



**He Is Savior, Acts 4:12*

September, 2024

HIS Ministries September 2024 Newsletter, covering summer of 2024

“Our time is running out. Witnessing is our earthly duty and privilege. We will not be witnessing in heaven. None of us knows how many hours, days, months or years we have left. We must seize the golden opportunities that God gives us even daily to tell others about Jesus Christ and His Word, the Bible.”

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Tim. 3:16.) The Word of God is given to us so that **we can know truth**. We must study the Bible thoroughly so that we will not end up ashamed (2 Tim. 2:15) as we both, Dennis and I did after we learned that we had been deceived and that we had followed false prophets and teachers into believing in “another Jesus”, “another gospel” and lived under the influence of “another (demonic) spirit”. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15). We had believed Joseph Smith’s claims against the Bible (when he was saying that it is not correctly translated and it has books missing), therefore we had not studied the Bible carefully and thus we did not know the truth about God.

No one is born a Christian and for that reason Jesus said that we ***MUST be born again***. (John 3:3,7.) **We are NOT God’s children** (Rom. 9:8) as most think, **but only Adam’s posterity UNTIL we believe and receive the true Jesus and are born again**. (John 1:12-13; 3:3, 7.) ***Some of us have come into the new life in Jesus through a very difficult road. Thus we can identify with Paul who said, “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me... putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man: but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief... This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”*** (1 Tim. 1:12-13, 15.) We too had blasphemed the true God by believing and worshipping false gods of Mormonism, accepting “another gospel” and “another Jesus” and even convincing others to do the same. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15). We are ashamed of all that we then did, but we can also say that we too did it ***ignorantly, in unbelief of God’s Truth***.

To be able to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ, we need to be able to prove by **the Word of God** who Jesus is, and *what is acceptable to the Lord*. (Eph. 5:8-10.) Now that we know Him, we must warn others just as **Paul warned as he was writing to Timothy** that in “***latter times***” (times we are in now) many will “***give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons***”. Paul urged Timothy to “...***give attention to reading, to exhortation, to teaching ...and meditating on these things, take heed to yourself and to the doctrine...***” (1 Tim. 4:1,13-16.) When we were still Mormons, our beliefs and **testimonies of the Book of Mormon and other LDS scriptures** and of the **temple-work for the dead** etc. had come to us “***through spirit-confirmation***” through our ***feelings that***

we were told would reveal the truth. Who are these “spirits” that give these feelings? *They are demonic spirits, for the Holy Spirit of God would never give to anyone feelings those teachings that are against the Word of God, the Bible, are true!* Mormons and members of many other pseudo-Christian cults and New Age also “testify” of spirits that have confirmed their beliefs and many of them have said that “in time” they will receive their own spirit guides who will then direct them. We know many Mormons who have told us about visions of the dead they have seen while doing temple-work for the dead. Many Mormons have also told about their dead family members coming to visit them from the spirit world and even giving them encouraging messages.

When there is a death in a family, we often receive letters or calls asking where we think they are now. It is interesting that even those who have no faith in God or Jesus, don’t seem to believe that their friends or relatives who died do not exist anymore...They seem to believe that *they are still around*, somewhere. Also when they talk about their *passed* loved ones, they often say that *they are watching us “from above”, and smiling!* They seem to believe that every one of them is happy and “saved”, wherever they now are. We are often asked, is it possible to know what happens after death, and also to know how we can be assured that we will go to heaven – and if we do not go to heaven, where then will we go?

Yes, it is possible to know that, but only if we read and study the *Bible, the Word of God*, He has given to us. The entire Bible is *the Book of God*, and its Divine Author is the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the main subject of the entire Bible. (John 1:1-4,14; Col. 1:15-17; 2:9.) *He is God the Word*, who became a man to show us God (Col. 1:15-17; 2:9) and His love for mankind, and provide salvation to all who will receive Him. (John 3:16.) The Bible is often said to be *just a Jewish Book*, for it was *written by the Jews and for the Jews first* (Rom. 1:16b) for they are *God’s Chosen nation, chosen so that they would teach about God to all nations of the world saying that the Bible is all about Jesus, the Jewish Messiah and Redeemer of the world.* (John 17:3.) *“The New Testament is in the Old Testament contained; The Old Testament is in the New Testament explained.”* Therefore both Old and the New Testaments are necessary for everyone to know in order to better understand the Bible.

Hebrews 9:27 tells us that we must be aware that all people, good or bad, die. *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement.”* We all have an appointment with God, but we do not know when that *appointed time* is. This tells that we only have one life to live and prepare ourselves to meet God who will then judge us. (No reincarnation, no second chance. *This life we are in now is it.*)

The Mormon Church adamantly teaches that it is “the only true Church on the face of the earth”, Adding, “If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 669-670; Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2, pp. 1-350.)

Because the Mormon Church (organized in 1830) is a relatively young church, this teaching has created questions about those who had lived and died without ever even hearing or knowing anything about “*Joseph Smith and his restoration*”. *How can they then be saved if they did not even know about Joseph Smith?* It was not until 12 year later when this question was answered. In September 1842 Joseph Smith informed them that *without the baptism of the dead*, even the living Mormons could not be saved? (See D&C 128:15,18 and v. 20 where *the devil appeared as an angel of light*; see also 2 Cor. 11:14.) From that time on the Mormon Church began to teach that *all who have died as non-LDS have to be baptized by proxy in a Mormon Temple. Only after a proxy baptism, the dead will be able to go to at least the lowest of the three heavens.* [However, there are two higher heavenly kingdoms available for the dead also if all the rest of the ordinance work for them is completed in a temple.]

All Mormons are urged to be diligent in their genealogy work and collect names for the work for the dead to be performed in their temples.

During LDS funerals, attending mourners are told that many of them have died young because they were needed in the Spirit World to “preach the gospel in there to those who were not members of the Church while they were alive”. [We ought to suggest reading Luke 16:19-31. Verse 26 informs that *there is gulf fixed that is*

impossible to gross over. That would prevent them from going and doing any imaginary “mission-work to the dead in the spirit-world”. [That negates the entire *Mormon-plan of salvation for the dead!*]

The Bible teaches that only God’s gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ can save us and take us to Heaven. (Eph. 2:8-9.) Many ask, *what is the grace of God?* It is God’s unmerited favor, and the Gift of God. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** (John 3:16.) God created Adam in His own spiritual likeness for **God is Spirit!** (John 4:24.) **God is a Triune God** (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). **Man is also tripartite being** (spirit, soul and body). God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden and commanded Adam **not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.** **This was the test of his obedience.** God said that disobeying it would bring death (instant spiritual death and progressive physical death.) **God gave headship to Adam before sin entered their life, and even though it was Eve who sinned first, that is why it was Adam who was responsible.** All humans are descendants of Adam (Rom. 8:9), and physical death comes to all men because of the sin of Adam. **“As in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”** (1 Cor. 15:22.) Jesus said to Nicodemus, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, ‘unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’.”** (John 3:3.) This command of Jesus is where we all must begin our *new life in God*, otherwise we can never see the Kingdom of God. Just as our first birth was necessary for physical life, so is a second birth necessary for the new life we can have in God’s Kingdom. **We are created by God, but we must be born again in order to BECOME children of God.** (John 1:12-13, 14.)

The New Birth takes place when we, by faith, receive Jesus. [V.13 tells us of the **three ways that the new birth does not take place:** It is **“not of blood** (not inherited from believing Christian parents) **nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”** There is no other way to God and heaven. Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** (John 14:6.) **“It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”** (Hebr. 9:27.) **Those who were born again while alive on earth and died after the resurrection and ascent of Jesus to heaven, will then go immediately to be with the Lord,** (2 Cor. 5:8; 1 Thess. 4:13-18), **but those who had not believed and accepted the Lord’s gift of salvation while alive, will go to Hades,** there to wait for the coming of the **Great White Throne Judgment.** (Rev.20:11-15.)

During Old Testament times, *the World of the Dead*, Hades, had two compartments – one was called *Paradise or Abraham’s bosom*, the other section was a *place of torment*. It is Jesus, who in Luke 16: 19-31, tells of the story of two men who had died and passed from this life. One was a **beggar, named Lazarus**, the other one was a **rich man**, who had lived a luxurious life, and been taught by Pharisees that riches were a sign of God’s blessings and favor. (Religious leaders promised prosperity to those who live righteously and in obedience to the law.) Here, in Luke 16, Jesus had just taught that riches are not necessarily a blessing, but instead often given as a test of man’s faithfulness and stewardship. **“To whom much is given, from him much will be required.”** (Luke 12:48.) During OT times (before the cross and Jesus’ victory over sin and death) **the spirits of believers in God of Israel were carried by the angels** (v. 22) **to Abraham’s bosom** for peace and rest, awaiting the coming of Messiah, who would **“open the prison to them that are bound”** (Isa. 61:1). Lazarus was among these **faithful souls who were now under the care of Father Abraham** in another part of *the world of the dead*. (Luke 16:24.) But the rich man was in torment and misery, among those who, during their earthly lives, had lived selfishly in comfort and luxury, a life totally opposite of Lazarus’ life. The story Jesus told, informs us that **the dead in torment** are aware and conscious, and understand that where they now are, is their eternal and unchangeable destiny. Therefore the rich man **was begging Abraham to send Lazarus** to his father’s house to warn his five brothers so that they will not also end up in this **“place of torment.”** (vs. 23-31.) **“Abraham said to him, “They have Moses and the prophets”, let them hear them. And he said, No father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent. But he said to him, if they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.”** (Note: Jesus came back from the dead, but many still will not believe.) We often wonder about the people to whom we and many others have witnessed and presented the biblical message of salvation, but who then did not want to hear. But after they die and there realize what their eternal destiny is, how many of them would want to, if they could, go back and desperately warn their loved ones to repent and believe in Jesus, so that they too WOULD NOT COME TO THIS PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT! **There is no second chance for those who died without receiving Jesus Christ of the Bible.**

At this point I would like to tell you about our dear friend, Judy, whose name has been on our prayer-list over 10 years, and many of you know about her. This is a condensed story of Judy and her friend Jorja . **Judy is God’s special ambassador and faithful witness**, though she does not even know how special and rare a person she really is. We love her deeply! She also is a former Mormon, who believed and served in the “church”, and had many important positions over the years—kind of like we had had also. When I met her, she was not an active Mormon anymore, but she still was hanging on to it because of her family and friends.

After Dennis and I left Mormonism, we first moved from Vernal to Park City, and 3 ½ years later to the Holladay area working as a Real Estate Broker. I was looking for a hair-dresser in that area, and found “*Jorga’s Hair-salon*”. Jorga was a lovely and very beautiful single woman, alone raising her 5 boys, **and she was LDS!** Life was hard for her, but she was a very talented beautician. When we met, she asked about my life, and I let her know that I was a former member and a translator for the LDS Church. She became very curious about why I had left Mormonism...and as you can guess, I was not shy about “*telling it all*”. I had a monthly standing appointment with her and every time I came in, she had a list of serious questions about the church and she also wanted me to bring her “*evidences*” (books, booklets, videos etc.) which I did and she was excited to know it all. She had several beauticians working in her salon, but she had a larger private space for herself, and that made it easier for us to talk... She had been a “*married-in-the-temple*”- *active Mormon*. Each time we met, we covered a lot of doctrinal issues that she had been wondering about...

Meeting together often during many months, we became good friends. I was working in Real Estate business and Dennis was doing *special woodwork and remodeling*, earning our living, but we both were also in Christian ministry. We had been teaching since 1984 at various Christian churches about “*Mormonism vs. Biblical Christianity*”. During those years, Dennis and I had been blessed to help many Mormons come out of it, and we occasionally met with several of these new friends at our home. On one occasion I invited Jorja to join us. She gladly agreed to come, and she called and asked if she could bring a friend whom she had known since their teen years, and **who was also LDS**. We were glad about having them come. Jorja came with her friend—**that friend was Judy!** On that evening we had a group of more than a dozen guests, mostly ‘*soon to be former-Mormons*’! It was a fun evening and Judy “*stole the show*” with her delightful personality! **We and everyone just loved her!** Judy wanted to come to see us again and again, but now by herself, without Jorja or others. **She wanted to talk! And we talked and talked about life and faith in Jesus.** Very soon Judy became serious about Jesus, and the gospel, and she really wanted to know the Bible well. We were happy. It was not many months until Judy, sitting in our library, said that *she wanted to be born again. And she received Jesus!* She was excited and happy. She began sharing the Gospel with her sisters and brother. Her LDS cousin, Mickey, was already reading the Bible, and Judy’s younger sister, Grace, also accepted the Lord. They too received the Lord and were born of the Spirit.(More on all that later.) Our work continued and Judy spent a lot of time with us... It was a few years after that when it was discovered that Judy had bleeding on her brain and had to be operated on at the U of U hospital. During the operation she had a stroke and was paralyzed on her left side. She ended up spending several months in the hospital, but life was not getting better for her.

However, she trusted the Lord, and that God has purpose for her life and for all her suffering. We have surely seen it true in her life. She has suffered, but regardless of all that, she has been able to share her faith in Jesus to everyone she meets... Judy knows that God is with her. There are many who belong to Jesus now because of *Judy’s life with Jesus!* Judy also has a wonderful grandson, Sam. Judy has told him about Jesus even before he could talk, and she read him Bible stories, and she has always prayed with him. Sam is now 9 years old and he has become a teacher to his parents, asking them to pray also. (There is so much more to tell about Judy...)

But now I must tell about Jorja: She had told me that she knew that Mormonism was not true and had said that she was going to remove her name from the LDS Church records. But quite soon after that she was introduced to a very wealthy **LDS businessman and a widower**, and she quickly came to see *how different life can be if one is rich...* She had never experienced that. She closed her beauty-shop and started to travel with her new husband, *literally all over the world*. He offered her love and *everything that money can buy...*

Jorga has continued to visit Judy... being of course sad about Judy’s physical condition and her living accommodations, compared to Jorga’s happy life, beautiful home by the golf-course etc....Just a few weeks ago Jorga came to see Judy, telling her again how happy she was, and how wonderful her life was with her husband and having so many LDS friends that she had come to know. Jorga has a beautifully voice and she has even made many video-recordings over the years. Now she has been singing with her husband, and being invited to sing together at many LDS events. Her husband had assured her that Mormonism is pretty much the same as Christianity – telling her that there are no big differences, and Jorga trusted him, though before meeting him, she *had come to know that Mormonism was not true nor was it biblical.*

Now, only 3 weeks ago, Sunday morning, Jorga's son called Judy and said that Jorga had had a stroke as they were getting ready to go to church...She was found to have a blood clot in her brain and was immediately taken to surgery to remove it ...afterwards she was put on life-support, but she passed away early Tuesday morning, 8/27/24.

It is heart-breaking and so sad for us to know that Jorga had chosen to accept *what riches can give* and *what her new husband had to offer*. Judy had talked to Jorga, at every opportunity she had, about her faith in Jesus and about the wonderful eternity Judy has ahead of her, but seeing Judy's suffering and a life that she was living, compared Jorga's life, it is understandable that Jorga didn't want any changes to her new life with her husband. What would she say now if she could speak and *warn others like the rich man* (Luke 16:19-31.) wanted to warn his brothers? People often think that they can *rethink about eternity later*... But she ran out of time... ***Her appointment*** (Hebr. 9:27) ***with God*** came due without any announcement. **Where is Jorga now?**

The Bible teaches that ***"the dead" will not come back nor do they come to visit the living either***. These so-called ***"visitations of the dead"*** are just ***"familiar spirits"*** that the Bible over and over warns about. They are ***demonic spirits*** who come and pretend to be someone that this person once knew, but is now dead. These experiences, more often than not, may seem real and even innocent and believable to those who have not read God's warning to Israel about ***"familiar spirits"***. Paul wrote (in Rom. 15:4) that ***these warnings*** (in Deut. 18:9-12) ***were also given for our learning***.

"When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving to you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who... practices witchcraft, or is a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or is a sorcerer, or who conjurers spells, or (is) a medium, or a spiritist, or a wizard, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination unto the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you." False prophets and false teachers can be identified by what they do: They ***practice divination, they are observers of times*** (horoscopes), ***enchanters, witches, charmers, consultants with familiar spirits, wizards and necromancers***. All of these are an abomination to the Lord. ***(Mediums are necromancers – they communicate with the dead.)*** Mediums, at times, have seemed to be able to ***"bring forth spirits familiar to those seeking communication with the dead. When this supposed connection with the dead is accomplished, it would have been done by the power of Satan. Enchantments, familiar spirits and wizards, mediums - all pertain to an outburst of demon-energized occultism, forbidden by God.*** This was forbidden to the Israelites (Lev. 20:27), and it is forbidden to us as followers of Jesus Christ of the Bible, who is our LORD God. ***However, seeking to contact the dead is an approved practice among Mormons. The President of the Mormon Church is said to be "the one holding the keys of the oracles of God, as a medium through which the living can hear from the dead...[this] spiritual philosophy was introduced to the modern world by Joseph Smith...the most holy things pertaining to the salvation of the dead, and all the most holy conversations... with God, angels and spirits, shall be had only in the sanctuary of His holy Temple on earth...[that are built] for the express purpose that the living might hear from the dead..."*** (Quoted from Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.)

God has warned us about necromancy (i.e. dealing with the dead), divinations, witchcraft, horoscopes, sorceries, enchantments and heresies of all kinds. [Here is a partial list of God's warnings about this: Lev. 19:31; 20:6, 27; 1 Sam. 28:3, 7-9; 2 Kings 21:6; 23:24; 1 Chron. 10:13; 2 Chron. 33:6; Isa. 8:19; 19:3; 29:4; Ex. 7:11; Gal. 5:20.]

Halloween is coming, and it can be seen from houses in Utah already decorated with ***scary images and anything to do with horror and the dead - skulls and bones, demons and ghosts***. It seems that dark powers are taking over peoples' activities in preparation for this dark holiday, and evil in all imaginable forms is boldly displayed. ***No wonder, for Halloween is known as the Devil's holiday***. We must warn and teach our children the facts about this dark celebration and time, and protect them from its influence. ***Utah, of all 50 states, is a leading state with its focus on the dead and scary images!*** This must be because Utah is ***"the Mormon State"*** and the Mormon Church and its ***"sacred"*** (read secret) temple rituals are focused on the dead. Their most holy places are their temples, and they are specifically built for the express purpose ***"where the people may seek unto their God, and where the living can hear from the dead"***, as Mormon apostle, Parley P. Pratt preached.

(Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:45.) **The Bible calls that *necromancy* and it is part of the occult practices that must not have any part in the lives of God' people.**

Note: Halloween originated as *the Druids' day of the dead* when Celtic priests made their appearances as wizard or magicians. To some adult participants around the country, this holiday has become a *masquerade, a party similar to Marti Gras*. **Believers in the Lord Jesus, who is God of the Living, should have nothing to do with the celebration of Halloween. It is pagan and its emphasis is the glorification of Satan, demons and death – it is a far cry from what true believers in Jesus should associate with or celebrate.**

[We have more about Halloween in our November 2011 Newsletter.] www.hismin.com/newsletters/Nov11.pdf

At this time there has been a war in Israel for almost a year (since 10/07/2023) and continuing. People ask *“Could this be the Ezekiel war?”*, prophesied in Ezekiel 38-39, the war that when it starts leads to the Rapture and to the Great 7-year Tribulation? Could it be the *Gog and Magog war*? Is that war imminent? They ask, “Is it possible that these things are indicating that “the end” is just about here? If it is, then the Lord’s Second Coming, and also the 1000 year Kingdom will take place during the coming decade? Can that be right? Every time we asked our mentor, the late Dr. Chuck Missler these questions, he often said something like this: *“Keep reading Ezekiel, at least chapters 36-40, and keep your eyes on Israel and listen to the news from Israel you can trust... and then very soon you can hear the hoof-beats of the 5 horses getting close (Rev. 6:2-8.) The signs you will see and hear, tells how close we actually are – we may even hear the Trumpet of God...1 Thess. 4:16.”*. To know more about Gog and Magog, The Friends of Israel’s Gospel Ministry’s July/August 2024 Magazine is all about that and “Invasion of Israel, Ezekiel 38-39.” I strongly recommend that you’d get that Magazine. You can order it from The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, PO Box 908, BELLMWR, NJ, 08099. It has great articles written by Mark Hitchcock, Paul Pierce, Tom Simcox and David M. Levy.

Please pray for Suzi’s continued healing, she has encounter also some other health problems. Prayer is also needed for Marlene, Harold, Bruce, Mark & Virve, Al, Sandy, Julie, Jamie, Luke, McKenzie, Aira, Heber, Sam, Sharon, Roy, Robert, Lisa, Helen, Elina, Bailey, Connie, Vladimir, and Margaret and Mark Cowen-Family in N. Ireland.

We thank you for your continued prayers for our health and we also thank you for your support of this ministry. We welcome your questions and comments.

Have a blessed autumn!

Rauni and Dennis

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