



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

April 1, 2018

H.I.S. Ministries April 2018 Newsletter, covering March 2018

Spring is a time of hope and a new life. For us as born-again believers in Jesus Christ, this is also a time of renewal of our determination to live for Him, to glorify Him through our lives and be eager to share Him with those who do not yet know Him. Our lives can take on a new dimension if we truly recognize Him and promise to serve Him with all that we are and have, no matter what the cost. We hope and pray that this season, from *Palm Sunday* (March 25th) to the *Resurrection Day* (April 1st) and to the *Day of Pentecost*, recorded in Acts 2:1-4, will fill us all with a firm desire to be faithful to Him till the end and share the Good News with the lost.

Many of us have LDS friends and relatives. We want them to be with us when He comes, which could be at any time. ***“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with the shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*** (1 Thess. 4:16-18.) ***“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*** (John 5:39.) We will know *Him* and love Him if we carefully and diligently study His Word.

March 25th was Palm Sunday, the day when our Lord, nearly 2000 years ago, rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to fulfill what Zechariah had written over 500 years before. ***“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”*** (Zech. 9:9.) (At this time rulers/kings were riding on horses, not on donkeys.) According to the Hebrew calendar this day was the very day predicted by Daniel (Dan. 9:24-26), the day that the Messiah will be presented, and then killed, ***“cut off, but not for Himself”***. [This ***“presentation day”***, was exactly 173,880 days after Artaxerxes Longimanus had (on the 14th of March 445 B.C.) given the commandment to ***“restore and build Jerusalem”*** – as prophesied by Daniel. (Shows detailed exactness of biblical prophecies.) ***This took place four days before the Passover, which was the day when the Passover lambs were to be presented and to be kept four days before they were to be killed on Passover – according to Ex. 12:5-6.*** On that day Jesus rode to Jerusalem as *our Passover Lamb* (John 1:29) among about 250 thousand lambs that were driven to the city to be offered as sacrificial lambs on Passover.

When the multitudes saw Jesus, ***“they cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”*** The Pharisees commanded Jesus to rebuke the people for declaring Him as their King, but Jesus answered them, ***“... if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. ...He beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, if thou hast known, even thou, at least this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thy eyes.”*** (Luke 19:38-42.) This was ***The Day***, according to Daniel’s prophecy. Therefore He allowed Himself to be hailed as their King, fulfilling Ps. 118:26 & Daniel 9.

From the New Testament we read that people had many times wanted to declare Jesus as their Messiah-King, but He always, before this very day, had said ***“my time has not yet come”*** (John 7:8,30), but ***on this day*** He not only allowed it, He arranged it. (See Matt. 26:17-18.)

But they (the leadership of Israel) ***did not know what the scriptures had foretold about “this thy day”!*** But they should ***have known*** for all scriptures were written about Him ***so that they could recognize Him when He comes.*** (Luke 24:25-27, 44; 2 Tim. 3:16.) ***But they did not!***

Scriptures had told about *His Virgin Birth* (Isa. 7:14), *His place of birth* (Bethlehem) (Micah 5:2), *His Davidic lineage* (Acts 13:22-23), *His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver* (Zech. 11:12-13), all that and more were recorded in the Old Testament among hundreds of prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus' earthly life. One of the prophecies that dealt with His death and burial was also pre-told, "*He made His grave with the wicked* (plural in Hebrew), *and with the rich* (singular) *in His death.*" (Isaiah 53:9.) He indeed was crucified with transgressors, one on each side of Him, and His body was laid in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock of Golgotha for Joseph of Arimathea, a rich disciple of Jesus who gave his tomb for Jesus' burial place. [*"Why not, it was only for the weekend! ☺*]

Two disciples of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus prepared His body for burial. (John 19:38-40.) **But the grave could not hold Him. HE IS RISEN! And He will be coming back soon! (Acts 1:9-11.)**

We must study the scriptures for His Second Coming is prophesied in them also. Signs for His Second Coming are written mainly for Israel, for when He comes, He comes to sit on David's Throne as was told to Mary. (Luke 1:32-33.) However, we as believers need to know that He has promised (1 Thess. 4:13-18) to take us, His Bride, up to His mansions (John 14:1-4) for the "*week of years*"- celebration before He comes publically for all the world to see. (Matt. 24:30.)

Preaching the gospel, as we all are commanded to do, means teaching who Jesus is, God with us, (John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23; John 8:23-24) and that He came to die for our sins, that He was buried and rose again on the third day, all according to the scriptures. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) **His sacrifice brought forgiveness and eternal salvation to all who receive Him as their Savior and Lord, God with us.** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 12, 14; 8:24.)

His resurrection celebration is commonly called "*Easter*". This word appears in the King James Version of the Bible only once, in Acts 12:4. It is actually a *mistranslation* of the Greek word, "*pascha*", which means *Passover*, a Jewish Feast. **For us as Christians, Easter is a festival or a "feast" that commemorates the resurrection of Christ in place of the Passover.** It is celebrated at this time of the year, according to the Jewish calendar, on the first Sunday following the full moon. [If the full moon falls on Sunday, it is celebrated a week later, thus the time of *Easter* falls between March 22 and April 25.] **Easter replaced the Jewish Passover ("pascha") among those who have accepted Jesus as their Messiah and Savior.** The trouble with the timing of *Easter* (until about 8th century) was caused primarily by the fact that the Jews observed a calendar based on lunar months. *Passover* was celebrated on the 14th of *Nisan*, and it was not therefore tied to any day of the week. The first dispute was whether Christians should celebrate this festival on a weekday or the following Sunday. Eusebius (4th century,) in his ecclesiastical history, describes, "*The Christian communities of all Asia [i.e. the Roman province, so-called] thought, according to a very old tradition, that the feast of the Savior's pascha ought to be kept on the 14th day of the moon, on which Jews were ordered to sacrifice the lamb, and that therefore on whatever day of the week this might fall...But the churches in the rest of the world were not accustomed to observe this practice: in virtue of an apostolic tradition they followed the custom now in force and considered that no other day was right...but that of our Savior's resurrection [which was Sunday, the first day of the week] ...*" Every Sunday was then called a "*little Easter*". *Passover* is the basis for our *Easter*, but "*Easter*", by that name, was originally a pagan festival honoring *Eostre*, a *Teutonic goddess of light, spring and fertility*, celebrated around the same time as *Passover*. *Easter*, celebrated by pagans, was focused on spring at the time of the vernal equinox (when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are equal in length). We, as Christians, do not identify or have anything at all to do with pagan festivals, but we do need to know, if asked, where some of these names came from and why. **We need to know that we, as believers in Christ Jesus, do not celebrate Easter with fertility symbols of eggs and Easter-bunnies as unbelievers do, we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord that took place at this time of the year!**

In Jewish homes, all over the world, *Passover* is still celebrated, which they also call the *Festival of Redemption*. They observe the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* at that time. **They eat only unleavened bread during the entire Passover week. Passover is the most sacred event in Judaism and stands as the cornerstone of Israel's identity and purpose. The Passover Lamb is the symbol of God's deliverance of the Jewish people from bondage in Egypt. They also partook of bitter herbs, symbolic of bitterness of their bondage, and unleavened bread that symbolized hurriedness of their**

flight, and also their need to purge sin from their lives. Exodus 12:15 explains that there must not be yeast (leaven) found in their homes during the entire Passover week.

God uses “*everyday items*”, like *bread and leaven/yeast*, to teach us His truth. *Leaven, i.e. yeast (in Hebrew ‘homez’) is used throughout the Bible as a symbol of sin. Leaven is sour, and like sin, it “sours” life. Leaven changes that which was before unleavened; it puffs up and corrupts.* Putting a rotten apple into a barrel of good apples spoils the rest of them, but we cannot make a barrel of rotten apples good by putting a fresh apple in it! *That is how it is with sin, it contaminates what it touches.* Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “*Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.*” (1 Cor. 5:6.) Sin does the same thing, it makes us self-centered and puffed up, and *the sin of pride* causes us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to, while adding no substance at all. *Jesus warned against the “leaven of Pharisees and of Sadducees”* (Matt 16:11-12), which was their hypocrisy and malice. *Just as a small amount of yeast puffs bread-dough up, and as the dough rises, it does not have any more weight or substance than unleavened dough, it just takes more room.* In order to understand this symbolism better we need to be aware how yeast/ leaven works. My grandmother in Finland used to make sour-dough rye bread weekly. Each time she saved a small part of the dough, with its original culture of leaven, and when it was put into a new batch of dough, it *leavened, “corrupted”* the new dough and it *puffed up.* *Paul’s instruction to the Corinthians was to “purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.”* (1 Cor. 5:7.) *Jews had to clean their entire homes and “purge out” all leaven, symbolic of sin, before they were allowed to celebrate the Passover.* *We must likewise purge out all that is not good in our lives, examine our hearts, so that we too can celebrate Easter wholeheartedly and meditate in the meaning of the Gospel* (1. Cor. 15:1-4) *which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.*

It was during the Passover Feast/Celebration with His disciples that Jesus instituted “the Lord’s supper”, communion of bread and wine in remembrance of Him. (See Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.) *As death passed over all Hebrew homes in Egypt that had blood of the lamb brushed on their doorposts, we also are saved from eternal death by the Blood of the Lamb.* (John 1:29.)

When we take communion, we use unleavened bread (bread without yeast) for it symbolizes the sinless body of Jesus, our Passover Lamb, broken and sacrificed on the Cross of Calvary for you and me. Red wine or red grape juice that we also take, symbolizes His blood, that cleanses us from all sin. (1 Cor. 11:23-29; 1 John 1:7.)

As Mormons, we did not even have that right! The Mormon Church uses as their “*sacrament*” puffed up “*Wonder Bread*”, made with yeast, symbol of sin, and instead of wine, they use water, that could not symbolize the blood of Christ! LDS “*sacrament*” can be symbolic only of “*another Jesus*” and “*watered-down*” “*another gospel*”, Paul warned about in 1 Cor. 11:4. While we were blinded in bondage of Mormonism, we did not notice the emptiness and meaninglessness of taking this “*sacrament*” of leavened, puffed up bread and water, which was given every Sunday, it’s frequency making it even less special.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and our salvation through our faith in His finished work, let us not forget that He is coming soon. As His first coming was foretold of in the scriptures, so is His second coming. We must not be ignorant and be taken by surprise, but we must be ready, expecting Him to come at any time. He comes first for His Bride, the Church, saved by His grace (Eph. 2:8-9), and meets us in the air (1 Thess. 4:13-18), and seven years after that He will come as the King of kings and the Lord of lords to reign on earth from Jerusalem, Israel, for a thousand years, and after that He will Judge the unbelievers of the world. (Rev. 19:7-16 and 20:4, 11-15.)

Our prayer is that many more will come to know Him now when there is still time.

(Part of this letter is from our April 2009 Newsletter.)

From our mailbox: An LDS man sent eight questions concerning biblical teachings (written in blue). (My answers are below each question.)

1. *To be a true apostle of Christ, must he have been with Jesus in person?*

Answer: *Apostles* were eye-witnesses of Christ’s ministry. The word “*apostle*” is translated from a Greek word

“apostolos”, which means *an ambassador sent [to represent Christ]*. Luke 1:2 and 2 Peter 1:16 confirm that *apostles were eye-witnesses of Jesus’ life and ministry*. Throughout the New Testament this word is used of only those who were true ambassadors or apostles of Christ, excepting in 2 Cor. 11:13, where a word “apostles” in original Greek is *“pseudapostolos”*, meaning false apostles or pretenders. There are no new apostles after the New Testament era, for they could not be *“eyewitnesses of Jesus’ life and ministry”*, which is what the word, apostle, originally meant. Thus Mormon “apostles” are “pseudapostolos”, i.e. *false apostles or pretenders*, just as 2 Cor. 11:13-15 says. In addition to this you should know that the word *apostle* is a New Testament word, i.e. it was not known or used before Christ and His mission. The Book of Mormon proves to be only a 19th century production for it speaks of *twelve apostles* from the beginning of the BoM – 600-592 B.C. and also of *Jesus Christ and Christians* hundreds of years before there was *Christ or followers of Christ*. Christ in Greek is *Christos* meaning Messiah, the Anointed One.

2. If one truly asks God for an answer to a prayer, can Satan intercede and give an answer?

Answer: I do not know if you are a *“temple Mormon”* and know what goes on in LDS temples, but if you are, then you’d know that in LDS temples Adam’s prayer is answered by Lucifer, who says that he is the god of this world, which he indeed is. (2 Cor. 4:3-4.) That this happens in a temple, the holiest place in Mormonism, should answer this question for you as a Mormon. The Bible warns us about different or *another spirit* than the Holy Spirit of God, and commands us *to test the spirits* (see 1 John 4:1) that can give answers, *burning-in-a-bosom type good feelings* or *testimonies of something that is not true*. We must *test all teachings* by the Bible which is the Word of God that cannot lie. The Word of God was given to us so that we would *know what the doctrine is*, and how to correct those who have gone astray. (Read 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) If all Mormons would “test all things” (1 Thess. 5:21) as the Bible commands, including their “feelings/testimonies” about teachings and doctrines they receive in the Mormon Church, they could see that their “feelings” that Mormonism is true could not be from the Holy Spirit of God for Mormonism teaches of another Jesus, of different gods - even that God was once a man, and that men can become gods, when the Bible clearly says that Jesus is I AM (God) and that God is not a man, and men will not become gods after Him. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 8:24; Isaiah 43:10; 44:6; Ps. 90:2; Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9.) It has been said that *“Emotion is a terrible substitute for truth.”* Feelings and emotions can fail us but God’s Truth never will.

3. Do you have to be baptized to be saved? Isn’t Mark 16:16 saying that salvation requires baptism?

Answer: Mark 16:16 says, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he who believeth not shall be damned.”* It is *“not believing”* that causes damnation. Baptism is not for salvation, but for identification with Jesus and what He did for us. We can be baptized *after we believe*. Romans 6:3-4 explains why we are baptized. *“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 we are baptized we show our faith in the Gospel of Christ which is a message of His death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) The Bible clearly teaches that it is the blood of Jesus, shed in our behalf that saves, not water-baptism or anything that we could do. Nothing else but Jesus. (1 John 1:7; John 14:6.) Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9 explain how we are saved – no works can be added. Salvation is the Gift of God, not of works. Faith in Jesus alone is the way to salvation. (Acts 4:12.) Jesus was asked *what are the works that we must do to be saved*. Jesus answered, *“This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He has sent.”* (John 6:28-29.)

4. If we are saved through grace alone, why does the Bible command us to do/keep His commandments?

Answer: The Bible says that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments! Keeping commandments does not save, but keeping them shows that we love Him and that our faith in Him is real, from our heart, not just words we say. (Romans 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9; James 2:18.) Jesus condensed all commandments into two: *To love God and our*

neighbor. (Matt. 22:37-40.) The same can be applied to our personal lives. The way our children show that they love and respect us as their parents is by obeying and doing what we ask of them, for our reason for giving them rules to follow is from our love and our desire for their best. Likewise God has given us commandments because He loves us and desires the best for us.

5. If Jesus is God, as you say, how can He increase in wisdom and stature?

Answer: Jesus is 100% man and 100% God. As God, He could not increase in wisdom and knowledge, but we tend to forget that he was also a man, and as a man He had to grow in His humanity just as we have to. If He did not, He could not have fully been a representation of us.

6. If your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, can it be taken out if you reject Him, or is it true that "Once saved, always saved?" as some Christians say? What about Hebr.12:15 and 6:4-6?

Answer: The Bible teaches that when we receive Jesus Christ by faith (John 1:12; Eph. 2:8-9) we are in that instant born again by the Spirit of God (John 3:7), and He will *never leave us nor forsake us.* (John 10:27-30.) **It is not a conditional promise!** Jesus said that **He will give us eternal life** and we, who have received it, **will never perish** or be lost. **If "eternal life" could be lost, then it would not have been "eternal life" at all. The moment we are born again, our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and our names will stay there forever. Thus we have Eternal Life.** You asked about Hebrews 12:15, perhaps wondering what "fall short of grace" (NKJV) means. It simply means that some may have *come close* to becoming truly born again Christians, but they actually were never saved at all – in other words, they **fell short of accepting the grace of God by faith.** The same could be said of any goal *we fall short of reaching* – *being close* or "almost there" is not the same as being there - *being born again.* In other words, **they had only been close to accepting the grace of God, but they never actually did** – "so near, and yet so far".

Hebrews 6:4-6 is one of the most misunderstood passages we can think of. For that reason we need to carefully inspect it, and not jump into conclusion before really studying it. The main question from this seems to be in the minds of many – **whether or not a born-again believer can lose his salvation?** Verse 6 says, **"IF they shall fall away [then it would be impossible] to renew them again unto repentance!"** [They may have come to "repentance" but not yet to a new birth!] Note: **This does not say WHEN THEY FALL AWAY, but IF.** The key word is "IF" –i.e. **if they could fall away, then they could not be saved again, because it would prove that Jesus' work on the cross was not enough to keep them saved, and He would have to be crucified again for one to be saved again! - They may have been "enlightened", i.e. they had heard the gospel, but they had not committed themselves to Christ. Judas Iscariot had been enlightened, but not saved!**

Remember and understand that Christ purchased salvation for us at a price we could never pay, and He GAVE that salvation to us as His GIFT. (Eph. 2:8-9.) **He will never take His Gift from us – and He is the one who keeps us saved!** John 10:28-30 says that we are held in the handclasp of the Father and the Son, and thus **we will never perish!** If that was not true, then He, Jesus, *would be put to open shame* for promising something that either was not so, or He could not do. This statement in Hebr. 6, **"IF they shall fall away" is hypothetical – something that could never happen. It ends with an assuring word, (v. 9) "BUT beloved, we are persuaded better things for you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."** This obviously means that **"falling away" does not accompany true salvation – God's promises are "better".**

7. Does "endure to the end" (Matt. 24:13-14) mean believe to the end?

Answer: **Matthew 24 is a prophecy about the end times, written for Israel.** Jesus' disciples asked Him about *the signs of His Second Coming and about the end of the age.* Jesus warned them about coming deceptions, false gospels and false Christs, and He lists many things that will take place on earth before He comes again as the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Rev. 19:15-16) to reign with His own for a thousand years in the Millennial Kingdom.

The signs for Israel are:

1. The destruction of the Temple (verses 1-2).
2. The Signs of the End Times and the End of the Age (verses 3-14).
3. The Great Tribulation (verses 15-28).
4. The Coming of the Son of Man (verses 29-31).
5. The Parable of the Fig Tree (verses 29-35).
6. No One Knows the Day or Hour (verses 36-44).
7. The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant (verses 45-51).

As we read this, we can see that this chapter was written to Israel, not to the church, for the church (born again believers in Christ) will not be on earth during the 7-year Tribulation period, also called "the time of Jacob's trouble". (Jer. 30:7; Matt. 24:21; 1 Thess. 5:9.)

8. If God the Father and Jesus are the same being, why does Christ make such a point over and over again distinguishing the two as separate beings? Example: Jesus is praying to the Father.

Answer: As finite beings, we have a hard time fully understanding an *Infinite God*. But as we read and study the Word of God, **we will have to come to the conclusion that there is only One Eternal Infinite God, and that this One God consists of Three Eternal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.** Hebrews 11:6 says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."* God, the real author of His Word (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21) **asks that we believe what He says.** It should not be that hard for we have ample historical and prophetic evidences that **the Bible is true and that it is the Word of God.** The Bible indeed is *"history written in advance"*. It is *God-breathed* book for **He alone knows the end from beginning.** (Rom. 4:17.) **The Triune God of the Bible by His nature is Spirit, not a man.** (See: John 4:24; Hosea 11:9; Numbers 23:19.) Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity. **He is God, who became a man** as John 1:1, 14 and Matt. 1:23 say. Though He was God, He **"was made in the likeness of men"** (Phil. 2:7). Thus He was and always is Eternal God. **Three Persons in the Godhead are One God (Trinity) – not three separate Gods.** There is only one God, **even the devils believe that and tremble,** says James. (2:19.) **The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have always existed as One God.** (Ps. 90:2; 1 John 5:7.) **They have always communed/talked to one another. Jesus, who is fully God, became fully a man. He is 100% God and 100% man.** Of course He talked and prayed to the Father. Colossians 2:9 says, *"For in Him (Jesus) dwelleth ALL the fullness of the Godhead BODILY"*. I repeat: **The "Godhead" consists of three eternal Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. "Dwelleth" means that all attributes and the essence of Deity are in Christ; not just divinity but Deity; not Godlike, but God; not a nature like God's, but a nature the same as God's. "Bodily" simply means that incarnation was real and tangible. Our Lord Jesus Christ was one Person with two natures: He was and is the one and only God-man.** Paul declares the Deity and humanity of Jesus in corporeal form.

I hope this helped. If you have more questions or need more clarifications, please write again. Best wishes, Rauni

Much has happened during these last couple of months. We have seen evidences of the work of God in many persons with whom we have communicated and met here at our home.

Salvation has taken place in the lives of former Mormons and joy in the Lord has become real to them, even in the midst of turmoil that leaving the Mormon Church can cause when there are LDS families involved.

Please join us in prayer for them that the Holy Spirit will strengthen them during these especially hard times.

News from Perth, Australia continues to be wonderful in that there are now 2 more couples joining Zibbeth and Carl in their exodus from Mormonism. We wrote about them 2 months ago when Zibbeth first contacted us in 1/15/18. They were helped by Retha, Riaan and Jennifer, whom Dennis visited 9 years ago and left with them a lot of books and other information to share with those coming out of Mormonism. These three couples are now attending Christian Churches and studying the Bible, but of course they still have a lot of questions and even confusion – for it is all so new and different after Mormonism where everything is pre-programmed and **no thinking and reasoning by individuals are allowed.** The LDS Church's instruction has been and still is, **"When the leaders speak, the thinking has**

been done. The Devil wins a victory when members begin to do their own thinking.” And they also instruct, “Do not criticize the leaders, even if the criticism is true.”

This is how we were also taught when we were faithful Mormons and we were assured of “correctness” and truthfulness of all doctrines taught by the Mormon Church.

Please pray for these new brave believers there in the Perth, Australia, that they will be comforted by the Lord, and as He has promised, that His Spirit will guide them to all truth. (John 8:31-32, 36; 14:16-17.)

We are asking that you to join us in our daily prayer for Judy, Kathy, Max, Merridy, Sandy, Al, Mary, Tom, David H., Jamie, Dan, Nick, Dale and Sharon for their health and wellbeing. We also pray for direction and guidance for Suzi, Bruce, MaryAnn, Heber, Cheryl, Marlene, Suzanne, Aira, Patty and Don, and at you pray for our unsaved Mormon relatives and friends as well as for those in our family who may not be saved yet.

We know that the Lord hears and answers our prayers when pray trusting in Him and asking according to His will. (1 John 5:14-15.) We thank all of you who faithfully pray for us and for the work we do. We are happy to be working in His Ministry, and we know and trust that He will provide for our needs, though at this time we must ask that you’d pray for that matter just a bit more than before. ☺ We are not complaining, for we know that there are times that we need to be tested in all things. These last few months have been harder than usual in many ways and we really need your prayers. Just know that *we rejoice in the Lord always, for the Lord is at hand.* We depend on His promises for He has said, ***“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*** (Phil. 4:4-7.)

We will be adding the Spanish Translation of our booklet “The Truth About Mormonism” to our website. It was translated by Carmen Mares. We wrote about her conversion from Mormonism to Christianity in our May 2013 newsletter, on page 4. We wrote: ***One more amazing rescue story to let you know that our Lord is at work.*** *“We met a young lady at Calvary Chapel on Sunday morning three weeks ago. She came and sat just one chair from me. During the “greeting time” she introduced herself as Carmen. I asked if she comes regularly. (Calvary Chapel has 3 services, so we have not met everyone.) She said that this was her first time. I asked where she normally goes to church. To that she just said, “I am LDS.” I said to her that both I and my husband were former LDS. When pastor Terry started his teaching from the gospel of Luke and asked us to open our Bibles, I noticed that she did not have a Bible. I asked her to move next to me so I could share my Bible with her, which she did. I could see that she was very interested in what pastor said and also what she read from the Word of God. After the service she asked if I could answer some of her questions since we were former LDS. We went to the foyer and found a quiet corner to sit down... She had a lot of questions. Her questions were similar to questions that I had had as a Mormon. We talked and talked...and I presented the biblical gospel to her (1 Cor. 15:1-4), she accepted it and believed and prayed to receive Jesus (John 1:12.). That Sunday just happened to be the Sunday when Calvary has baptisms for all who want to be baptized. She said that she wanted to be baptized as a Christian. I said that there was a class that afternoon about baptism that she would need to take. She registered for it and asked if we could come back and see her baptized. Of course we said we would. Pastor Terry baptized her and 13 others that day. We gave her NKJV Bible as a baptism gift, for she only had “an LDS Quad”. She wanted to come home with us and talk some more. While we talked with her, Dennis fixed us a dinner – and she stayed till later that evening. She told us her amazing story: She was raised a Roman Catholic in California. After high school, she met some Mormons, took missionary lessons and joined the Mormon Church when she was 18. She was very active in her Mormon ward there. Later she met a young man at her work and dated him for about two years, but because he would not accept Mormon teachings, she, 5 years ago moved to Utah. She has been a Mormon for 10 years, and during the last 2 years she has been working in the Draper LDS temple on her days off from her regular job. About two months ago she had taken some time off and visited her family in California, and met this same young man she had dated about 7 years ago, and to her surprise, he was now a born again Christian. He told Carmen about the Lord Jesus and asked her to study the Bible. She attended Calvary Chapel with this friend on that Sunday while in California. When she came back she began to read more about Mormonism on the Internet, and she came to see that it is not what she had thought that it was. She watched a few DVDs as DNA vs. the Book of Mormon, the Bible vs. the Book of Mormon and studied more about the history of the Church, and she was devastated to find out that it was all a lie. She decided to come to Calvary*

Chapel on Easter Sunday, but Easter Sunday service was moved to South Towne Center to accommodate 5000 people... it was the following Sunday, 4/7/13, that she came and just happened to sit next to us... The Lord worked a miracle in her heart through the pastor's message, and now she is a believer in the true Jesus. On the 21st of April, she called and wanted to come to our home and have Dennis help her to write her exit letter, asking that her name be removed from the Mormon Church. After it was done, she gave her temple recommend to Dennis, saying that she will not be needing it any longer! ©She informed her friend in California that she is now also a Christian. He is coming to Salt Lake City to see her in 2-3 weeks! Maybe there might be even a future for them now that they both are the Lord's own? She promised to bring him to meet us. We will be praying the Lord's direction for Carmen and for her future! God is so amazing and so good. He leads us if we invite Him to be the Lord and Leader in our lives."

P.S. to Carmen's story: She ended up marrying this former boyfriend in California. He came here and met us – he is a wonderful young man. Carmen moved back to California and she promised to translated our booklet, and her new husband, who is also Spanish speaking, helped her to get it done. We had 2 young Spanish speaking Christians here at Calvary Chapel proofread Carmen's translation and our grandson is now working to get it up on our website. God is good – all the time.

We ask God's blessings to you as we celebrate our Lord's Resurrection Day and praise Him for His love for us all.

HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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Thought for the month: "Belief without proof or evidence is faith. Belief in spite of proof or evidence is folly!"

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