



June, 2023

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

HIS Ministries June 2023 Newsletter, covering May 2023

Today, May 28th, 2023, as I am typing this June Newsletter, we are celebrating *Pentecost, the Birth of the Church* that took place *50 days after the Feast of the First Fruits*, when Jesus, our great High Priest, had risen from the dead, having given His body and blood as a payment for sin, and redemption to all who put their trust in Him. On that day (30 AD) God sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) as a down payment of His covenant to His Church as He had done with Israel on *Shavuot (the Feast of the Weeks (Lev. 23:15-16), which was 50 days after Israelites had left from Egyptian bondage (1446 BC)* and when God, atop of a mountain in the Sinai Desert, wrote by His hand on the stone tablet His covenant with Israel. Now, on Pentecost, in Jerusalem, Israel, God sent His Holy Spirit to write His covenant on the hearts of believers, as was prophesied in Jer. 31:31-33 and in Ezek. 36:26-27. God's presence was visibly demonstrated to Israel on Mt. Sinai (see Ex.19) by *thundering and lightning*, and coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was demonstrated by *"a rushing mighty wind and fire"* (Acts 2:1-3). What YHVH did were as *"down payments"* of the prophesies to be fulfilled, recorded by Jeremiah and Ezekiel. All God's Feasts, recorded in Leviticus 23, are to be remembered by His people, both Israel and the Church.

In our March 2023 newsletter we had attempted to explain why many Christians feel confused when they try to talk to Mormons *about God, Jesus Christ of the Bible and the Gospel*; for Mormons do not seem to understand why we insist that there are huge doctrinal differences in spite of familiar words and terms we both use. **It is because what Mormons have been taught about God, and about who Jesus is, but they do not agree with what the Bible teaches about the Godhead.**

We are continuing here, explaining again that Mormonism differs from Christianity because their teachings about God, Jesus and salvation are not based on the Bible, but on the teachings of Joseph Smith. True knowledge of salvation can come only from the One True God. As Jesus said (John 17:3) *"This is eternal life, that they might know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."* Clearly in order to gain eternal life (salvation) we must know *the only true God*, and His Son, Jesus Christ, who alone *is the Way, the Truth and the Life.* (John 14:6.) We must seek God in humility and humble ourselves before Him and believe what He has said that the Gospel is. His Gospel is defined and declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. It is a message of what God has done for those who come to Him in faith. When Jesus was asked, *"What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"* He answered: *"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him, whom He sent."* (John 6:28-29.) God will freely give *His gift of salvation* to those who believe and then ask Him. God of the Bible says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9.) But Mormonism teaches, *"... it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do."* (2 Nephi 25:23.) That *"grace"* will never come to fruition, for *no one has ever done all that they could have done.*

Let us compare these teachings: The Bible teaches of a Triune God, who is a Spirit Being, "from everlasting to everlasting He is God." God has existed forever as three co-equal Eternal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God the Son became a man to provide salvation to all who receive Him by faith and are born again (John 1:12; 3:7) and by that new birth "become sons of God". (John 1:12; Eph. 2:8-9.) Since salvation is the Gift of God, there is

nothing we can do to receive it except believe with our whole heart. The price for the Gift of salvation has been paid by God Himself. (Please read what Paul further wrote about this in his letter to the Romans 3:24-28; 4:4-5.)

In contrast to the God of the Bible, the God of Mormonism is but a mere former mortal man, who is married and even a polygamist, who, after his death had progressed, with his wives, into godhood. The Mormon Church teaches that all mankind and angels are spirit children of their god, born to him and his many wives on another planet– Jesus being the eldest among the billions of sons of this “god”. These Mormon concepts of God and Jesus are totally and completely different from the Bible. They are just later inventions of Joseph Smith and thus not found in the Book of Mormon either.

Salvation in Mormonism is another invention of Joseph Smith, and after him even *added upon* by later leaders of his church. They teach that their “*elder brother, Jesus*”, atoned Adam’s transgression in the Garden of Gethsemane, but forgiveness of mankind’s personal sin is “*conditional*” and based on his “*obedience to the laws and ordinances of “the [LDS] Gospel”*” (3rd Article of Faith), i.e. God’s grace will not be applicable until after they have done all they could do. (2 Ne.25:23.) (Compare that to Gal. 3:10 and James 2:10 say about works.)

An LDS pamphlet, titled, “*What the Mormons Think Of Christ*” says, “*Christians often speak of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one’s salvation...many believe or pretend to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept him as our personal Savior, we are thereby saved. They say that his blood, without any other act than mere belief, makes us clean. What is the true doctrine of the blood of Christ? Salvation comes because of the atonement and the atonement was wrought through shedding of the blood of Christ. In Gethsemane Christ sweat great drops of blood from every pore when he conditionally took upon himself the sins of the world, and then shedding of his blood was completed on the cross.*” (Emphasis added.) Note that the Mormon Church teaches that the atonement took place in Gethsemane. (The LDS church does not refer to the cross of Christ as a symbol of faith in what took place on that cross - nor do they preach the cross. Paul said, “*For the message of the cross (KJV –“preaching of the cross” -) is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*” (1 Cor. 1:18.) Paul reminds us that “*the rulers of this age*” (meaning the demonic powers and the religious leaders under the influence of these powers) did not know the saving power of the cross of Christ beforehand, “for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1 Cor. 2:8.)

The Mormon Church has refuted the clear biblical teaching of *salvation by grace alone* and says, “*One of the untrue doctrines found in Christendom is the concept that man can gain salvation (in the kingdom of God) by grace alone and without obedience. This soul-destroying doctrine has the obvious effect of lessening the determination of an individual to conform to all the laws and ordinances of the gospel.*” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 671.) [Note: *The Gospel* is declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4 as *God’s message of salvation.* There are no laws or ordinances of any kind in the biblical Gospel.]

The word “salvation” itself has various meanings in Mormonism. They teach:

1. “Unconditional or general salvation is that which comes by grace alone without obedience to gospel law, consists in the mere fact of being resurrected. In this sense salvation is synonymous with immortality...This kind of salvation eventually will come to all mankind, excepting only the sons of perdition...They are resurrected, but they are not redeemed from the devil... Those who gain only this general or unconditional salvation... will still be judged according to their works and receive their places in a terrestrial or a telestial kingdom. They will, therefore, be damned...”

2. Conditional or individual salvation, that which comes by grace coupled with gospel obedience, consists in receiving an inheritance in the celestial kingdom of God. This kind of salvation follows faith, repentance, baptism, receipt of the Holy Ghost, and continued righteousness to the end of one’s mortal probation. (D&C 20:29; 2 Nephi 9:23-24.) All others are damned...even those in the celestial kingdom, however, who do not go on to exaltation, will have immortality only and not eternal life...they will be ‘ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an

exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory.' They will live 'separately and singly' in an unmarried state without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity.' (D&C 132:16-17.)

3. "Salvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation or eternal life and consists in gaining an inheritance in the highest of the three heavens within the celestial kingdom... it is the salvation which the saints seek. It is of this which the Lord says, 'There is no greater gift than the gift of salvation'. (D&C 6:13.) This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity, and those who obtain it are gods. (D&C 131:1-4; 132.) Full salvation is attained by virtue of knowledge, truth, righteousness, and all true principles. Many conditions must exist in order to make such a salvation available to men. Without the atonement, the (LDS) gospel, the priesthood, and the sealing power, there would be no salvation. Without continuous revelation, the ministering of angels, the working of miracles, and prevalence of gifts of the spirit, there would be no salvation. If it had not been for Joseph Smith and restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 669-671, emphasis added.)

Not only does the Mormon Church claim that without Joseph Smith there would be no salvation, they also claim that a current living Mormon prophet, "the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds the keys of salvation for all men now living." (Mormon Doctrine, p.411.)

What does the Mormon Church's teach about hell and who will end up there?

"That part of the spirit world inhabited by wicked spirits who are waiting the eventual day of their resurrection is called hell. Between their death and resurrection, these souls of the wicked are cast out into outer darkness...into hell... Hell will have an end...After their resurrection, the great majority of those who have suffered in hell will pass into the telestial kingdom; the balance, cursed as sons of perdition, will be consigned to partake of endless wo with the devil and his angels. Speaking of the telestial kingdom the Lord says, 'These are they who are thrust down to hell. These are they who shall not be redeemed until the last resurrection...until fullness of times.'(D&C 76:84-85;106) ...Statements about everlasting and endless hell are to be interpreted in the same sense as those about eternal and endless punishment (what they mean is that it is only called 'endless or eternal' because it is God's punishment - but that it will, nevertheless, end). 'Who will go to hell?... Among them are sorcerers, adulterers, whoremongers...Such is also a fate of liars, of all those who preach false doctrines, of those who believe the damnable doctrine of infant baptism...'The sectarian world are going to hell by hundreds, by thousands and by millions', the prophet [Joseph Smith] said.' (History of the Church, vol. 5, p. 554.)...Speaking of this hell...those going to telestial kingdom have come out of their hell...Thus, for those who are heirs of some salvation, which includes all except sons of perdition, hell has an end."
(Mormon Doctrine, pp. 349-351. Emphasis added.)

However, the Book of Mormon teaches of an everlasting hell (Jacob 3:11; Alma 5:7) and says that it is the devil who "lulls them into carnal security" and says, "all is well in Zion... and others he flatters away telling them that there is no hell." (2 Nephi 28:21-25).

Joseph Smith, perhaps to comfort his followers who were fearful about hell, assured them with these words, "I see no faults in the Church, and therefore let me be resurrected with the Saints, whether I ascend to heaven or descend to hell, or go to any other place...and IF we go to hell, we will turn the devils out of doors and make a heaven of it. Where this people are, there is good society. What do we care where we are, if the society is good?" (History of the Church, vol. 5, p. 517. Emphasis added.)

Joseph Smith is claimed by the LDS Church to be absolutely necessary for everyone's salvation.

The Mormon Church's second president and prophet, Brigham Young, elevated Joseph Smith into the position of the "President of Resurrection". Brigham Young said, "How are you going to get your resurrection? You will get it by the President of resurrection, and that is Joseph Smith, Jun. Hear it all ye ends of the earth; if you ever enter the kingdom of God it is because Joseph Smith let you go there. This will apply to the Jews and Gentiles, to the bond, and the free; to friends and foes; no man or woman in this generation will get a resurrection and be crowned without Joseph Smith saying so. The man who was martyred in Carthage Jail, State of Illinois, holds the keys of life and death to this dispensation..." (Quoted from "The Essential Brigham Young", Eugene E. Campbell, p. 99, emphasis added.)

To focus on this matter again, in June 1994, LDS Church's official magazine, *Ensign*, had an article by BYU Religion professor Robert L. Millet, who quoted Brigham Young's words, "From the day that the priesthood was taken from the earth to the winding up things of things, every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are - I with you and you with me. I cannot go there without his consent." (Emphasis added. This is also found in the Journal of Discourses, vol. 7:289, and further stressed in the LDS Church's 1984 manual, "Search These Commandments", p. 133.)

In March 17th, 2001, the *LDS Church News* stated, "Joseph Smith was a prophet, and all calumny and aspirations to the contrary cannot controvert that fact. Anyone who has concern for the welfare of his eternal soul should give attention to this message. Every man who has lived since the days of Joseph Smith is subject to accepting him as a prophet of God in order to enter into our Heavenly Father's presence."

Joseph Smith himself has boasted, "I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet." (History of the Church, vol. 6:408-409. Emphasis added.)

Here we see the ultimate impossibility offered to Mormons: Not only do they have a God who is not God at all, and Jesus who is not the true Jesus of the Bible, and even the "grace" offered to them will not apply until they have done all they can do! (2 Ne. 25:23.) This "grace" is null and void from the start! Think about it: Is there anyone who has ever done all they could have done even during one day of their lives? And then, if they have repented, asked and thought that they have received forgiveness of their sins, but if they sin again, "shall their former sins return" (D&C 82:7), says Joseph Smith's revelation. Mormonism in its doctrinal teachings requires perfection, which is impossible for any person.

President Joseph Fielding Smith wrote, "Those who gain exaltation in the celestial kingdom are those who are members of the Church of the Firstborn; in other words, those who keep all the commandments of the Lord...The higher ordinances in the temple of God pertain to exaltation in the celestial kingdom...In order to receive this blessing, one must keep the full law, must abide the law by which that kingdom is governed..." (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2:41-42. Emphasis added.) Our Lord's brother James wrote of the impossibility of salvation by the law when he said, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (James 2:10.) Paul warned, "Do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the laws, then Christ died in vain." (Gal. 2:21.)

[The late President Gordon B. Hinckley had said that there are teachings in the Mormon Church that can be learned only in their temples, which are the places where Mormons are prepared to become gods and goddesses. It is only in the temples that they can learn the secrets of Mormonism that prepare them for exaltation, which means godhood. Those Mormons who have not received their temple-endowments and have not got married in a temple, cannot even think on going to the celestial kingdom. Mormon temples are only for their "worthy members", as is their celestial kingdom.]

The Bible is clear: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, "The just shall live by faith". Yet the law is not of faith, but 'The man that does them shall live by them'. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become curse for us." (Gal. 3:10-13.) [In order to reason with Mormons and witness about law vs. grace - we must know Paul's letter to Galatians.]

Jesus came to save sinners. "I am not come to call righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Matt. 9:13.) Who are these sinners that Jesus came to call? All of us. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23.) We are saved by God's gift of grace through faith so that no one can boast. (Eph. 2:8-9.) Then how do we come to the saving faith of God? Paul answered that in Romans 10:17, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." "HIS WORD IS TRUTH". (John 17:17.) There are no laws or ordinances in the gospel of God. What the Gospel is, is declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. Paul said, "I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, and in which you stand; by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached unto you... For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried,

and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” That is the gospel. The Gospel is a message of good news that changes lives. (Eph. 2:8-10) Paul warned about those who bring “another gospel”. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) He warned that changing the gospel in any way makes it “another gospel” that brings God’s curse on those who preach it or accept it. (Gal. 1:6-9.) Paul wrote, “But even if we, or **an angel** from heaven [Moroni?], preach **any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**. As we have said before, so now I say I again, **if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.**” (Gal. 1:8-9.) Paul continued, “...a man is **not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, **that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified...I am crucified with Christ: it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.**” (Gal. 2:16, 20-21.) Salvation is the gift of God to anyone who asks and puts their faith and trust in Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). Romans 10:9-10 says, “**If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.**”

We say with Paul that our “**heart’s desire and prayer to God for [Mormons] is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believes.**” (Romans 10:1-4).

Excerpts from questions received from an LDS man, who wrote: “I have read your account of leaving the Mormon Church, but I do not get why you left – for all your service in the Church and your extensive knowledge of it? How could that happen? Maybe you didn’t have a genuine conversion to Mormonism by experiencing God when you first joined it? Why did God want you to leave it and become a Protestant who do not believe that God speaks to people any longer as Mormons believe? Why did you not become a Catholic or atheists as most people become when they leave Mormonism?”

My response: You asked if my conversion to Mormonism was genuine and if I had experienced God before I joined it? I was an average Lutheran in Finland as most Finns who are born in Finland are. That is how people are registered there – they are Lutherans “automatically” unless they request to be registered elsewhere. When I met the Mormon missionaries I didn’t know much about the Bible, actually I didn’t even have a Bible. I had no idea *how to experience God*, you talk about, but the missionaries had told me that all I needed to is to pray to God and ask if Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and if the Book of Mormon, and what they were telling me about Mormonism, was true. They said *that if I prayed sincerely, I would receive a good feeling or “burning in my bosom”, and that would be an answer from God that it was all true.* I didn’t know then what **the Bible teaches and that God does not ask people to pray about books or prophet to find out if they were true. However, since I felt good after praying, the missionaries interpreted that as an answer from God to me that what I had asked about the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith and the Church was indeed true.**

Since I didn’t have living parents, grandparents or family, I was mostly interested in the “*work for the dead-teaching*” and assurance *that if I became a Mormon, I could have their baptisms and other needed work done in a Mormon temple so that I could have my family in heaven when I get there. Sounded good to me!* **In three weeks after I had started my conversations with the LDS missionaries, I was baptized into the Mormon Church. I trusted them and believed all that they had told me about Joseph Smith and the Church was true. Nine months after becoming a Mormon, I received a call to serve as a missionary in my own country, Finland.** I continued to study the LDS scriptures, and my understanding of the Bible was instructed to be what Mormonism taught about it. As an LDS missionary now, I believed and was teaching others to believe what I was taught. After my mission was over, I moved to Utah and was immediately hired by the LDS Church to be their full time translator and interpreter of their doctrine to my countrymen. I considered that all Mormons were my eternal family, for I didn’t have any other. Dennis and I were married in the SL Mormon Temple, and together we faithfully served the Mormon Church and raised our 3 children in it. My translation work (14+ years) involved a lot of study and research so that I could correctly interpret the Church’s history and teachings. To understand LDS teaching in the light of the Bible, our personal Bible-studies began to open our minds and hearts to see that Mormonism is not biblical, not according to the Word of God. It was disturbing to me and life-changing to both

of us. **I can say now that had I known the Bible before I became a Mormon, I would never have joined the Mormon Church.** I found out that *the God of the Bible commands everyone to STUDY* (not just pray) (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16) *in order to KNOW what the true doctrine of God is, and to question everything presented as from God, and to test all things by the Word of God, the Bible* (1 Thess. 5:21), including our feelings and spirit-impressions. (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.)

Though I had made a huge mistake by joining the Mormon Church, I now know that all our powerful God can make even our mistakes *work for good* after we come to know Him, repent and love and follow Him. Romans 8:28 tells that though we both, Dennis and I, had erroneously believed, served and zealously defended Mormonism, **God can make our experiences and knowledge of what we had learned, *work for good* for us and others we meet and come to know.**

What happened to us after we learned that Mormonism was a lie, that was not good. When we let people know why we separated ourselves from Mormonism, we lost everything that was important to us, not just materially, as our home and properties, but also our friends and family that are LDS. We offered to tell them why we did this so that they also would know the Truth, but they didn't want to know! We suffered greatly but what we received from the Lord is worth it. We learned that whatever difficulties God permitted to come into our lives, was for our good, designed by Him to make us what he had planned us to become. We know that bad that happened to us was not "bad luck or fate", but was part of testing that God allowed us to go through for our testimony of God's faithfulness and love. The Lord heard our cry and He took over our lives. God does not make mistakes! All this has been for good. We thank Him for His wisdom and foreknowledge and His direction to us (even while we were still in unbelief) that enabled us to be prepared to work in His ministry to Mormons He was calling us to do. When we were Mormons, we were *true Mormons, earnestly believing all of it*. As I worked for the LDS Church (over 14 years) I learned, saw and experienced things that "*only true and trusted LDS believer was allowed to see and participate in*", things that would not have been possible for me to learn anywhere else. I praise the Lord for all that now for I can speak of what I know. We see in apostle Paul's life similar training that prepared and enabled him to do the work God was going to call him to do. Paul was against Christians just as we were as Mormons. Paul wrote to Timothy about that and said, "*I thank Christ Jesus who has enabled me...although I was formerly an blasphemer and a persecutor... but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief...*" (1 Tim. 1:12-17.) Paul (Saul) was, a "*Pharisee of Pharisees*", one of the most learned among them, and had lived "*according to the strictest sects of Judaism*" (Acts 26:4-6), and learned under Judaism's best teacher, Gamaliel. (Acts 5:34; 22:1-8.)

I studied Mormonism over 14 years in their headquarters, following the leaders, working among them and with them, until the Lord "*woke me up*" and I was able to see the truth and desired to make a change! It happened to me and to us both in God's timing. Many have asked me, "*Why did you stay there that long?*" God only knows. Why did it take that long for Saul to become Paul? He was a faithful and trusted Pharisee, persecuting Christians to death. Saul (Paul) was witnessing and approving Stephen's stoning (Acts 8:1-3; Ch. 7). Acts 22 and 23 tells how a faithful Jew, Saul, became a Christ-following apostle Paul. (Gal. 1:11-19.) We see that after his conversion, Paul was led by the Lord to Arabia - for 3-year-training before he went to Jerusalem. [Other apostles had also been with Jesus 3 years before He sent them to preach.] (Acts 1:8.)

You assumed that after Mormonism Dennis and I had joined a *Protestant religion*. We did not. Actually we have not become part of any "religion" – we are just members of "*the Body of Christ*". (See Col. 1:18,24.)

We do believe that *God speaks to His people, but not audibly*. When we read from His Word the Bible, *He speaks to us*.

The Bible is His Word. (2 Tim. 3:16.)

I am sorry that my answer is so long – I just wanted you to know that we were faithful Mormons until we had studied the Bible seriously, reading all the books of the Bible in context. The Bible is the only book of God and **it is the Truth**. (John 17:17.) If you have further questions, please email me and I promise to answer. May the Lord open your heart too to receive Him and His Truth that is available to all.

We want to thank you, our friends, who faithfully pray for us and some of you even support our small ministry in many ways. We thank the Lord for each one of you, and ask His blessings for you.

Our ministry continues to be busy and it assures us that we are still needed! ☺ We thank the Lord for that.

We are getting calls and emails from former Mormons who are asking doctrinal questions they never got answers to from the LDS Church. They are thanking us for our newsletters, saying that they have found answers to their many questions through them. That makes us glad. They are seeing that Mormonism is not Christianity. Now they have a

choice to make. We have recently had long meetings with “*soon-to-be-former-Mormons*” and we ask that you’d pray with us for them that they’d have courage and strength to take *that step* to freedom and future in Christ Jesus.

Please continue to pray for Judy. She is home now but she still has a lot of pain from her broken ankle. It was x-rayed a couple of weeks ago, and her doctor could hardly believe what he saw: there is a new bone growing where it was broken! That had to be God doing it! We are asking that her spirit will stay hopeful and happy regardless of the pain.

Pastor Phil Foard’s wife, Lois, had back surgery 10 days ago and she still has more pain than she should have. She has to take now even stronger pain medicine and it is making her very sick. Please pray that she will get better soon. Please keep also Marlene, Bruce, Mark & Virve, Dave B., Al, Sandy, Jamie, Luke, McKenzie, Aira, Heber, Sharon, Lisa and Suzi in your prayers. (We received a word that Justin and Jake you and us have been praying for, are doing better now. We thank the Lord for that!)

We rely in the promises of our Lord givens to us in 1 John 5:14-15. He does hear and answer us as we pray according to His will.

We ask that you will continue to pray with us for those who have not yet responded to the Lord’s call for them to be saved. Some of them are members of our family and some are our old friends we love dearly. It saddens our hearts that we will not see any of them after our life here is over unless they come to the Lord and are saved. God is pleading for them that they would let Him change their hearts and minds while there is still time. “... *times of ignorance God* [has] *overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.*” (Acts 17:30.)

Our hearts have been very heavy during this last month. Mother’s Day was the 14th of May, and just yesterday, 29th of May, was **Minna’s Birthday**. She was here with us just a year ago to celebrate *the Mother’s Day* and her Birthday two weeks later. She went home to our Lord on the 12th of June 2022. (2 Cor. 5:7-8.) **We miss her and we love her very, very much!**

We wish you a happy summer and time to do what is pleasing to you for rest and relaxation. We are thinking on that too. When? **To be determined, depending on our health and finances.** Dennis has knee problems and traveling and even getting our old trailer ready for camping might be too hard for him to take care of now. [We still have our 20-year old camper-trailer ☺, that has not been used now for almost 4 years because of my back problems and surgery etc. It has been under a cover and is in excellent condition, but diesel is very expensive (nearly 6 dollars per gallon now), so we could not plan any longer trips, but there are some nice wilderness places, not too far away, so we are considering these for *resting in God’s country*.

God bless you and yours! We pray for you and your health and happiness.

With the Love of Jesus,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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