INDIA, while some of the rest of us are born here in the United States?"

*We cannot escape the conclusion that BECAUSE OF PERFORMANCE IN OUR PRE-EXISTENCE some of us are born as CHINESE, some as JAPANESE, some as Latter-day Saints...a CHINESE, BORN IN CHINA WITH A DARK SKIN, and with all the HANDICAPS OF THAT RACE seems to have little opportunity. But think of the mercy of God to Chinese people who are willing to accept the gospel IN SPITE OF WHATEVER THEY MIGHT HAVE DONE IN THE PRE-EXISTENCE TO JUSTIFY BEING BORN OVER THERE AS CHINAMEN, if they now, in this life, accept the gospel and live in the rest of their lives they can have the Priesthood, go to the temple and receive endowments and sealings, and that means they can have exaltation. Isn't the mercy of God marvelous? Think of the Negro, cursed as to the priesthood... THIS NEGRO, WHO, IN THE PRE-EXISTENCE LIVED THE TYPE OF LIFE WHICH JUSTIFIED THE LORD IN SENDING HIM TO EARTH IN THE LINEAGE OF CAIN WITH A BLACK SKIN, AND POSSIBLY BEING BORN IN DARKEST AFRICA...IN SPITE OF ALL HE DID IN THE PRE-EXISTENT LIFE, the Lord is willing, if the Negro accepts the gospel with real, sincere faith, and is really converted, to give him a blessings of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost. IF THAT NEGRO IS FAITHFUL ALL HIS DAYS, he can and will enter the celestial kingdom. HE WILL GO THERE AS A SERVANT, but he will get celestial glory."*

(Quoted from LDS Apostle Mark E. Petersen's address delivered at BYU, Utah, 8/27/1954, some emphasis added.)

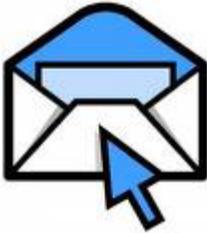
It is LDS doctrine, taught in LDS scriptures (*the Book of Mormon* and in *the Pearl of Great Price*), that allows Mormons even today to view dark skin as a curse from God. The BoM, 2 Ne. 5:21-23, teaches "*...wherefore as they were white, and exceeding fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing to my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them...they shall be loathsome unto thy people...And cursed shall be the seed of him that mixeth with their seed; for they shall be cursed...*" It is this teaching that justified the LDS prophet Brigham Young to say, "*If the white man who belongs to the chosen seed mixes his blood with the seed of Cain, the penalty, under the law of God, is death on the spot. This will always be so.*" (Brigham Young, speaking from Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, March 1863, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 10:110.)

Another LDS scripture, *the Pearl of Great Price*, records that *Cain loved Satan more than God* (Moses 5:18), and that he made a covenant with Satan and killed his brother Abel. *Cain's mark or punishment*, according to Joseph Smith's scriptures, was *black skin* (PoGP, Moses 7:22) and *his seed could not hold the priesthood*. (PoGP, Abraham 1:21-24-26-27.)

Bruce R. McConkie was only reporting in his volume what is/was doctrine in the LDS Church and has been since the days of their founder, Joseph Smith. It was not until the political climate started to press harder on the LDS Church that they had to reverse this doctrine on blacks, and allow blacks to have the priesthood, but nothing has changed as far as their holy scriptures are concerned. Giving blacks the priesthood did not change "*the curse*" of black skin, which can still be read about in the LDS scriptures. It was just a practical policy change. According to the Mormon Church's teachings, blacks are born black because of their actions in the pre-existence. "*The present status of the negro rests purely and simply on the foundation of pre-existence...The negroes are not equal with other races where the receipt of*

*certain spiritual blessings are concerned, particularly the priesthood and the temple blessings that flow therefrom, but this inequality is not man's origin. It is the Lord's doing...*" (Mormon Doctrine; p. 427, 1966.) Obviously nothing has changed as far as LDS doctrine on "pre-existence" for even after 1978 – blacks are still born black – but Mormons have agreed to accept blacks anyway and give them their priesthood, and it surely has proven to be more beneficial to the Church.

**Not printing Mormon Doctrine any longer will not change the doctrines of the LDS Church, for they have come from Joseph Smith, his scriptures and leaders of the Church after him. Not having this encyclopedic book available will make it more difficult for the average member to hunt down these doctrines and learn about them. I would guess that the used copies of this book will now increase in price and value as people run to get them while they still may be available.**



### **From our mailbox:**

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

An LDS woman wrote:

*"I heard that you have left the Mormon Church, and I am contemplating that myself, but I have these questions for you: Do you believe that there is life after death? If the Mormon Church is not true, then WHAT CHURCH IS?*

*I have always believed in God and Jesus Christ, but I have had a hard time believing in Joseph Smith's First Vision, and polygamy and wearing garments, etc. I want to be with my family forever. I can't handle the possibility that this life is all there is – I mean here. I want to see my mom and dad again after they die. I want to be with my husband and children forever. What can you say to help me to see? K\_\_."*

### **My reply:**

I am happy to help you and I hope that my answers will comfort you and give you direction. I can assure you that there is life after death. The Bible is all about that and what the Lord Jesus has done to give us life eternal. Our "ticket to heaven", so to speak, does not come from any church or religion. It comes from Jesus Christ of the Bible, and from Him alone. John 14:6 says, *"I AM the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by Me."* All who believe in Jesus Christ of the Bible, who is God in human flesh, (John 1:1, 14; 8:24) and have asked Him to forgive them and save them, will go to heaven when this life is over. All who believe in Him (not the "Jesus" of Mormonism, who is a created being as we are) and all who accept Him as God who became a man and died for our sins, all those will be in heaven together forever. (Read Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 12-14; 8:23-24; Acts 4:12.) From these scriptures, and there are many more, you can see that Jesus is "God with us" (Matt. 1:23). John wrote (John 1:1, 12-14) that Jesus is God the Word who became *flesh* (a man) and that by "*receiving Him*", i.e. believing that He died and rose again, we "*become children of God*" (John 1:12). *Jesus said (John 14:6) that there is no other way to Heaven but by Him. No church can save, only Jesus saves.*

In John 8:24 ***He said that unless we believe that He is God, the great I AM, we will die in our sins***, which means that if we do not accept Him as God who became a man and died for us and rose again, our sins are not removed. Only God can forgive sins! (Mark 2:7.) It is the blood of Jesus Christ, who is God with us, that washes away our sins when we repent (1 John 1:7) and when we come to Him, asking forgiveness, we are thus born again, as He said that we must (John 3:7). The true gospel is declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4 and when we receive salvation by grace of God through our faith in Him (Eph. 2:8-9), we are saved and after this life we go to heaven. Again: We need to know the true God and Jesus whom He has sent, as John 17:3 says.

Belief that God exists is not enough – even the devils believe that, but of course they are not saved. (James 2:19.) We must not just believe that there is God, but we must submit ourselves to Him who purchased us with His own blood.

If your parents, your husband and your children come to Jesus of the Bible, and accept Him as their personal Lord and Savior, then you will be together with them in heaven forever. We all will live forever, but where we live depends on our decision – we either accept Him or we don't. That decision determines our eternal destiny. Jesus is the only way. It is not as complicated as the religions of the world, and Mormonism, try to make it be.

You are right in doubting Joseph Smith's first vision story as well as his other stories too. Polygamy is not from God, but from Smith's own lustful desires, nor are LDS temple rituals and garments anything that God requires.

I would suggest that you'd get a New King James Study Bible and start studying the Bible in earnest. This Study Bible explains harder to understand passages and helps you to be free from man-made religions and requirements. The Gospel of John is a good place to start and learn about Jesus, who He is and how much He loves you and wants you to come to Him, and with your parents, your husband and children to be saved forever.

If you are in Utah, give me a call, (801.943-5011) and I'd be glad to meet with you and help you. I pray that you will soon be free from fears and what has troubled you.

Sincerely, Rauni

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#### Questions from an anonymous LDS person:

1. "Have you read the Book of Mormon and prayed about it?"
2. You must be motivated by hate in trying to convince Mormons that their faith is wrong.
3. Have you noticed the good fruit of the LDS Church and how fast it is growing? Does that not prove that it is true?
4. Why don't you just preach what you believe rather than bash Mormons?
5. What can you say about errors and contradictions in the Bible? That is a reason why we need to have living prophets to correct all that.
6. We believe in God who was once as we are – he can understand us and we can understand him – your God, "Trinity", is a mass of confusion, no one can understand that.

#### My answers:

1. Yes, I have read the Book of Mormon many times. As I read it I became more and more sure that it was not true at all. It is a testament of another Jesus. The Jesus of the Book of Mormon is not the savior who came to save sinners as the Bible says (Luke 9:56) but one who destroyed cities and killed their inhabitants. ( See 3 Nephi 9:3-15 – read also 3 Ne. 8.)
2. I am motivated by concern for the lost, which Mormons are for they do not know the only True God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent (John 17:3). Jesus said that **unless people believe that He is God, I AM, they will die in their sins** and thus not be saved. (John 8:24.) I would like to ask you a question: Are tens of thousands of LDS missionaries motivated by hate when they go knocking on the doors of Christians telling them that all Christian denominations are false and abomination to God?
3. The LDS Church has many good people who do good deeds, but good works do not get people to heaven, only Jesus does. (Eph. 2:8-9; John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) **The fruit of a church is its message of God. The message of the Mormon Church is about a god who is not God at all, and about "Jesus" who is a created being and a brother of all, including Lucifer. Jesus of the Bible is not a brother of all, but the Creator of all things.** (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.) He alone came from heaven, we did not. Jesus said, "**I AM from above** (heaven): **ye are of this world; I AM not of this world;**" (John 8:23.) Fast growth of any group or church is not a proof of its truth. In most cases it only proves that people are gullible. Look at Islam with its 1.5 billion members! Do you believe it is true? Even Jehovah's Witnesses, a younger group than Mormonism, has grown faster than Mormonism. Jesus said, "**...broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat...but narrow is the way, which leadeth into life, and few there be that find it. Be aware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.**" (Matt. 7:13-16) **Fruit of a prophet is his teachings** –does he teach the biblical

**truth?** Mormon prophets teach false doctrine of God. The Bible commands that we test all things, including spirits. (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1.)

**4. We are teaching what the Bible says, that is evangelism. We are doing this because we trust and believe that the Bible is God's Word and instructions to all who believe.** We are contrasting Mormonism's teaching with the Truth found only in the Bible. We do not "bash Mormons", but we point out that Mormonism and its teachings are not biblical, hoping to challenge them to check the scriptures and study and prove what is true. ( 2 Tim. 2:15.)

**5. What errors?** There are no errors in the Bible. How have your prophets "corrected" the Bible? Joseph Smith said that he retranslated the Bible. Impossible! He did not have the manuscripts in the original languages of the Bible, and without them he could not have translated the Bible at all, and besides that he did not know Hebrew and Greek. Regardless what is said by the LDS Church about Joseph Smith's "translation of the Bible", the LDS Church's "official Bible" is still the King James Version, not Joseph Smith's "translation". Can you explain that?

**6. Yes, we know that you believe that your god was once a man, but that does not make it true.**

**The Bible clearly teaches that God is not a man.** (Num. 23:19; Hosea 11:9 etc) **The Bible says that God is Spirit and Spirit does not have flesh and bones.** (John 4:24; Luke 24:39.)

**You wondered about the Trinity** and that no one can understand it. Actually I am glad that we serve a God who is beyond our capacity to understand. If we could understand God, he would be a god of our own making, just as Joseph Smith's god –who is not god at all. Joseph Smith made for himself a god who is after his own image. God of the Bible calls us **to believe in Him** and we do, **for His Word is truth** (John 17:17) and that is what He says about Himself. (1 John 5:7.) Individuals do not have to *understand* the Trinity to be saved. However, a belief in the Trinity is essential. *"In essentials Christians have unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love."* The Trinity is a central doctrine of Christianity, as is the authority of Scripture (the Bible); that Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man; that Christ was born of a virgin; that He led a sinless life; that He died to atone for our sins; that He was bodily resurrected from the dead and will come again in power and glory to judge the world and deliver His people.



**Ministry has been busy.** Many calls this last month have come from across the country and several from out of this country. It is our joy to share the truth of God's Word and point them to Him as the One who alone can save us. We are heartbroken for everyone who leaves this life without knowing Jesus. There is an LDS man we know who is on his death-bed right now. We have been praying for him for years, but we still do not know if he has accepted the true Lord or not. We just a few days ago, again, gave a Gospel

tract to his wife, asking that she would read it to him, for he is too weak to do it himself. She promised to read it to him. As long as there is life, there is hope. He may be as the Thief on the Cross, next to Jesus, who was saved in his last moment. Please pray with us that he will hear and accept salvation in Jesus. We are praying for these lost souls daily and asking the Lord to open their hearts and minds that would allow them to come to Jesus and be born again.

Jesus said (John 3:7) **"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."**

If you or anyone asks Him to come into your heart and forgive you, He will come in and never leave you. Have you ever known anyone who was physically born twice? Have you ever known anyone who was spiritually born twice? Nowhere in the Bible will you find a passage that describes anyone being saved (born again) twice. Once you come into the family of God through faith in Jesus, who is God with us, you're in the family forever, during this life and after this life. (Eph. 2:8-9; John 14:6; 10:28.)

Please pray also for Gary who is going to have hernia surgery in a week that all will go well and that he will heal fast without any complications.

Please continue praying for Heber – his ears are still ringing and he cannot sleep well, nor concentrate on his studies. Federal Prison doctors do not seem to know what to do for him.

Bruce, our dear brother in Christ, had a tumor removed from his stomach a few days ago, and he asks us to pray that laboratory tests will show that it is not a cancerous tumor. His other trials are still unsolved, so please pray that the Lord will give him peace about all that.

Others to keep in constant prayer are Dale and Sharon, Jim, Dick and Max for their health problems and recovery.

We praise the Lord that pastor Foard's little grandson, for whom we asked your prayers earlier, is doing well, and we thank you for praying for him.

Please pray for several LDS persons with whom we are trying to reason.

Please pray also for a Mormon lady who has talked with me a few times recently. She came to Calvary Chapel worship service a week ago and promised to come again and perhaps bring her husband and children next time. She is a sincere seeker after truth, but she is anticipating a lot of problems from both of their parents and other family members if they end up leaving the LDS Church.

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Our Ministry finances are in trouble – largely because my old (very old) computer crashed, and we had to get a new one just a week ago. We lost a lot of information and many letters we had received that were not answered yet. Dennis's laptop that he uses for his power-point presentations also failed, and he is trying to recover the information he has there.

We are thankful for those of you who have helped some in the Ministry expenses, but we ask that you'd pray with us that we can take care of these additional expenses (we had to put them on our credit card) and that we can pay them before there will any interest added. We simply cannot add another monthly payment to our slim budget.

However, we are very thankful to the Lord that He has provided work for Dennis. We know that He who has called us to this work, will take care of us and also the Ministry costs. It is the Lord who is our Employer and our Provider – we just need to keep that in our minds that tend to wonder towards worry...

***He has promised that if we do not worry, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving make our needs known to Him, He will fill our hearts with peace that passes all our understanding and thus we can keep our hearts and minds focused in Christ Jesus.*** (Phil. 4:6-7.)

We need to be reminded that God has called His own (you and us) to some specific duties in these troubling times. Absolutely nothing can harm us as long as we serve the Lord in whatever capacity He has called us to. Know that *"no weapon that is formed against you will prosper."* (Isa. 54:17.) *"Do not be afraid, nor dismayed ... for the battle is not yours, but God's."* (2 Chron. 20:15.)

Gladly serving Christ Jesus in Utah,

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**Thought for today:**

***"Religion is the story of what a sinful man tries to do for the Holy God; the Gospel is the story of what the Holy God has done for sinful men." Jesus said, "It is finished."***

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