



***He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

January 1, 2016

H.I.S. Ministries January 2016 Newsletter, covering December 2015

We hope that your Christmas was a warm and wonderful Celebration of the Birth of our God and Savior into humanity. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14.)

“For unto us the child is born, unto us the Son is given.” (Is. 9:6.) He indeed was born of Virgin Mary, and given to us by God. “For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16.) In Him we are saved and blessed.

Happy New Year, 2016!

To make our new year happy and better than last years have been, requires work from all of us.

We can observe that not much has changed for better in America during these last years. Our situation seems to be the same as 4 years ago. In our 2012 January newsletter we wrote: ***“This year may prove to be a remarkable year in all aspects of life. One thing we can be sure of is that it will be politically important and a revealing year – demonstrating where we as people of this nation indeed stand. It has become apparent to me over the years, that the selection of a president is the mirror image of the soul of a nation. Under our political system, it is the citizens who elect their leaders. They select the candidates that most represent their own beliefs and desires i.e., representative government. No president can be elected without the majority vote and adherence of that vote, by the electoral college. Even with a fraud and deceptive candidate, when the people refuse to act and remove such a person from office, it is the result of the acceptance of such behavior by the people! Therefore, the finger of guilt needs to be pointed at the reason and cause for such an individual being elected to the highest political position in the land. It is my understanding that the God we know, does not interfere with the will of the people... The election of an evil leader tells us much about ourselves and our nation as a whole. At this point in time, it is not a pretty picture and one the citizens of this country refuse to acknowledge responsibility for. Until they do take responsibility, this nation will continue on its downward spiral to destruction.”*** This 4-year old observation might again give something for all of us to ponder and then act responsibly by carefully evaluating whom we vote into the highest office of the land this new year of 2016. Are we going to elect one who follows *the*

same old “politically correct” path, without consideration of the will of “we the people” of the United States and our Constitution, or do we dare to vote for a real change to “Washington politics as usual”? We need to do our part for our great nation in the voting booths. That requires prayerful examination of candidates and what they stand for. This is something for all of us to carefully think about so that we can maintain our freedoms to serve our Lord and bring others to Him for eternal salvation. It is our personal highest responsibility to share the truth of the Gospel and eternal consequences that will follow those who reject the Gospel and the Lord who loves them and died for all men who would receive Him.

When a year ends, we often look back trying to evaluate how this past year was – was it good, or not so good and disappointing? Seeing our past year as *not very good* creates in us a desire for a fresh start, new plans, new promises and commitments. We may also determine to keep the promises that we didn’t keep the previous year. We ought to examine how many of our plans and promises were, or are now, focused on earthy achievements, things that affect the “*here and now*” only? Of course we must take care of things that pertain to this life, but is that our main focus? We all are getting older (Dennis and I just last month celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary... ☺), but whether we are young or old we are not guaranteed continuous life here on earth, and if we belong to the Lord, our citizenship is not here, but in heaven. Paul admonishes us to set our minds “*on things above, not on things on earth*”. (Col. 3:2.) Therefore while we are making our New Year’s resolutions, let’s put at the very top of our list a renewed commitment to share the gospel of God (1 Cor. 15:1-4) with those who are not His yet, and help them to believe and receive the saving message of Jesus – why He came and what He did so that they too can live with us in heaven forever.

As we get older, each passing year makes us also realize how short life really is. It is only natural that we think about how we might be remembered after we are gone. The fact is that the memory of us and our life, other than among our family and possibly a few close friends, will fade very quickly. We are not saying this to discourage, but to challenge in regard to how we can “*still live*” after our life here is over. The only thing that makes us “*live*” after we are gone is through our relationship with those whom we have led to Jesus. Our works will be tested and much of what we do in this life will be burned up as **wood, hay, and stubble**. (1 Cor. 3:11-15.) 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 even continue. What will not be forgotten 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 convert a person to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. However, God uses human instruments to inform and thus affect a person's life and bring them to salvation. Your prayers, your kind words, and acts of charity and unconditional love for others during your life will live on in that person who came to know Jesus through you sharing the Gospel! The point we want to make is that it is never too early or never too late to impact someone for eternity. After all, our purpose in this life is to serve and glorify God. **Our service to God is our service to others, and it can have eternal consequences. It will be 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 lives when we wonder if we are making a difference and if what we do 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 plans and purposes to touch lives of others along our journey. We are appreciative to God that He has given us this wonderful ministry opportunity to share the love and hope that we have in Jesus Christ and that He has blessed us to bring people from the false religion of Mormonism to His Sheepfold. We are focused more than ever in 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 also is to make sure that you leave an eternal legacy which will live on after your death in the lives of those the Lord allows to cross your path. You can be the light to those who do not know the Lord of Light yet.

***"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.) Pastor Adrian Rogers wrote, "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 His Light and received into our hearts the saving Gospel of God and we praise and thank 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. (Luke 1:32-33.) Without understanding that He is coming back, we have not received the full Gospel message, for end time prophecy is part of His gospel and what His mission was and still is. The Jesus who came the first time is coming again, and *Christmas* is not complete without the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The incarnation without the coronation would be like east without west. It would be like an engagement without a marriage. The story is not complete until Jesus comes again. "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.)

If any of you reading this are not 100% sure that if your heart stops beating at this moment, you will immediately and forever be with Jesus, then please take a moment, repent and pray that the Lord will open your heart to receive Him right now. (Romans 10:9-10; John 1:12.)

Questions from letters we received: 1. "Isn't it unchristian to question or critique someone else's claim for Christianity? Mormons say that they are Christians, why do you say that they are not Christians?"

Reply: I will quote Dr. Walter Martin (1987), who taught what is the *Ultimate Test of Whether Something or someone is Christian or not*. He said: "If you are corrupt (wrong) in your doctrine of God and the Person, nature and work of Jesus Christ... it does not make any difference where else you're right: You are not Christian. If you have a wrong God, the wrong Redeemer, you're lost. That has been the message of the Christian church historically." Explanation: Christians believe in God who is Eternal Triune God, the Father,

Son and Holy Spirit. But Mormons believe in a god who is not Eternal God, but a god who was once a mortal man as you are now, married and even polygamist, and who had billions of daughters and sons, Jesus being the eldest of them and Lucifer one of the next ones. In other words, the Mormon Church does not believe the same doctrine (theology) as Christianity, thus they cannot be identified as a Christian Church any more than any Christian Church would be accepted by Mormons to be doctrinally same as the Mormon Church since Christians do not accept Joseph Smith as a prophet of God nor Mormon Scriptures as the Word of God. However, it was Joseph Smith who said that all Christian churches “were wrong” and their “*creeds (beliefs) an abomination to God*”. Joseph Smith’s Book of Mormon says that they (Christian churches) are “*the church of the devil*” (1 Nephi 14:10). I hope this answers your question, if not, let’s continue talking.

2. A Mormon man wrote, “*It does not matter what you believe, as long as your testimony is firm and strong about what you believe – your belief will save you. Isn’t that what Jesus said?*”

My brief reply: What Jesus said is that it is belief in Him that will save a person. (John 6:29; 1 John 3:23; Eph. 2:8-9.) What matters about what we believe is: IS IT TRUE ? Adrian Rogers told a story of a man who was confronted on a battlefield with someone he presumed to be an enemy. He warned: “*Don’t come any further or I’ll shoot.*” Man answers, “*I don’t believe in guns.*” Is that going to change anything in the battlefield? I don’t think so.

3. Another question sent to us: *I was told that the Mormon Church is a business corporation rather than a church. Is that true?*

Answer: US Congress in 1887 dissolved *the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* and seized its assets, including Salt Lake Temple and the Temple Square... It was not actually polygamy itself that brought that about, but it was Mormon Church’s Theocratic control over politics, economics and resources in the West. Only reason for a church as an entity to incorporate is if it wants to operate as a business. (There is a separation of Church and State.) The LDS Church incorporated in 1923. [A Corporation acts as a *person* (without soul), and is legally endowed with various rights and duties, including the capacity of succession.] During my years as an employee of the LDS Church, my paychecks didn’t come from *the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, but from “*The Corporation of the President*”. When Dennis was a High Councilman for our stake, he had to make sure that the ward financial clerks deposited tithing moneys collected during Sundays on Sunday night and a check made from the ward to the Corporation of the President, not to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints be in the mail by Monday morning. If you want additional information about the Mormon Corporation, you perhaps could find more by researching on the Internet.

4. Question: *If belief in Jesus is the only way to salvation, what about those billions of people who have never heard about Him or of the Bible?*

Answer: This question assumes that people cannot know about Jesus unless some human tells them about Him. No human spoke to Moses in the desert. No human called Abraham out of Ur of Chaldea – God did it. Paul was not converted by any human either. The resurrected Jesus spoke to Paul directly. Eternal God, who is Spirit (John 4:24) is not limited in any way. He is perfectly capable of contacting every single person on

earth directly, if needs to be. Creation itself gives objective witness of God to any thinking person. Our God-given conscience is another subjective witness of God. (Rom. 1:18-20.) While God uses us humans to share the Gospel, the “*good news*” about Jesus (1 Cor. 15:1-4), He really does not NEED PEOPLE. God who knows the hearts of every person, also knows who seeks Him and wants to know Him. (Jer. 29:11-13 ; Luke 11:9-10.) We can never assume that there is anyone anywhere who in his heart wants to know God to whom God will not give enough knowledge to find Him and be saved. *There is nothing that is impossible to God of the Bible. HE ALONE IS GOD.* (Luke 1:37.)

This has been a good year in our Ministry in many ways, but also a difficult year, for we have lost several persons we loved very much. **Debbie Boggess** passed away on February 26th. She was a faithful witness for the Lord, and big part of Calvary Chapel, SLC. We came to know her and her husband, Tim, many years ago. As soon as they moved to Salt Lake City, they wanted to know how to understand Mormonism so that they could be better witnesses to them. They faithfully attended our Understanding Mormonism classes. During them Debbie was always asking deeper questions, for she really wanted to be able to reach Mormons for salvation in Jesus. Soon she was diagnosed with the ovarian cancer. In spite of her suffering for many years, she did not relent of her work for the Lord. She died February 26th 2015. Please keep Tim Boggess and their little 5-year old son, David, in your prayers. - The very next day, February 27th, we lost our dear friend, Rich Brown, in a skiing accident. Sudden and unexpected deaths like Rich’s are so hard to accept and understand, though we know that the Lord is in control of our lives and He calls us home when our time is up. (Hebr. 9:27.) Rich and his dear wife Suzi had also attended our Mormonism classes and were learning how to win LDS people to Christ. We had become close personal friends with both of them. This has been extremely hard for Suzi, but God has provided her with many understanding friends who are supporting and helping her to continue her life as the Lord leads her. There was no time to be prepared for this. Thus we are asking that you all keep her in your prayers, for she misses her husband deeply. - Just before Christmas there was another unexpected death – our dear friends’, Preston and Kathy Stewart’s, 3-year old granddaughter, Cienna, died suddenly on 12th of December, after her tonsillectomy. Her funeral service, conducted by their Pastor Phil Daggett of Calvary Chapel of Vernal was held there on 18th of December, just one week before Christmas! I couldn’t go for health reasons, but Dennis drove to “Cici’s” funeral that, as he reported, *was an amazing tribute to the entire Stewart and Corbin families* – for way over 400 people attended this little one’s funeral. Dennis was asked to give the closing prayer. Dennis said that *this was the hardest funeral he has ever attended*. There was much love expressed to little Cienna’s parents, Matt and Kalli Corbin, and her grandparents, Preston and Kathy Stewart and Mike and Joni Corbin. Preston wrote to us about their incredible sadness, but that they, however, are not without hope. He said, ***“She is safe, and has escaped this sin cursed world, and is now with our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*** Preston added, quoting Samuel Rutherford’s words, ***“She is not sent away, but only sent before; like unto a star, which, going out of our sight, doth not die and vanish, but shineth in another hemisphere: ye see her not, yet she doth shine in heaven.”*** It is wonderful to belong to the Lord and know that Cici is safe with Jesus, and when our time to leave this world comes, we’ll be there too. We can say the same about Debbie Boggess and Rich Brown who were strong in the Lord – we will see them – perhaps even very soon. ***“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”*** (Ps.116:15.) We need to remember that we have ***“friends in the high places”*** (heaven), and that is the home where we all will, in Lord’s appointed times, gather together to worship Him forever. Death is only final and hopeless to those who do not

know Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Let's make sure that everyone we know will come to know Him too. We want to express our appreciation to all who have helped us during 2015 through prayers, and those of you who have assisted us in finances to make sure that we have important books and materials, Bibles, DVDs, CDs, MP3s, etc. to give and/or send to LDS people who request them. We praise God that many are asking and wanting to know the truth. We just 2 days before Christmas received a call from an LDS couple in Idaho, who said that they needed help urgently. They had just come to realize that what they have all their lives believed and followed might not be true at all. I quickly put together a package of several books, 10 of our booklets, our 18-hour DVD class-teaching package with 200 pages of documentation, several other DVDs and MP3 Bible-studies, and few other items that they requested. Dennis rushed to UPS to send this a quite heavy package, hoping that it will reach them by Christmas, and it did. I received a call from them that they got it, and they were in tears, very thankful, saying that they want to come to see us after the holidays and even spend a few days talking with us about the Bible. Please pray for Ruth and Brent. God is good – all the time! There are other LDS people we are working with who struggle with their understanding of why Mormonism cannot lead to salvation. We need prayer for these people as well.

We have 5 more weeks of classes to teach to finish the course of our Mormonism classes we started last fall. We would like to continue, starting 17th of January, if all possible. To find out if I can do it, I had 2 doctor appointments last week – one with a specialist, Dr. Swenson, who did my right side thyroid surgery 16 years ago, and the other appointment with our family doctor. They both said, even if a bit hesitantly, that I can **perhaps** wait for a couple of months before surgery to remove a tumor I have now on my left side thyroid. That was good news to us for it means that Dennis and I can finish our classes before I have to face the new surgery. We are asking that you'd pray with us that we will know the will of **the Lord, who knows what this tumor really is.** Doctors only know what the Ultra-sound showed, and from that they cannot see if it is cancer, as the right side tumor was. I feel pretty good, considering, only tired and low energy.

Names we have listed in our past letters for prayer still need the Lord's help in their physical trials. The Lord knows exactly what their needs are – we just ask for relief from their pain, and improvement in health for Judy, Caryl, Dale, Sharon, Dick, Patty, Max, Pat, Merridy, David, Tom, Dave, Mike and Jim. May the Lord bless you and be with you always.

Rauni & Dennis Higley - Email: hismin@xmission.com. Tel. 801.943-5011

Thought for the month: *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* (Ephesians 2:8-9.) **Note:** **Not "Faith in Faith," but by grace through faith.** *Have you ever heard someone mention the phrase "saving faith"? There's no such thing. **You are saved by grace through faith. You're not saved by faith. Only Jesus saves.*** (Pastor A .Rogers – 5/15/15.)

We are IRS approved 501 (c) (3) Ministry. Your gifts, no matter how small, are tax-deductible. Please send your gifts to: H.I.S. Ministries, 2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093 or www.hismin.com/content/ministry-donations (PayPal account). We are very thankful to you for being our partners and making sure that we can continue sending books, Bibles and other materials free of charge to any LDS persons asking for them. God bless your partnership with us and thus making our work possible. **We will be sending donation receipts for your income tax purposes in a couple of weeks.**

