

June 1, 2007

H.I.S. Ministries June Newsletter, covering May 2007

We wish you a happy summer season. Are we so blessed to have these different seasons to enjoy – seasons that actually reflect in many ways our own earthly lives.

We enjoy all seasons for beauty that is in all of them, as there is beauty in our human childhood (spring), adulthood (summer), growing older (fall) and becoming old (winter). I think we are nearing the winter season in our own lives, but that does not keep us from enjoying spring, summer and fall too.

God has been good to us by giving us His salvation and His Word to keep on learning, Christian friends who pray for us and for this ministry. They lift us up when we feel overwhelmed and at times even crushed by the enemy of our souls.

These last months – actually from the end of last September on, have been very tuff for us. We have never worked harder with less visible results – but then again, the enemy of our souls knows perhaps even better than we do that his time is short, and he too works harder to discourage, to hinder and to harass, to keep people in bondage and in fear. We praise God for those who have responded to the Lord's call, and "come out from among them", but there are many more who have come very close of accepting the biblical truth about God, Jesus and salvation, but then backed off because of fear of loosing family, friends, jobs, association of people in their LDS communities – and for fear of not gaining new friends, or not fitting into Christian circles.

Our prayer is that as we share and teach, Christian communities will open their homes and churches to these seeking and fearing souls, assuring them that the love of Jesus will cover them, even when things are hard.

We have received many letters lately asking that we'd comment on issues that, on surface, seem political, but yet could, in the future, affect eternal lives of millions of people, not only in the USA, but in the world – that issue is the proposed presidency of LDS candidate, Mitt Romney. After a lot of reflection, I thought that perhaps I should make an exception in this matter because of potential consequences, should he be elected. A president with no definite religious beliefs may not have an influence that could effect the eternity of individuals, but a man with deep-rooted false beliefs could influence millions, especially taking into consideration the LDS Church's nearly sixty thousand strong missionary force, that could and would use Romney, if he did become the president, as "bait" for an introduction to Mormonism. Many of our country's people are not familiar enough with Mormonism to be able to separate them from traditional Christianity – after all, they sound the same – but are they? About ten days ago Rev. Al Sharpton made a visit to Salt Lake City to apologize and clear some derogatory statements he had made about Mitt Romney. According to the papers, the LDS leadership "cleared" them all right. After this visit Al Sharpton said, "*It [his visit] was about our trying to learn about each other as believers in God and Christ, to find a common ground... [and] work together for the good of humanity.*" (SL Tribune, May 22, 2007 – Section B, p. 1.) Al Sharpton obviously did not ask enough questions, or if he did, he was not told that the Mormon Church does not believe in the same God and Christ as biblical Christianity, even though President Gordon B. Hinckley had publicly said that he does not believe in the traditional Christ of Christianity. Sharpton may not know that Mormonism uses Christian terms, but that it has given them a totally different meaning. He also may have gotten some vague answers that

seemed to speak of the same beliefs, but in reality they are not even close. Had he been told the truth, he would have learned that the God of the Mormon Church is not Eternal God of the Bible (Isa. 43:10; Ps. 90:2). He is a creation of Joseph Smith, made after his image. Quoting Joseph Smith, “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...the same as all Gods have done before you... until you attain to the resurrection of the dead and are able to dwell in everlasting burnings...” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-347.) [Everlasting burnings? That is hell, is it not?]

Mormon men, including Mitt Romney, are planning on becoming gods themselves, *“same as all Gods have done before”*.

Jesus of Mormonism is one of billions of sons of God and his multiple wives, an elder spirit-brother of all humans, and a spirit-brother of Lucifer. Mormonism teaches that Jesus was not begotten by the Holy Ghost, but by this exalted god-man. “Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers.” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547.) Jesus of Mormonism is not Virgin born Immanuel (Matt. 1:23), God, who became a man to die for mankind’s sins, but a man who became a god, as all Mormon men are told they too can become.

There are many more differences between Mormonism and Christianity.

Are evangelical Christians going to support Mitt Romney’s presidency if they know about his beliefs? Are religious matters important when electing a president? Maybe not in an ordinary sense. Mormons say that they are Christians, but they are no more Christians than Muslims are. Mitt Romney does not believe what Christians believe. If Mitt Romney knows what Christianity believes about God and Jesus, then he is being deceitful when he says that he is a Christian. If Romney is willing to deceive for votes in this issue that effects the eternal destiny of people world-wide, can he be trusted in temporary matters of the world? Mitt Romney and Mormons in general maybe nice people as people go, but **would his influence lead millions, who do not know what Mormonism teaches about God, Jesus and salvation, into the Mormon Church, and thus to Christ-less eternity?**

Mitt Romney is not just “any Mormon”. He is in an elite group of Mormons. He is a temple-card (recommend) holding Mormon. He has taken oaths in a Mormon temple to put the LDS church above all else, and **that could mean** that he would do what his church orders him to do, should US Government and her interests some day be in opposition to the Mormon Church.

Some years back all temple-Mormons were swearing an oath against the United States, that said, “You and each of you do covenant and promise that you will pray and never cease to pray to Almighty God to avenge the blood of the prophets upon this nation, that you will teach the same to your children and to your children’s children unto the third and fourth generation.”

Mitt Romney’s grandfather and his ancestry prior to that have participated in this oath.

This oath was discontinued 80 years ago, but **Mitt Romney is under that spell, since his grandfather, great grandfather and great-great grandfather have taken that oath.** The “prophets” spoken of in this oath are Joseph and Hyrum Smith, who both were killed in Carthage, ILL. in a gunfight, Joseph Smith killing two men and wounding a third one before he was gunned down (all that is documented in the LDS History). Mitt Romney’s grandparents were also polygamists. His father, George Romney, former presidential candidate and governor of Michigan, was born in Mexico, because his parents chose to leave Utah to be able to practice polygamy.

Maybe this is something to think about and consider. I do not have anything against Mitt Romney as a citizen and a man, but **as a president of the United States, he would become a**

“picture-boy” for the Mormon Church, and draw millions into Mormonism – and perhaps be influenced by the LDS church on how this country and the world should be run. Joseph Smith was also a candidate for presidency, as was Brigham Young. The Mormon Church has had political ambitions from the start, and Joseph Smith even made a prophecy concerning “elders of the church” saving the country (USA) and the world.

For more details in this issue, please get Dr. Charles Wood’s book, *The Mormon Conspiracy, A Review of Present Day and Historical Conspiracies to Mormonize America and the World*. It can be ordered from www.amazon.com

From our mailbox:

Questions from an LDS man, who has written to me several times. He had first written to Living Hope Ministries in Brigham City, and they had asked me to respond, which I did. This is the latest letter from him, after I had explained biblical Christianity to him, but he has a hard time understanding it. (His questions are in italics, my answers below them in plain text.)

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ established a church and ordained apostles and sent disciples to proclaim the gospel?

The English word “church” is translated from the Greek word, “ekklesia”, which, ekklesia, is not an organization, it means *people*, “called out ones”, called out from the world, who have become the Lord’s own, His Bride. The church is the *body of Christ*, a living organ, Jesus being the head of that body. “***And He is the head of the body, the church...***” (Col. 1:18, 24.)

Yes, **Jesus called (but did not “ordain”) 12 apostles**, which word, “*apostle*”, means an eyewitness to His ministry, His death, burial and resurrection, and whom He personally called to spread the gospel message. That message is: “*death, burial and resurrection of Jesus*”. 1 Cor. 15:1-4. The gospel means: Good News (for sinners). Contrary to the LDS church’s teaching, **there are no laws or ordinances in the gospel**. Those who respond to the message of the gospel, receive salvation as **the gift of God, not of works**. (Eph. 2:8-9.) **Apostles were to be the foundation** – which simply means “to build on” – **the foundation is never to be repeated**. The eleven apostles that remained (after Judas), had understood that **there should be twelve apostles**. They “jumped the gun”, so to speak, and took it upon themselves to choose a replacement for Judas. They cast lots and chose Matthias, basing this choice on the fact that Matthias was an eyewitness too. (Acts 1:23, 26.) That is the last and only time he is mentioned. He obviously was not the Lord’s choice. **Jesus Himself had chosen the twelve, and He was the one to choose the replacement for Judas. That one was Saul – later re-named Paul.** Saul was an eyewitness also, even though he was not a believer in Jesus yet when Jesus performed His ministry, was put to death, buried and resurrected. Saul had heard Stephen give the Old Testament scripture summary (reported in Acts 7), a report on Jesus as Christ, the promised Savior. Shortly after that the Lord appeared to Saul on his way to Damascus, and **called him to be an apostle. There never were more than these twelve apostles – there never were to be more than twelve.** There are **twelve Tribes of Israel** and the **twelve apostles will, in Christ’s Kingdom, judge the 12 tribes of Israel** (Luke 22:30). After God creates the New Heaven and New Earth (Rev. 21), when all things are made new, the “**wall of the City** [will have] **twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**” (Rev. 21:14.) Simple logic should help to see this. There were other disciples, thousands actually, who were witnesses to Jesus’ ministry, but they were not part of the Twelve Apostles.

2. Do you believe that the apostles continued the doctrine by establishing other apostles in place of Judas and others lost to martyrdom?

No, they did not. There were to be twelve apostles, and after they were killed, years later, they were not to be replaced. Their teachings are found in the New Testament, and it is our foundation, based on teachings of the twelve and others who also were witnesses.

3. You have stated that you are a “No Label” church and that your beliefs are strictly bible based. Was there a main founder? I met a man once who was from the Calvary Chapel here in Phoenix Arizona. He stated some of the same principles that you possess. He said that he was “Christian” as a denomination. Not just Christian, meaning a follower of Christ. Apparently, a man in California in the 70’s created the “Christian” church.

I thought that what I have said previously was easy to understand, but obviously not. **I thought I also made is clear that the Bible alone is our authority! The main founder and author of the Bible is God.** (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.) **Jesus is God, the Word.** (John 1:1, 14.) **He is Truth, personified** (John 14:6.) **His Word is Truth.** (John 17:17.) Anyone who follows the Bible alone, and earnestly studies it will say the same as I say. Being a Christian does not necessarily mean that one has to belong to a denomination. Since your questions refer to Calvary Chapels, let me tell you what I know about them. Calvary Chapels, nationwide, invite people to come together and study the Bible. In my opinion, it is hard to have bad theology, when every word is studied and nothing is skipped. They (as we do too) study the Bible book- by-book, verse-by-verse. Some of their study groups have grown too large to meet at homes, but most of them were started that way, in homes, and even if the group becomes larger, they (Calvary Chapels) still are nothing more than Bible-study groups. As far as I know, Calvary Chapels do not even have official memberships. People just come together to study and sing worship songs to the Lord. I hope you understand that one does not **have to be a member of anyone of today’s churches to be a Christian. One only has to be born again, and a follower of Christ from that moment on.** The followers of Christ were first time called Christians in Antioch. (Acts 11:26.) Followers of the true Christ, Eternal God in human flesh, are still called Christians. There are those who try to take that name, “Christian”, even when they are not followers of true Christ.

4. In the Living Hope Ministry, is there a paid minister? Are you paid to answer there questions?

Living Hope Ministry is a small church in Brigham City, Utah. I do not know how their pastor is paid, for many small Utah church pastors work outside of their ministry to support their families. He may, or may not have income from that church, but **I am not paid to answer Mormon-questions** sent to them, nor am I paid by anyone to answer letters sent to us by Mormons, for that matter. I receive tons of letters myself every week from LDS people, but in addition to our own mail, I have agreed to help Living Hope Ministry and answer some of the letters they receive for the reason that they do not have a Mormon background, they have never been LDS, and they have a harder time understanding Mormon-questions and attacks... Our ministry to Mormons is not a “paid ministry”, but a ministry of love. We do it because we care – we do not want our Mormon relatives and former LDS friends go to hell. I/we try to answer everyone asking questions, just as I have answered your questions. I respond by the Word of God – so the answers are not my answers, but the Lord’s. If you disagree with the Word of God, you reject Him, and what He has said. I take Ezekiel 33:7-9 very seriously. It says that since I have

been warned of errors I was involved in while a Mormon, I must warn others. If I do not, God will hold me responsible for their lost-ness. If I warn, and they do not listen, I am not responsible for them anymore. (It is up to you now. I have done what the God of the Universe has asked me to do.)

5. *Do you follow the “Super Star Evangelicals” from TBN, like Paul Crouch, T. D. Jakes, Benny Hinn, Juanita Bynum, Paula White, John Hagee, Joel Osteen, and Joyce Meyer? They are powerful speakers. All of them speak of Christ and His ministry.*

As I have said before, I repeat again: I do not follow any man... I study the Word of God, the Bible, and I follow Jesus Christ of the Bible. Most of these names you mentioned are teaching much error, even if they speak of Christ and His ministry. So do Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Moonies et al. Christ warned about them, as did Paul (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) Jesus said also, “*Many will say to Me in that day (judgment day), Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast our devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? Then I will profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU: DEPART FROM ME, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY.*” (Matt. 7:22-23.) He is saying here that using His name, doing even “wonderful works” **will not get anyone to heaven**. Works do not save! We are commanded to search the scriptures (John 5:39) and get to know Him (John 17:3.) Jesus equaled knowing Him to having eternal life! He also said, “**IF ye believe not that I AM He** (Eternal God), **ye shall die in your sins.**” (John 8:24.) A false or “another Jesus” cannot save!! Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe that Jesus is *He, I AM*, God Almighty either, even if they say He is “a god”, nor do Mormons believe that He is Almighty God, “***from everlasting to everlasting***” (Ps. 90:2.), but a created being, brother of all mankind and even Satan, and “a god”, as all Mormons also hope to become! The **worst “iniquity”** in the eyes of God, is to serve and worship false gods (Ex. 20:3).

Speaking of Christ, and knowing Him personally are two different issues! I fear for all Mormons. It will be a terrible day when Christ says to them “DEPART FROM ME!” (Matt. 7:23; Rev. 20:15.)

I hope you are testing all things (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1), checking these things out and not saying,

“My mind is made up. Do not confuse me with the facts.”

It has been said that a human mind is like an umbrella. It works best when open.

Sincerely, Rauni Higley

Questions concerning God of the Bible, sent by a Christian lady, struggling with her LDS husband on who God is. She wrote:

*“I have begun to read the Bible from front to back. I am a little confused. I am in Genesis and they always refer to God as Lord, so are they always talking about God or are they also talking about Jesus? In Genesis 28:12-13, what does that mean, exactly? “... There... the **Lord** stood above it and said, ‘I am the **Lord God** of Abraham your father ...’ **Is that just God or is it Jesus saying he is God?** And my other question is Gen. 28:21 “...then the Lord shall be my God..” If he (Jacob) was already a believer in God then why would he state it that way, “then the Lord will be my God”? Was he again meaning Jesus as Lord shall be my God?”*

My reply:

The Bible, as you know, is a collection, a library of sixty six books. They do not need to be studied “from front to back”. For us, as non-Jewish believers in Christ, the best order is to start with the Gospel of John, written with Gentile believers in mind. Once you start there and then go

to Paul's letters to Galatians and Romans, Ephesians etc., you will gain understanding that will help you also in your Old Testament studies.

But since you are in Genesis now, let's look at the English word *God*. It is translated from the Hebrew word Elohyim – plural form of El or Eloah. (**im**-ending in a Hebrew word makes it plural, as in Cherub, singular or Cherubim, plural (more than one), Baal is singular, Baalim is plural, etc.) **Elohyim means plurality of Persons (Trinity) in one God. The verb is always in the singular when Elohyim, plural form of Eloah is used, speaking of the One true God.** (The same word, elohyim, is also used of false gods, but then the verb is likewise plural.) You will find “**LORD God**” used throughout the Old Testament. When **LORD** (all capital letters) is used, in the original Hebrew it is the name of God, **YHVH**, or Jehovah. “God” (Elohyim, plural) refers to **LORD God's Triune nature**. If you'd go to Exodus 6:2-3, you read there that God (Elohyim – i.e. Trinity) had spoken to Moses, saying “**I AM the LORD**”. It says that God had been known as God Almighty, but He was not known by **His Name, YHVH** (Jehovah). Note: **One God, I AM, is Trinity, and He has One Name, YHVH** (or in English, Jehovah). **God (Trinity) is I AM**, not “we are”!

Father is God, the Son (Jesus, the Word, John 1:1, 14) **is God, the Holy Spirit is God**, but there is only One God. The Bible teaches that from Genesis 1:1 – through Rev. 22. - 1 John 5:7 says “**For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Son), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**” In Deut. 6:4, called Shema, it says, “**Hear, O Israel: The LORD (YHVH) our God (Elohyim) is one LORD (YHVH).**” That is what Jews repeat daily, and even in their dying breath call upon. I.e. they repeat: **Jehovah our God is one Jehovah**. Gen. 28:13, **God** spoke to Jacob, “**the LORD** stood above it and said **I AM the LORD God** of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac...”

God says He is One (He is one Being, but yet three eternal, co-equal Persons, as the Bible teaches). You see that **God** (Elohyim – plural) is **I AM – singular, One God**. We, as finite persons cannot fully understand that, for we cannot compare God to anything in our world, **but we can believe it because God has revealed Himself in His Word as One God, but yet Three Persons**.

In Romans 1:20, God says through Paul that the creation itself testifies of the Godhead, and thus all who do not believe in God are without excuse. What does that mean? It means that in investigating God's creation, we see Triune Nature of God. **By His creation God is revealing Himself**.

Universe is also triune. It consists of **space, matter and time**. All investigable of the universe is a basic trinity of those three. – **Space is**: Length, breadth, height. **Matter is**: Energy, motion and phenomena **Time is**: Past, present and future.

Man is also triune: Body, soul and spirit. **Water**, a picture of God in the Old Testament (see Ps. 42:1-2; 65:9) and also in the New Testament (John 7:37) **is likewise triune**. Water exists as ice, steam and liquid

Even light is triune. Every ray of light is pure white, representing God. If you pass light through a prism, it will divide into three primary colors, **yellow, red and blue**. Yellow speaks of holiness of the father, red speaks of God the Son, who shed His blood for you and me; blue speaks of the Holy Spirit, for blue is the color of truth, and He is the Spirit of Truth – if you push these three colors back through prism and you will get **one white light – three in one**.

I hope this helped.

Love, Rauni

Dear supporting friends,

We have good news from Edward in Uganda. He has again been able to get another article to a major Newspaper in Kampala (Uganda's capital), an article, where he is writing about false

teachers that come to Africa as wolves in sheep clothing. Edward's studies of the Bible have brought a lot of fruit. He is informing his countrymen not only about Mormonism, but also about other false teachings that could lead people away from true God.

Edward had witnessed about the true Jesus of the Bible to Uganda's LDS mission president Duke (from Heber City, Utah) who died in a car accident last month, just about 2 weeks prior to the end of his mission. Edward was sad that he did not respond to his witness, but died without the true Christ. Edward wrote that this mission president's death gave him even more urgency to his plan to witness to all Mormons he can, for there indeed are no guarantees that the opportunity will be there again. We all need to keep that in mind. *"Today is the day of salvation"* (Hebr. 3:12-13)– there might not be tomorrow for them or for us to talk to them again.

Please pray for Grace, Judy, Bruce, John, Stephani, Chad and Chandra, Dick, Margaret in Northern Ireland (she is our dear friend Jim's wife – Jim died a month ago), Mary and Eve, (Mary is a Christian mother of a Mormon missionary, Eve), and "Al", a Mormon, who has heard the witness of the Lord Jesus of the Bible, but so far has rejected Him, and Landon who also heard the truth, but has not embraced Jesus of the Bible. Please pray for many others that we have written to this last month, spent days and days in talking with and witnessing to by phone and letters. God knows their hearts and we ask that through prayer and love we have expressed to them, without compromising God's truth, will bring them to Jesus.

We normally can subsidize our ministry expenses from our personal income, but we fell behind in our own income when Dennis took two weeks off from his work and we went to Midwestern Seminary, and from there to Nauvoo, ILL. to research Mormon history sites etc. It was a very beneficial trip, and we thank the Lord for the opportunity. But now we do need the Lord's help – we are about to the bottom of our ability to keep on sending materials and covering all our expenses of the ministry. We are asking all of you who see that there is value in this ministry to pray and see if there is anything you can do to help us. We know that you can pray, and that alone means a lot! We know that God is able – and power of prayer will relieve us, if we pray according to His will. We have total faith in the Lord, who sometimes sends these trials our way.

In His Service,
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