



October 1, 2012

H.I.S. Ministries October 2012 Newsletter, covering September 2012

September has been exciting, busy, fruitful and blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and we praise Him for allowing us to experience His grace and mercy given to us and all who come to Him. We are very thankful to Him and to you, our fellow workers, in bringing the Gospel of Christ to those who have not known Him.

During Doris Hanson's TV show, "*What Love Is This*", on 9/6/12 (local TV 20), "*our Becky*" gave her witness for Jesus. (It can be viewed from archived episodes under that date.) The Lord has blessed Becky and Sam White with many family members coming to know Jesus – as Becky's father, sister, brother and sister-in-law and their seven children – all of them during the last 2-3 months. They all attended on 14th of September an *all-day tent-revival meeting* in Spanish Fork that was organized by the small *Crossroad's Baptist Church* with the help of Chris and Jamie Hohnbaum and others. Sam and Becky brought two of their flat-bed trailers as "stages" for the speakers, and Jamie's boss, Thom, loaned his 60-foot trailer for a stage for *Adam's Road Band* of former LDS missionaries who gave a concert and shared their moving testimonies of coming to know the Lord Jesus of the Bible. These young men, Micah, Joseph, Matt, Steve and Jay shared their testimonies how the Lord led them out of Mormonism into a relationship with Jesus. Their stories are amazing.

[Their conversion stories are on a DVD called *Amazing Grace*, that is available through *Main Street Church* in Brigham City, Utah.] Micah (while on his LDS Mission) was the first one of them to come to see the truth through his New Testament studies that the **biblical Jesus is not the same Jesus that is taught in Mormonism**. Micah was asked by his mission president to leave his mission *two weeks early* because he shared at a mission conference with his fellow missionaries that **we do not need the Mormon Church - all we need is Jesus Christ of the Bible to be saved.**]

Doris Hanson, Shawn McCraney and Dennis were among others who also spoke during this inspirational conference – that has been asked to be repeated - next fall, for sure. Dennis built a **24-foot cross** that was planted just the night before this revival meeting on this 5-acre field that this little church bought a few years ago for their future church-building location. **This big white cross** is clearly visible from the I-15 freeway, giving a silent testimony of *the power of God for salvation through the preaching of the cross.* (1 Cor.1:18.)

It is all about Jesus!

Monday (24th) we had our traditional get-together at our home for *Adam's Road Band* and some other friends that were able to come. We have had a party for these "boys" every year when they have come to Utah – this being the 5th year in a row. It was a lot of fun. We ask you to pray for their safety as they perform and travel for several more weeks before going back home to Florida.

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When an LDS person is asked the question, "*Do you know Jesus?*", many will say, "*Of course I know Jesus, I have read stories about Him, I have heard talks about Him, I pray in His name and I belong to a church that has His name on our buildings.*" When they say this, the next question to ask is, "*Does He know you?*" More often than not they then tell about the *preexistence, their heavenly parents and how Jesus is our elder brother and that we grew up there with Him – and thus we know Him and He knows us as His siblings, for we all came from heaven*. This answer gives an opening to ask how this could be, **for the Bible tells us that Jesus alone came from heaven, we did not.** (See John 8:23; 3:13, 31; 6:62; 1 Cor. 15:46-47.) **The Bible teaches of Jesus who is God who became a man to save us from our sin, not our brother.** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14, 29; 3:16.)

When Adam sinned and death entered the human race, God promised to send a Redeemer, "*the seed of the woman*". (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14.) Jesus of the Bible is that **Virgin-born Son of God; God, who is Spirit.** (John 4:24; Luke 1:26-31.) Jesus is indeed **Immanuel, God with us.** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; Gal. 4:4.) **He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.** (John 1:29.) Jesus compared **knowing Him to having eternal life** (John 17:3). In other words, just **knowing about Him** without knowing **WHO HE IS** we cannot have eternal life. We have to have a personal relationship with Him. The Bible warns about false prophets and teachers who teach of *another Jesus* (same name but a different person, warned of in 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15). Jesus Himself said "*Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven*". Knowing His name and having done "*even wonderful works*" in His name but not having personal relationship with Him will not do. "*On that day*", judgment day, He will have to say to them, "*I never knew you: depart from Me*". (Matt. 7:21-23.) Jesus is God who came to save us from our sins, but if we do not know and acknowledge **WHO HE IS, the Great I AM**, we will die in our sins and therefore cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. (John 8:24; 58-59.) **Only God can forgive sins.** (Mark 2:7.) Jesus is 100% God and 100% man. "**In Him dwells all fullness of the Godhead bodily**" (Col. 2:9). **He is the image of the invisible God.** (Col. 1:15.) He came to fulfill all that prophets of the Old Testament had foretold about Him. Every book of the Bible is about Him. (Luke 24:25-27, 44-47.) His life, death and resurrection is for all who in faith accept Him. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9.) When we receive Him, we **BECOME children of God** (John 1:12-13; 3:7) and are **born again** of the Spirit of God.

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The Mormon Church and its leaders have taught that Jesus was married and a polygamist – as their God the Father also is married and a polygamist – and that all mankind were born as spirit children to him and his many wives in the preexistence, Jesus being the eldest of all of them/us. They teach that since marriage is a requirement for gaining exaltation and godhood in the celestial kingdom, **Jesus likewise had to be married in order to become fully a god.**

It is amazing how many different ways the enemy of our souls tries to confuse people's minds of the purpose of God becoming a man in Jesus; namely that He became a man to

die for our sins, and through faith in Him as our substitute, provide the way for us to go to heaven.

A few years ago there was Dan Brown's popular novel, "*Da Vinci Code*" that many, many Mormons and others took as a sure confirmation that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and that they had at least one child... This same confusion, and even excitement is up again among Mormons because of some fourth century "faded papyrus fragment, only 1.5 inches by 3 inches, likened to the size of a business card or small cell phone has been found - suggesting that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was actually married." This fragment was brought to light a couple of weeks ago by Harvard Divinity school professor, Karen King, who also says "the papyrus fragment, even if it's determined to be authentic, does not provide evidence Jesus was married, but merely that hundreds of years after Jesus' death and resurrection, some believed He had a wife... The Bible never even hints that Jesus was married." Wolf-Peter Funk, a Coptic linguist, [among others] doubts the authenticity [of this fragment], calling its form "*suspicious*". He told AP "*there's no way to evaluate the significance of the fragment because it has no context. There are thousands of scraps of papyrus where you find crazy things,*" said Funk, [co-director of a project editing the Nag Hammadi Coptic library at Laval University in Quebec.] "*It can be anything*", he said. "*Part of the mystery of the fragment is that no one seems to be sure of its origin and provenance, a history of where it has been. Plus, its owner has asked to remain anonymous. This is now being labeled by experts as fraudulent...*" (Copied from WND report of 9/19/12, emphasis added.)

It is amazing to see how gullible people indeed are. The New Testament, written during the First Century A.D. by eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and His death, burial, resurrection and ascension to heaven, does not say anything about Jesus being married, but a tiny fragment by an anonymous writer, without context to anything, written about 350 years after Jesus' life, all of a sudden is taken as "proof" that He was married! It is incredible that people are so eager to believe something like this, and by so doing they discredit God's purposes and **Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.** (John 1:29.)

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We have received several emails from LDS people about this matter. I am quoting from one of them that said,

"Rauni you know that the Mormon Church has always believed that Jesus was married..... This is another reason that you think that Mormonism is a cult but then'Proof' Jesus was married found on ancient papyrus that mentions how son of God spoke of his wife and Mary Magdalene...A recently uncovered fragment of ancient papyrus makes the explosive suggestion that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were man and wife, researchers say...The 8cm by 4cm fragment supports an undercurrent in Christian thought that undermines centuries of Church dogma by suggesting the Christian Messiah was not celibate. The centre of the fragment contains the bombshell phrase where Jesus, speaking to his disciples, says 'my wife', which researchers believe refers to Magdalene... the document casts doubt on a centuries old official representation of Magdalene as a repentant whore and overturns the Christian ideal of sexual abstinence. It elaborates an ancient and persistent undercurrent in Christian thought that Jesus and Magdalene were in fact a couple, as picked up by Dan Brown in the plot of his best-selling thriller The Da Vinci Code. "

My short answer to him:

Come on, now! ☺ You must be joking – or not?

According to this “discovery”, “A recently uncovered fragment of ancient papyrus makes the explosive suggestion that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were man and wife...”

When was this written again? During the fourth century! In other words about **350 years after Jesus’ life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension to heaven!** You cannot possibly be serious and think that this is factual when none of those men who spent many years with Him, lived with Him, saw him die, be buried and resurrected, men who wrote the New Testament books (during the 1st Century A.D.), knew nothing at all about this!!! Jesus’ life was open and very public – there were no secrets about Him – nor did He teach anything in secret. (John 18:20; Is. 48:16-19.)

Even secular Jewish historians, who did not believe in Him, as Josephus, said not a thing even remotely close to this.

I know that Mormon leaders have said all along that Jesus was married, for they have made Jesus to be like they are, just a mortal man purposed for having children and “forever family”. Joseph Smith created his god(s) after his own image and likeness – to be a polygamist like he was.

This shows an incredible ignorance of **why Jesus, who is God, became a man.** (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1,14, 29; 3:16; Col. 1:15; 2:9; Eph. 2:8-9 etc.) **The Mormon Church does not teach that Jesus is God who became a man, but rather a man who became a god,** as they too are hoping of becoming – which is **a lie of the Serpent.** (Gen. 3:5.) They have missed the entire purpose of Jesus’ life and death: “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” (John 3:16.) That He came to pay our sin-debt is made very clear from Genesis through Revelation – but then again, most Mormons read the Bible quite the same way the Devil also reads it – seeking to twist and take verses out of context in order to mock God. (Gal. 6:7.) Sad for you and sad for them.

Rauni

A former LDS man wrote:

“Hello Rauni,

I want to start by thanking you and Dennis for the wonderful work you are doing, as it has made an impact on me personally. I had been reading testimonies and stories on ex-mormon.org when I came across your story and link to hismin web site (www.hismin.com). I was very excited to read what you had found and presented very effectively. I am an ex-Mormon, having stopped church-going after 6 months of exhaustive research to support my belief that I was doing the right thing. I submitted my letter to church records in SLC to have my name removed from their records... At the time of my decision to leave the church, I had read NO anti-Mormon literature, in fact I made up my own mind after reading their own teachings and writings. Wow, the idea of saying the church is true is absolutely insane. Nothing could be further from the truth. However, my dilemma is, my wife is very active and fully believing in the church, along with our sons and my step-daughter, who just finished her first year at BYU.

After finding your site, I am totally convinced my wife has no idea what the church believes, or what doctrine truly is. She is completely convinced of the "truth" of the OFFICIAL story as told by the church today, i.e. pictures of JS kneeling in a grove, reading gold plates at a table, being baptized by John the Baptist, pictures of Jesus with Indians in front of Meso-American temples, and all the BOM artwork, etc. Not a single word of truth. I know my wife believes in the virgin birth of Christ, but she has no idea what BY said about Adam being God, and that God physically going to Mary to procreate. But also, my wife does NOT WANT TO HEAR IT. She enjoys the social aspect very much and all her friends in the RS are just super great.

I don't know how, but I need her to read the entire page you present on your website, what the missionaries won't tell you. We live on shaky ground now, and I try not to interfere with her church activities, because she gets very defensive and even mean about my "anti-Mormon stance", as she calls it.... I am sorry if I rambled on so much, I just love not being associated with that cult anymore...Thanks Again."

[I responded and encouraged him to seek the Lord Jesus of the Bible and find a Bible-teaching church in his area where he can grow in the knowledge of truth found in the Bible that is the Word of God. God gave us His Word so that we can know what the true doctrine is. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2:15.) I suggested that perhaps he can then help his wife and family to see that truth is in **Jesus, who alone is the Way to eternal life** – not any organization. (John 14:6)]

Since the 1st of October is on Monday, and we have our class on the 30th, I hoped to get this newsletter ready by Saturday. On Saturday, 29th of September, Dennis has been asked to baptize Sam and Becky White and our dear Emily in the Provo River. We are exited about their commitment to follow Jesus and publically identify themselves with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection and *walk in the newness of life.*

This is what Dennis is planning on saying just before baptizing them:

“Paul says 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 YE ALSO ARE SAVED... for 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 ROSE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.”

In Romans 6:3-4 Paul reminded them, saying, “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 up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.”

When Paul speaks of baptism here, he is speaking of our identification with Christ and what the water baptism portrays. By being baptized into Jesus Christ [not into a church], we are publically confessing our faith in the Gospel of Christ which is His death, burial and resurrection in our behalf.

We are thus indentifying ourselves with Jesus. Paul says that we should know that baptism represents Jesus' death and burial and also our death to our “old self”, and that as Christ was raised from the dead, we are raised with Him now to live a new life in Christ, and also as His own, have eternal life with Him thereafter.

Baptism gives us a visual demonstration of death of Christ and a “funeral” of our old selves as we are immersed in water. As we come up from the water, it pictures a new person in Christ rising to walk in newness of life. We can say with Paul, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. (Gal. 2:20.)

As surely as we are united together with Christ in the likeness of His death in baptism, we also shall be united with Him in likeness of His resurrection.

[Weather is supposed to be quite warm and nice on Saturday – even about 80 degrees. ☺]

Our *Understanding Mormonism* class is going quite well. We will have our 4th class this Sunday. Please pray with us that we will stay on topic and speak according to the Lord's direction for He knows the hearts and spiritual needs of all attending. Our purpose is to help everyone attending become true witnesses for the Lord and His Gospel found in His Word, and help many of their friends, relatives and even strangers come to know Him and be saved. **We indeed can know now that we are saved, not just hope that we may become saved.**

John, the Beloved Apostle of Jesus, promised, ***"These things I have written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*** (I John 5:13.)

It seems that many of us are continually struggling with finances. Times are hard, and even though we know that the Lord is watching over us, we may complain and ask, *"What good can possibly come from my financial problems?"* Pastor Adrian Rogers gave this answer: *"They are wonderful opportunities to trust your Heavenly Father for your daily bread. I've always said that it's better to have a Father who owns a bakery than to have a warehouse full of bread!"* *"For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills."* (Psalm 50:10.)

We trust that the Lord watches over you and over us and takes care of us all as we do what He has called us to do. It is so great to be in His hands and under His direction. We thank you for your prayers and help you have given to us according to dictates of the Holy Spirit.

We want to ask you to pray for many friends needing health blessings. Debbie is doing better and we praise the Lord for that – Dale, Max, Merridy, Heber, Sandy, and Dick are still having health problems, and we pray that the Lord makes their lives easier day by day.

Thank you for your love for the Lord and your prayers for us and all ministries working for salvation of the lost, to honor Jesus Christ and be ready for His coming.

In Christ,

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Thought for the month:

"There's nothing that fuels the flames of evangelism like a proper understanding of prophecy." (Pastor Adrian Rogers)

(Pastor Rogers was three times elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, first elected to this post on a platform of biblical inerrancy, and under his leadership, the denomination shifted sharply conservative, firing liberal and moderate seminary professors.)

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