



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

December 1, 2022

HIS MINISTRIES DECEMBER NEWSLETTER, COVERING NOVEMBER 2022

Thanksgiving as a holiday is now past, but our thanksgiving will continue. We thank our Lord for you, our friends and partners, and for all His many blessings to this ministry. Our praises go to Him daily. He is our Lord, He is our Provider and Master, and we want to lovingly serve Him till He comes to take us home – and that could be any day... (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) ☺

Christmas is near, and we wish you the blessed peace and joy and His presence in all of our lives as we together celebrate His birth and becoming a man for our salvation. (John 3:16.)

The very reason for our ministry, and for all Christian ministries, is to tell the message of the *incarnation of God, God becoming a man* (John 1:14), historical fact we celebrate in the month of December. Paul wrote, ***“Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*** (1 Tim. 3:16.) We stand in awe of God’s love for us. Isaiah prophesied, ***“For unto us a child is born, unto us the Son is given.”*** A child was *born into human flesh*, but *the Son was given* [not born], for He is Eternal ***God the Son***, so that we through Him may *become children of God*. ***“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.”*** (John 1:12.) To become children of God, as Jesus said, ***we must be born again to receive the Spirit of God***. (John 3:7.) This is confusing to Mormons who see all mankind, Jesus included, as ***spirit children of God from the preexistence, needing a physical birth to become like God***. However, the Bible says that we are ***first born “natural”*** (physical) and ***afterward spiritual***, i.e. by a new birth. (1 Cor. 15:46.) To us and to all believers in ***Jesus of the Bible*** the celebration of the Birth of Jesus is also a good opportunity to clear up this confusion and help Mormons to see what the Bible teaches about God, Jesus and about mankind ***as lost sinners in need of Savior***. We need to show them ***from the Word of God that we did not come from heaven as begotten sons and daughters of God***. Jesus is the Only Begotten, He alone came from heaven, we did not. (John 3:13, 31; 8:23.) Man is ***created*** by God, but only Jesus Christ is ***begotten by God who is Spirit***. (John 4:24; Matt. 1:18.) C. S. Lewis explained the difference between ***begotten and created***. He wrote: ***“We do not use ‘begetting’ or ‘begotten’ much in modern English, but we know what it means. To beget is to become a father of; to create is to make. The difference is this: When you beget, you beget something that is the same kind as yourself! Humans beget babies, beavers beget beavers, birds beget eggs which turn into birds. But when you create or make, you make something that is different from yourself. Bird makes a nest, beaver makes or builds a dam, human makes a statue that is more like himself, but really not, etc. The distinction between beget and make or create is huge. What God creates is not God, just like what human creates is not human. What God begets is God, just as what human begets is human. That is why “the only Begotten Son of God is God.”***

(Mere Christianity, p. 157, emphasis added.) We must understand the huge differences between mere humans and **the Only Begotten Son of God!** (Matt. 1:18-23.) **The Mormon Church has created “another Jesus”, who, they say, was not begotten by the Holy Ghost, but by an exalted, resurrected man, whom they call their Heavenly Father. There is no salvation in accepting or believing in a false Jesus!** Jesus Himself prayed, **“...this is life eternal, that they might KNOW Thee the Only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.”** (John 17:3.) **He compared knowing God and Him to having eternal life! Without KNOWING the Only True God and Jesus, we will not have eternal life with Him.** We are seeing that even during this month as we are to celebrate the birth of Jesus,, the purpose of His coming into our world *to save sinners* is often ignored. It seems that many think that He came to fulfill our desires to have more “things”, to boost retail sales and give people a holiday and an excuse to overindulge on fattening foods – making this a holiday that even non-Christians can celebrate. The very reason that He came is being redefined by the world, but most Christians are not noticing nor doing anything to stop that perversion. Even many preachers are presenting a “Jesus” whom all can admire as a loving teacher who advised *turning the other cheek*, and who everyone can embrace without faith in Him. This is nothing new.

This same was seen in Jerusalem during our Lord’s ministry there. They were ignorant of what the angel had said to Joseph, **“Thou shalt call His name JESUS [Jeshua]: for He shall save His people from their sins.”** (Matt. 1:21.) **They did not acknowledge that He was “Immanuel, which interpreted is, God with us.”** (Matt. 1:23.) They wanted a Messiah who would deliver them from their oppressors, **not from their sins and self.** John records that because of this, Jesus **“did not commit Himself unto them”.** (John 2:23-25.) **But He does commit Himself to those who come to Him as sinners needing a Savior and are born again, as Jesus instructed Nicodemus.** Nicodemus already believed in His miracles, and that Jesus’ teachings were from God, but he did not yet understand the new birth. (John 3:1-7.) Our Jesus is much more than a miracle working teacher of kindness and morals. **He is the One who took our sins and nailed them on to His cross when we receive Him and are born again.** (Col. 2:13-15.) Jesus warned about those who use His name, even do miracles and prophecy in His name, **but who do not personally know Him as “Immanuel, God with us”.** (Matt. 1:23.) He will have to say to them **“on that day”** (judgment day), **“I never knew you, depart from Me.”** (Matt. 7:21-23.) In our day biblical truth and **doctrine is widely despised** and **experiences and feelings without adherence to biblical guidelines is praised**, as it is in Mormonism where their own “goodness” and “good works” are glorified. Christ said, **“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”.** (Luke 5:32.) **“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:23), **“all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.”** (Isa. 64:6.) **No benefit can accrue without acknowledging our sinfulness and that Christ alone can save us.** (Acts 4:12.) **To be saved requires the realization that one is lost. We are all guilty before God. Today’s preaching lacks convicting people of sin.** Christ said that He sends the Holy Spirit to **“convince the world of sin”.** (John 16:8.) **Even some evangelical churches are joining with “good causes” and seeking commonalities with non-Christian groups, as the LDS Church, to stand with them against evils of society, while false doctrines go unnoticed and unopposed.** **The truth is that Jesus did not come to correct social ills unbelievers are involved in, nor did He ask others to do that in His name. He sent His own to preach the gospel of salvation.** (Matt. 28:19-10.) He never spoke about ills of the Roman Empire. He didn’t rebuke Caesar or Herod of their corruption, **but instead He continually rebuked religious leaders for their failings before God. We must pay attention to biblical doctrine, knowing that is why God’s Word was given to us.** (2 Tim. 3:16.) We see how the world can oppose Jesus as Savior but still embrace Him as a “great moral teacher”, as even violently anti-Christian Islam has done. **Jesus Christ is the Savior of sinners** and mankind’s only hope, as was announced at His birth. Many profess and agree with this announcement, but still allow promotion of a perverted gospel and “another Jesus”, who is not God with us. Our Christmases have become self-centered and can only appeal to the flesh. We need to turn to the pure Gospel preached

by the power of the Holy Spirit. ***“Christ was born the Savior of sinners. Our hearts overflow with gratitude that He who is God loves us so much that He was willing to be born of a virgin into the world which hated, despised, rejected, mocked, scourged and crucified Him. He is still mocked and rejected by the world and that fact breaks our hearts. But heresy mocks Him as well. It rejects Him as He really is and undermines His real purpose for coming to earth. Every Christian should be deeply offended and concerned about that serious error is being promoted not only in the world but even in seemingly sound churches and by those who are respected as evangelical leaders. It is our love for Christ in response for His love for us, and our love for the lost that He loves and for whom He suffered and died, that causes us to rebuke heresy and to earnestly contend for the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. May we remain true to Him until He takes us home.”*** (Dave Hunt, The Berean Call, Dec., 1994.) Dave Hunt and his beloved wife, Ruth, have gone home to be with the Lord, but we who are still here, need to carry on.

We would like to remind you again that it is Joseph Smith who is # 1 in importance to the Mormon Church, even at Christmas time. The late LDS President Gordon B. Hinckley, in his ***Christmas message***, titled ***“Season for Gratitude”***, devoted it to Joseph Smith. (Ensign, Dec. 1998) He began his message saying, ***“This is a season for giving and time for gratitude. We remember with appreciation the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith, which is celebrated this same month of December, two days before Christmas. How great is our debt to him. His life began in Vermont and ended in Illinois, and marvelous were the things that happened between that simple beginning and tragic ending. It was he who brought us a true knowledge of God, the Eternal Father and His risen Son, Jesus Christ. During the short time of his great vision he learned more concerning the nature of Deity than all those who through centuries has argued the matter in learned councils and scholarly forums. He brought us the marvelous Book of Mormon as another witness for the living reality of the Son of God. To him, from those who held it anciently, came the priesthood, the power, the gift, the authority, the keys to speak and act in the name of God. He gave us the organization of the Church and its sacred mission. Through him were restored the keys of the holy temples, that men and women might enter into eternal covenants with God and that the great work for the dead might be accomplished to open the way for eternal blessings.*** [Hinckley then quotes from the LDS Hymn, # 27, ***“Praise to the man”*** [written as a praise to Joseph Smith]: ***‘Great is his glory and endless his priesthood. Ever and ever the keys he will hold. Faithful and true, he will enter his kingdom, Crowned in the midst of the prophets of old.’*** He was the instrument in the hands of Almighty... ***We stand in reverence before him. He is the great prophet of this dispensation. He stands at the head of this great and mighty work which is spreading across the earth. He is our prophet, our revelator, our seer, our friend. Let us not forget him. Let not his memory be forgotten in the celebration of Christmas. God be thanked for the Prophet Joseph Smith.*** [Hinckley continues, as if an afterthought] ***Now, what a wonderful season this is, this Christmas season. All the Christian world, while not understanding what we understand, pauses for a moment and remembers with gratitude the birth of the Son of God...*** (Emphasis added.) [Notice the order of importance of Christmas celebrations in the LDS Church: ***first Joseph Smith’s birth, after that Jesus’.***] [Our friend, the late Will Grigg, named this a ***“Smithmas message”***.] ***“Prophet”*** Hinckley’s Christmas message clearly presents the heresy we, and other ministries to Mormons are exposing. These men are leading, and continue to lead, millions upon millions to eternal destruction. (See: Isa. 9:15b,16.) We all who know and understand the debts of this deception need to urgently and lovingly show them ***who the True Jesus is – and who He is not.*** There is ***“no salvation is any other – there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*** (Acts. 4:12; John 14:6; 17:3.)

During 2022 (see our January through May newsletters), we have written more about the video series, ***“The Chosen”***, the story said to be of an ***authentic-Jesus***, and was produced by a Mormon owned production company in Utah. It has

become a popular movie shown in many Christian Churches, in some of them even weekly – and with popcorn! Many Christians and even their pastors have not realized that this video series is presenting “another Jesus”, the “Mormon-Jesus”, who (as is taught in Mormonism) *is a spirit-brother of Lucifer, who had contested to become a Savior of the World.* (See: Gospel Through Ages, p. 15.) There is now “*The Chosen Christmas Special*” about which a Mormon Executive producer, Brad Pelo stated how he loves the fact “*The Chosen*” *is bringing different faiths and communities together with our celebration, our worship, and our faith*”. According to the Bible, we should not be yoked together with unbelievers in spiritual matters, especially about Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 6:14-15.)

We listened to pastor J.D. Farag’s brief presentation on how we can best bring people to faith in Jesus and thus to salvation. He calls it “ABC’s of the Gospel”. We need to ask people if they know that they are sinners? Then present to them Jesus Christ, God who became a man, and He died to save us from our sins. (Jon 3:16.) Then we ask if they want to call on His name and be saved. If they say yes, then they call on His name: and **that is it!** [A= admitting that I am a sinner. B=believing in Jesus’ name. C= calling on His name for salvation.] We all can do that, can we not? **Life is short, eternity is endless.** If we are observing what is happening in the world, we can see that we must be getting very close to “the end time”. There is no time to waste. “*Today is the Day of Salvation,*” says Hebrews 3:15. **Tomorrow is not promised to anyone.**

This Newsletter is our last Newsletter of the year 2022. We do not know if there is going to be even next year for us – or anyone, really. We were going through our memory-lane this morning, thinking about how literally our little ministry has been “***HIS MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL***”, as we named it when we received the call, in 1984. We did not know *what the Lord God had prepared for us* and how far this little 2-person ministry has been able to reach, operating from our home, but it all has been of God. God has shown that He indeed is everywhere present, and *He can reach anyone, anywhere,* and arrange for us contact with those Mormons who *He is calling to be saved by His grace alone.*

We have been blessed to present the *convicting Word of God* to Mormons not only across America, but also in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in Scotland, in England, in Australia, in Africa (Uganda), in Finland, in Sweden, in France, all along working from our home. Many Mormons, after finding the Truth about the Gospel and Jesus, have, over the years, even travelled to Utah to meet us and thanked us, although it was all from the Lord. We have had people visiting us from Australia, Uganda Africa, Northern Ireland, France, from Finland and Sweden and from many states, across the USA. There are many more who have said that they have wanted to come and meet us, but we may not be able to see them in person until we meet them at *the Lord’s appearing* (1 Thess. 4:13-18) or in *the Lord’s Mansions* (John 14:1-3.) So much more to look forward to! Our life has been amazing, hard and challenging, but all along blessed by the Lord.

Not to compare ourselves to Paul, although we can identify with him, for Paul, being a faithful Jew “*had advanced in Judaism beyond his contemporaries*” and said that it was “*God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace.*” (Gal. 1:14-15.) We feel like Paul who wrote, “*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus....who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*” (1 Tim. 1:12-15.) We too, during our lives as *devout Mormons*, were as zealous for Mormonism as Paul was for Judaism, even *persecuting Christians*, so we too were zealously working against God of the Bible, *eagerly learning to know all we could about the LDS history and beliefs in order to promote it more.* All that actually became beneficial for our work when God later called us to His Ministry. From all that we know that we too *had been separated by God early on to*

become more able to do work for Him. God knows the end from beginning, and He directs all who are willing to serve. Your past does not hinder God working in our future. God uses the most unlikely people (like us) to do His work.

We have been a self-supporting ministry since 1984. Both of us have been all along working outside of the ministry in order to earn our living. It was 20 years later (in 2004) when we finally applied to become “501 (3) Ministry” so that we can give tax-receipts for gifts/donations to those who believe that our ministry is worthy of their help. [We do not make appeals for financial support, but we accept freewill donations.] [It was in 2013 when I stopped my work as RE-Broker, for it had become a bit too much for me to *work full time* in both, in RE and in Ministry. Just this summer Dennis “semi-retired” from his carpentry-work to do more with me in the Ministry, but he still helps many older clients when needed.]

Please pray with us for those who have asked for prayer – some for health, some for other unspoken trials. Again, we only list their names, for our Lord knows their troubles and He answers directly to them. (1 John 5:14-15.) They are: Sandy, Judy, Al, Lisa, Suzi, Mary, Heber, Richard, Sharon, Mark, Virve, Marlene, Eeva-Liisa, Mika, Jamie, and few others who needed prayer, but didn’t want to give their names.

Please pray with us that we can find ways to witness to our family and friends who already have heard the Gospel, but have rejected the Lord’s plea for receiving Him, that was given to them.

We are in need for guidance from the Lord on how to heal the broken relationships. We are still heart-broken for the loss of our dear daughter, Minna, though we know that she is at peace and well for she is now with our Lord. None of these important holidays as Thanksgiving and Christmas, are the same without her – she was always been the one who made sure that everyone was taken care of and that we had time nice together as a family. She is deeply missed by us all!

We wish you Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year, 2023

With the Love of Christ,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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