



[H.I.S.] He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

HIS Ministries February 2021 Newsletter, Covering January 2021

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined." (Isa. 9:2.)

"Imagine being in a cave without a flashlight. Can you see any shadows? You cannot even see your hand! Shadows are only visible in the presence of light. Regardless of how dark, how large, how absolutely ominous a shadow appears, it is only there because there is light. David says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." Why? Because "You are with me; Your rod and Your 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 Pastor Adrian Rogers.)

When we are born again, we receive His light and we never will be in darkness again. We have received and accepted into our hearts the Gospel of God and praise the Lord for it. (1 Cor. 15:1-4). The Cross of Jesus is the foundation of the Gospel message, and when we believe in Jesus and receive Him (John 1:12-13) that brings us to our new birth, but it does not end there – we continue to learn of Him and that He is coming back to rule and reign forever over the entire earth from Jerusalem. (Luke 1:33.) Without learning and understanding that He is coming back, we have not understood the full Gospel message, for the end time prophecy is part of His gospel and what His mission was and still is. "For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy." (Rev. 19:10b.)

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

I was reading, not too long ago, one of Bill Keller's older *Liveprayer-letters*. I will use, with his permission, some of his words here, for he talked about the very things what I have been thinking also. **He related that as we get older, each passing year makes us realize how short life really is.** He said that it is only natural that we think about how we might be remembered after we are gone. The fact is that other than our family and possibly a few close friends, the memory of our life will fade quickly. Once we are gone from this life, there is very little left to remind people that we were even here. ***Some famous people may be memorialized by having a building or road named after them, others may have their memory honored by having an event named after them, but for most there will be little evidence of this life once it is over.*** He also said that he did not write this to discourage, but to challenge in regard to how we can live on long after our life here is over. **The only thing we will take from this life into eternity is our relationship with Christ, and our relationship with those whom we have led to Him.** Our works will be tested and much of what we do in this life will be ***burned up as wood, hay, and stubble.*** (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 continue. The most visible thing we leave is our children, but they too will one day die. ***What we do leave behind that will not pass away are those souls who will live for eternity because we were obedient to our Lord and led them to Him.*** However, we understand that only the Holy Spirit can lead a person to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. However, God uses us as human instruments to affect a person's life and bring them to that point. Our prayers, our kind words, our acts of charity, our unconditional love for others during our life will live on in that person who through our words and actions came to know Jesus for eternity! **The point we want you to understand is that it is never too early in life or too late in life to impact someone for eternity. It is, after all, our purpose in this**

life. Our purpose is to serve and glorify God. *Our service to God is our service to others, and it can have eternal consequences. It is our greatest legacy. It is the part of us that will live on for eternity. We live on long after we leave this life in the lives of those we touch along our journey.*

Our prayer for you is that you will take these words and meditate on them. We all go through those times in our life when we wonder what it is all about, and if it really matters. ***The answer is a resounding yes, yes, it does matter!!!*** We need to be reminded from time to time that you and I are significant if we allow God to use us in His plan and purpose to touch lives of others along our journey. We are appreciative to God that He has given us this wonderful opportunity to share the love and hope that we have in Jesus Christ and help bring people from false religion of Mormonism to His Sheepfold. We are focused now, more than ever, that the best way we can make our lives count, is in service to those the Lord allows us to meet and minister to. Our challenge to you too is to make sure you leave an eternal legacy, which will live on after your death in the lives of those the Lord allows to cross your path. If any of you reading this are not 100% sure that when your heart stops beating you will immediately and forever be with Jesus (2 Cor. 5:1-8), then please take a moment, pray that the Lord will open your heart to seek Him and receive Him, even right now. (Romans 10:9-10; John 1:1-14)

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From our mailbox: (As usual, we have received many letters from LDS people. I will pick just one example, and my answer to him.)

An LDS missionary wrote, saying: “hello, my name is ____ i am just wondering if there is any way that you can **supply** me with some of the books that you were reading from to find out all of your information. Martin Harris took the characters from the gold plates [of the Book of Mormon] to a professor and the professor said that they were true ancient characters, am i not right? if not i would like to know why you believe im not and when joseph smith said he was the only one that could read the plates. the other BoM witnesses saw the plates and the professor confirmed the characters. also where does it say that joseph smith died as a martyr because of his polygamy? Write back soon. Thank you. I would love to hear from you.” (Spelling as in his letter.)

My reply [It is quite long for I wanted to be as thorough as possible just in case I will not hear from him again...]

Thank you for your letter. I hope my answers will encourage you to do more research and consider what the facts are.

We have a quite large library in our home. Among them we have hundreds of LDS books, written by the General Authorities of the Church. For example we have the 7-volume **History of the Church** – which is **history said to be written by Joseph Smith himself**, and we also have the 6-volume **Comprehensive History of the Church**, by B.H. Roberts (GA of the Church). We have the **26-volume Journal of Discourses**, which contains *General Conference talks* of prophets and apostles of the Mormon Church from 1840’s till close to the turn of the century. We have **Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith**, and **teachings of all Mormon Prophets from beginning to the present time**. We have **Mormon Doctrine**, an encyclopedic volume of **the doctrines taught in the Mormon Church**, we also have books by early apostles of the LDS Church, like Teachings of **Orson Pratt** and Teachings of **Heber C. Kimball**, and much more. I can show them to you if you want to come and meet with us. That is the way I can “supply” the books you are asking about. We do not loan them out, but they are here for you to see and read, if you’d like. Or you can go to your local Public Library and ask if they have these books or any others you may name. If they do not have them, they may be able to order them from other Libraries “on loan”. Many libraries do that. On our website is an article about us (www.hismin.com) we refer to the LDS books we are quoting from – and most, if not all of them, can be checked out from LDS libraries or Public Libraries. The main problem we find when talking with Mormons is that *many of them have never bothered to study their own Church’s history, and thus when we point out what their own books say*, they act like they have never heard, or that they cannot believe it ...**What we say and write is documented and true! Check them out if you want to know what the truth about Mormonism is.**

We can study all that just as we all go to school and study to learn about secular history and other topics so that we will not be fooled by false information. People ought to likewise study their own religion and how it began and what it is based on rather than rely on their “feelings” that Jeremiah says are not trustworthy (Jer. 17:9) and can be even be “wicked”. Mormons rely on their “testimonies” (feelings) that more often than not, originate from “other spirits”, (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1). **The Bible warns about false spirits and false prophets, and says that we must test all things.** (1 Thess. 5:21.) It ought to be clear to all that the **Holy Spirit of God would not testify of unbiblical doctrines that are primary doctrines in Mormonism as their God being a former mortal man and men likewise becoming Gods, when the Bible**

says that **God is not a man, that there were no Gods before God nor will there be after Him** – (see Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8; Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9 etc.) **The Bible is our sure foundation for truth and the source to know who God is** (and also who He is NOT), and **who Jesus is, and how we can be saved.** (John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24; Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10.) Paul warned about **“another Jesus”, “another gospel” and “another spirit”**, in 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15 – the last 2 verses, 13-15, clarify that it is **an angel of light** (Satan) that brings false apostles and false teachings to fool those who have not studied the Bible well enough to know better. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) Paul also said (Gal. 1:8-9), that **if anyone preaches any other gospel than the gospel that he declared** (1 Cor. 15:1-4), **they will be cursed. Anything changed or added to the gospel, which is a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, makes it “another gospel.”** **The Mormon Church has added “laws and ordinances” to their “gospel”, laws that they must obey, but the Bible declares that the law cannot save anyone** (see Gal. 2:16-21), law only points out that we are not able to live 100% by it. (Gal. 3:19, 24-25). **Christ is the answer. He alone can save us.** (John 14:6.) **If we even break one of the God’s commandments we are guilty of it all.** (James 2:10.) **If you’d only read all six chapters of Galatians you will see that Mormonism is not the gospel preached by Paul.**

I will reply here to your statement you were referring to - what one of the *“witnesses of the Book of Mormon”*, Martin Harris, had said of the *characters he said were copied from the gold plates*: he said he took them to Professor Anthon. **Martin’s story is not true for at least a couple of reasons** : 1. The Book of Mormon says (Mormon 9: 32, 34) that **“none other people knoweth our language”** (=“reformed Egyptian”). By that statement alone **professor Anthon could not have said or known what Harris’ paper said.** (The fact, however, is that **there is no “reformed Egyptian” language anywhere.**) 2. The second reason is that when Martin Harris said that professor Anthon had verified the translation as *“correct”*, it was not true for **professor Anthon had publically refuted that and made a statement that he had never said anything like that to Martin Harris. He said that Martin Harris had brought to him scribbles that were not of any language at all.**

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

You also presented a question concerning *“martyrdom of Joseph Smith”*. **Joseph Smith did not die as a martyr.** He died **in a gun-fight** and he killed 2 men and wounded seriously a third one before he was shot and killed. He was in Carthage Jail with his brother Hyrum for destroying a printing press that his former counselor in his *first presidency*, William Law, owned. Wm. Law had printed the first edition of **the Nauvoo Expositor**, a newspaper that revealed Joseph Smith’s polygamy and other crimes. His promised second issue of the Expositor was going to reveal more. Among other things it was to report that Joseph Smith had tried to seduce William Law’s wife, Jane, and take her also as his polygamous wife. That caused William Law to leave Joseph Smith’s church... You may know that Joseph Smith by that time (1844) had already **“married” 11 other married women** in addition to having two 14-year old *“wives”* and dozens of other *“wives”* (about 40 total). **Polygamy was not only morally wrong and evil, but it was also illegal in Illinois, and everywhere in the USA.** Joseph Smith and other Mormon polygamists kept on denying/lying about it, but now they were caught! Arrest of Joseph Smith and his killing of two men is recorded in **the History of the Church** by John Taylor, who later became a third president of the Mormon Church (after Brigham Young). **John Taylor was in the Jail with Joseph and Hyrum during this gun-fight and when they were killed.**

If you have further questions on these or other issues, please feel free to write again to write again.

Sincerely, Rauni Higley – email: hismin@xmission.com

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We have very sad news that took place during January 2021. Two of our close Mormon friends died this Month. Kristine Stapelman died on 10th of January in Paul, Idaho, and Anu Hirst passed away in Salt Lake City just 2 days ago, on 28th of January. It is painfully sad to us because they both died as believing Mormons and are not going to heaven. They both had been witnessed to many times, beginning many, many years ago, but they refused to accept Jesus of the Bible and

instead preferred to believe in Joseph Smith's teachings that their "Jesus" was their spirit-brother, not God who became a man for our salvation, as we believe. The Mormon Church teaches that Jesus is a spirit brother of Lucifer and all mankind from preexistence, and that he later *became a god*, as they all can likewise become. We have had a long relationship with these friends - we all were active and believing Mormons. Kristine and her husband, Dan Stapelman, both have been Dennis' friends from childhood on in the Burley Idaho area. They grew up as faithful and active Mormons, and good friends. Dan was called on his LDS mission to South Africa about the same time Dennis was called on his mission to Finland. When Dennis and I were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1965, Dennis' father and Dan were the **two required witnesses** in the temple during our marriage ceremony, and Jerry Hirst, (Anu's future husband) was present as our guest there too. When Dan and Kristine were married about 1.5 year later in the Idaho Falls temple, Dennis was one of the *two witnesses* during their marriage ceremony along with Dan's father. (Dan and Kristine have seven children and many, many grandchildren.)

Anu was a friend I met in Oulu, Finland. She had joined the Mormon Church there about a year before we met. When she learned that my parents and grandparents were dead and that I did not have any siblings either, she excitedly told me how the Mormon Church can "*give me my parents back if I just join the Mormon Church and do their temple-proxy work. **That was unbelievably wonderful news to me.***" She right away introduced me to 2 Mormon missionaries (Elders Dunn and Christiansen) and since I was a totally "*biblically illiterate*" person (I didn't even own a Bible then), I was an *easy convert to Mormonism*, considering these *fantastic promises they gave me about my family's future in God's Kingdom*. So I was baptized a member of the Mormon Church!

I was living in a beautiful small condominium with my little 4-year old daughter I had adopted. I had a good job and my life was now great, so I believed. Anu soon suggested that we'd together rent another just a little larger condominium, and that I'd let her younger sister move into my little home. They both had been living with their parents, and that home was not a good place for them!! I hesitated. I was not sure... I was comfortable in my little home, but now **I was a new believer, and I should be agreeable, after all she had brought me a great hope to have my parents and grandparents "saved" and in heaven together - after I die. How can I not agree to help her?** So I relented and we moved in together. At that time Dennis and Jerry Hirst were LDS missionaries in Oulu and they helped us to make this move.

Only a few months later LDS Mission President, Malcolm Asplund, came from Helsinki to visit us and called us both to be missionaries for the Mormon Church in Finland. To stress the "holiness" of his call, he said that this call is coming from the Church's Prophet and President, David O. McKay, in Salt Lake City, Utah!! Wow! How could we not accept – it was "a call from God's Prophet"! We both accepted that call! Six months later our Mission President took us and 120 LDS missionaries to the Swiss Mormon temple where we both, Anu and I, received our own endowments and then we all did the temple-work for my parents, grandparents and my other dead relatives listed on my "*4-generation sheets*" during the 5 days *we were doing work for the dead* in an LDS Temple in Bern, Switzerland.

After my mission I, with my little daughter, came to Utah and I was employed by the Mormon Church as a translator, interpreter and language coordinator for the Finnish language. I continued to work in that position for over 14 years. Dennis and I were married in 1965. It was about 2 years later that Anu came from Oulu, Finland to visit us here. She and Jerry Hirst met again. She ended up staying – and they got married in the LDS Manti temple. Dennis was asked to be one of the two witnesses for their marriage ceremony. They even had their wedding reception at our new house we had just bought. Four of us were the best of friends from there on for many years - **until Dennis and I found and received the True Lord Jesus, and were born again and officially left the Mormon Church.** We, of course, had witnessed to them, told them about God and about Jesus – many times, but Jerry was not willing to listen, and Anu was not either about to consider what we were telling them. They have 4 children, all of them believing *Mormons*. (Their oldest son, Paul, served his LDS mission in Finland.) Jerry had a stroke and passed away about 6 years ago. The last few years Anu has been living in a Senior Center. About 1.5 months ago we heard that she was very ill, and she had moved to her son Paul's home. We went to see her there 9th of January. Paul told to us that her memory is about gone, and that she was not expected to live more than 2-3 weeks. Paul called on Friday morning (29th) letting us know that his mother, Anu, had passed away during the night of 28th of January, 2021. Our hearts are breaking **for "what could have been" if they would have been willing to receive Jesus Christ of the Bible and be saved!** The Lord Jesus is sad with us that they had rejected Him and instead accepted Joseph Smith's "another Jesus" and his "*gospel of laws and ordinances*".

That very day, Friday, Jan. 29th, an LDS lady, Mary, who is a lifelong LDS, called and came to talk with me about differences between Mormonism and Biblical Christianity. Our friend Bruce Maynes had already discussed that with her

(on Facebook), but she had cut him off and said that she is not going to “*change her religion*”. Bruce had given her my phone number. Bruce was surprised that she called me that soon and wanted to come and see me on that same day. **She had the Mormon “Quad” (4 Mormon scriptures) with her to verify if I was telling her the truth. We together looked at the Scriptures from the Bible (both KJV that the Mormon Church uses, and NKJV that I love to read). I saw her eyes light up.** We talked some more. I offered to give her a NKJV Bible *without Mormon interpretations*. She hesitated, but she called on Saturday morning and said that if I still would want to give her a NKJV Bible, she’d come right away to pick it up. She came and she agreed to start reading *with desire to learn and understand*. We agreed to start meeting together as often as possible for her to learn **how to effectively study the Bible**. Bruce has already advised her to read first **the Gospel of John**, and she is now reading it from NKJV. Praise the Lord. There is hope for her, but we know from years of experience that there also will be attacks from the enemy of our souls who is never happy when it starts to look like he is losing someone from *his program of lies*. Anyway my sad day became a much happier day. Please friends, pray for Mary and also a few others we are currently working with, so that their hearts and minds would be open to study God’s Word and receive Him personally as their Savior and LORD. (John 1:12-13; Eph. 2:8-9.)

Our Partners, we have sent (1/15/21) receipts for your gifts you gave during 2020. If you have not received yours, please let me know and I will send them again. We are very thankful for your prayers and partnership in this ministry that actually is **the Lord’s Ministry**, and is under His direction. Without your help and prayers it would be impossible for us to do what we have before us every day to do. **We love this work** of helping people to discover how much the Lord loves each and every one of them, and that if they would just start reading **His Love-letters bound together in the Bible**, written for them many thousand years ago, God’s Word would lift them up and give them peace regardless how confusing life around them seems to be.

The Lord has been good to us and given us strength to work even when we have had some hard health issues to deal with. His Word is true and we can trust in Him for everything. There have been many times when we questioned if we can manage all that was before us – but when we stopped to ask Him He solved our problems – and many times *through you, our friends and partners in His Work*. We praise Him and thank you for listening to our Lord’s promptings. He looks after us and He watches over you and sees your needs. (Phil. 4:6-7.) John, Jesus’ beloved apostle, comforts us by assuring that **when we ask anything according to His will, He hears and responds to our requests.**(1 John 5:14-14.)

Our prayer list has many names and various requests. When we mention their names in prayer, the Lord, who knows their needs, will answer according to His will, in His love for them and knowledge. We pray and ask the Lord’s mercy and grace for Aira, Al, Sandy, Don, Tom, Scott, Cynthia, Richard, Heber, Marlene, Judy, Liz, Sam, Mark and Virve.

Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6) and awareness of all people to *the closeness of God’s coming judgment of the world* for rejecting Him and going about life without acknowledging Him or His call for repentance. **“But the heaven and the earth that now exist, are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men...The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering towards us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”** (2 Peter 3:7, 9.)

May our Lord Jesus bless you and yours.

With His love,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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