H.I.S. Ministries International

He Is Savior

November 1, 2009

H.I.S. Ministries November Newsletter, covering October 2009

In our last newsletter, October 1st, 2009, we gave you a brief version of Heidi Albiston's story. She was an amazing young woman, and we were blessed to be friends with her and her family for about eleven years. During her last year and half battle with brain cancer, every time we saw her, she never failed to thank the Lord for her salvation, and she witnessed to those who were not the Lord's own yet. She shared her love for the Lord to all around her, be it at home, church or in the hospital. It was the Spirit of the Lord that gave her wisdom and understanding that no matter how difficult her trial was or how short any of our lives may be, what awaits His own is immeasurable both in time and wonderfulness. She shared for she wanted everyone whom she met to be with her in heaven, whether she had known them five minutes or five or more years. When we wrote our last newsletter a month ago, we were expecting her soon-departure to be with the Lord.

***She left us on October 2nd, 2009 at 4:05 pm,* leaving with a peaceful sigh, perhaps with it signifying her sadness of leaving her family behind - for now.**

She has *fought the good fight, she has finished the race and kept the faith* (2 Tim. 4:7), and we are sure that as she went, she heard the words, "*Well done, good and faithful servant…enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.*" (Matt. 25:21.)

We all will miss her greatly, but we rejoice in her memory and her example of trust and faith in Jesus, no matter what takes place in our lives.

Please keep her husband Dave, and their daughters, Felicia, Nicole and Alexis in your prayers. They know that they will be with her some day, but now they, as we all, have work to do – to follow in Heidi's footsteps and introduce others to the Lord.

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Utah's beautiful fall colors have delighted us. Looking to the mountains from our living room windows has been just like looking at a most beautiful painting. We thank the Lord for this home He has provided for us, and given us four seasons to enjoy right here at home, without having to travel anywhere to see the amazing beauty of God's creation. Snow is now covering the colorful display, but it is likewise beautiful to see. Now that we are older and traveling is a bit more burdensome, not to mention also expensive, it is nice to be able to enjoy different sceneries every few months from the same windows. ☺

We have been loaded with ministry work, which is a good reason to stay home and help people sort out God's truth from error they have been fed all their lives.

"Error is like leaven, of which we read, 'A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.' <u>Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error</u>, except that this is more innocent looking and, therefore, more dangerous. <u>God hates such a mixture</u>! Any error, or any truth-and-error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such

is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died." **(H.A. Ironside, quoted from the Berean Call's August 11th 2009 letter.)**

During this last month we have received many letters from Mormons defending the Book of Mormon. They may have been fueled by LDS apostle Jeffrey Holland's "testimony" of the Book of Mormon during this October's General Conference. He said, *"I testify that one cannot come to full faith in this Latter-day work and thereby find the fullest measure of peace and comfort in these our times until he or she embraces the divinity of the Book of Mormon and the Lord Jesus Christ of whom it testifies. If anyone is foolish enough or misled enough to reject 531 pages of a heretofore unknown text, teeming with literary and Semitic complexity, without honestly attempting to account for the origin of those pages somehow–especially without accounting for their powerful witness of Jesus Christ and the profound spiritual impact that witness has had on what is now tens of millions of readers–if that's the case then such persons, elect or otherwise, have been deceived. And if they leave this Church, they must do so by crawling over, or under, or around the Book of Mormon to make their exit."* *(Jeffrey R. Holland, Oct. 4, 2009, reported in Salt Lake Tribune.)*

This same Jeffrey Holland, back in 1994, had also said, *"I am suggesting that we make exactly the same kind of do-or-die bold assertion about the <u>restoration of</u> <u>the gospel</u> of Jesus Christ* [as we do of] ***the <u>divine origins of the Book of Mormon. We have to.</u> Reason and rightness require it. <u>Accept Joseph Smith as a prophet and the book</u>*** **[of Mormon]** ***<u>as miraculously revealed</u> and revered word of the Lord it is <u>or else</u> consign both man and book to Hades for the <u>devastating deception of it all</u>, but let's not have any bizarre middle ground <u>about the wonderful</u> <u>contours of a young boy's imagination or his remarkable facility for turning a literary phrase</u>. <u>That is an unacceptable position to take</u>…"*** **(New Era, June 1995, p. 64, emphasis added.)**

[Perhaps apostle Holland was here referring to the late LDS GA and historian B.H. Roberts' statement to that fact in his "*Studies of the Book of Mormon*" (pp. 243-44). Roberts suggested there that *the real source for the Book of Mormon was indeed Joseph Smith's vivid imagination and his creative mind,* in addition to availability of many books of similar subject, to him.]

Apostle Holland does not list actual doctrinal teachings from the BoM that would make the BoM important to the Church. <u>He cannot, for none of the important Mormon doctrines are found in the Book of Mormon</u>. He is just saying that it is Joseph Smith's credibility that is in question, that <u>if the book is not true</u>, then *Joseph Smith is a deceiver and his church a hoax.* In other words, <u>it is not what the book teaches that proves its worth, it is the credibility of its writer that matters</u>.

I can you tell from my personal experience that <u>if the missionaries can get people to accept the Book of Mormon as what the Church says it is, then they will accept all the rest and convert to Mormonism. That was the case with me.</u> The missionaries did not even ask me to read the entire book, just sample it and <u>believe that it is what the Church says it is.</u> Potential converts, as I was then, are only asked to pray about it, and if they "*ask with a sincere heart*" they will receive confirmation that it is true. If no positive confirmation is coming, then it must be that <u>they were not sincere</u> – and they must keep praying until they receive such an answer! Suggestions for actually *testing the Book of Mormon and its authenticity,* receive disapproval and a reply that it is only "*an evil and adulterous generation that seeks for a sign*". They say that believing the BoM is a matter of faith, not of proof, contrasting biblical command to "*prove all things*" (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1) so that, as Jesus said, "*no*

***man deceive you*". (Matt. 24:4.) We must remember that "*Faith that cannot be tested, cannot be trusted*."**

But the Mormon Church says that even the <u>blind and deaf</u> can *know* that the Book of Mormon is true, as was reported in Oct. 2004 General Conference by Elder H. Bryan Richards, who said, "*We are teaching a lady who is blind and nearly deaf. She wants to know if the Book of Mormon is true. 'What shall we do?' asked a zone leader in England…I said to the zone leader, 'Have this sister hold her copy of the Book of Mormon and turn its pages very slowly. When she has done this, have her ask* [pray] ***if it is true.' Though she could not read nor hear the words, she felt the spirit and power of the Book of Mormon, and it changed her life."* [Testing of the spirits would have been helpful… (1 John 4:1.)]**

It is absolutely incredible that millions of people have been convinced to believe that the Book of Mormon is an actual history of Hebrews, who lived in the Americas for a thousand years without leaving any tangible evidence of its magnificent cities, or any signs of described armor of its hundreds of thousands of fighting men killed on a relatively small hill (Hill Cumorah in New York State), or any coinage and other items talked about in it, that should have been found in abundance - if the book was true.

Belief in the Book of Mormon by millions becomes even more incredible when added that this "*history*" was supposedly written on "*gold plates*" in "*reformed Egyptian*", (a none-existent language) and was delivered by Moroni ("*an angel of light*") to Joseph Smith, who "*translated*" them, line by line, <u>reading his "*translation*" from a rock he placed in his black top-hat!</u> (See *Comprehensive History of the Church*, vol. 1:129.) [One cannot help but wonder what was the purpose of the gold plates if Joseph's rock was all that was needed? We should also keep in mind that prior to using this rock for "translation purposes" Joseph Smith had used this same rock to tell people (for a fee, of course) where they could find buried treasures of gold and silver!] Prophet Brigham Young later reported that after Joseph Smith had completed his "translation", he, with Oliver Cowdery, delivered the gold plates back to Hill Cumorah, and "*hill opened and they walked into a cave*", where there were "*many wagon loads of plates*". (Journal of Discourses, vol. 19:38.)

(See also our Oct. 2009 Newsletter, p. 4.)

The Mormon Church has taught, ever since the publication of the Book of Mormon in 1830, that American Indians are "*Lamanites*", descendants of Hebrews who sailed to the Americas in about 600 B.C. DNA-science has proven that American Indians are not Hebrews, but of Mongolian ancestry. It is interesting how this DNA evidence against the Book of Mormon people, and added lack of evidence of its historicity still allows so many to trust Mormon leaders and their fables. Truth is available and that is why it is so sad to see people foolishly believing in fictional stories that lead gullible people into a belief in "*another Jesus*" and "*another gospel*", that ultimately sends them to eternal hell.

The Book of Mormon is not the only LDS scripture that is fictional. It is a known fact that the *Book of Abraham*, in the *Pearl of Great Price (*also "*translated*" by Joseph Smith), is a fraudulent book. This "*translation*", with its known and verifiable source (Egyptian papyrus), should have caused Mormons to wake up and abandon Joseph Smith and his Church! But it hardly made a dent in LDS membership! <u>The power of this deception is huge!</u> Only prayer and faithful witness of those who love Mormons enough to *stand in the gap* can release them from this blindness and bondage.

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From our mailbox:

An LDS man wrote (after seeing me in Doris Hanson's TV program), and said:

"I watch the programs once in a while on TV20 which primarily have the purpose of attacking the LDS religion. I find it intriguing that another religion or group of religions would concern themselves so much with another religion, or rather, trying to show that another religion is false. I've heard some pretty interesting claims. I've heard some flat-out lies on these shows.

I heard a lady on the show last night say that Joseph Smith wrote the Book of Mormon. I don't think I could have heard something that could have blown a bigger hole in someone's credibility in my life. Really, Joseph Smith wrote it? That's pretty funny. It showed just how ignorant the lady on the program is. The gospel is about love. It is apparent that there is a hatred among you guys for Mormons. Really, it doesn't even matter. The only people you guys are going to attract are people just like yourselves: bitter, unhappy people who get joy out of trying to destroy instead of build up.

There are a whole lot more holes in your version of the gospel than you will find in the LDS faith. I find it pathetic. One of your guys, Sean* (Shawn)*, even claimed to "attack" Mormons on his program. You can tell he doesn't have a good spirit. He is contentious. He thrives on the 'power' of leading people astray. He even offered a reward for anyone who could prove that an LDS apostle has more than one wife. That is just evil. Thanks…W"

My reply:

Dear "W", thank you for your comments. (I'll answer them in the same order you presented them.)

1. My purpose is not to attack Mormons as people, but my purpose is to defend Christianity that Joseph Smith attacked (see Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith, 1:19), and the Mormon Church continues to attack by having nearly 60 thousand missionaries knocking at the doors of Christians, telling them the story of Joseph Smith, who said that all Christian churches *are wrong and an abomination to God.* He also said that the Mormon Church is *the only true church on the face of the earth.* Where does that leave all other churches? Therefore we must defend the biblical truth (Jude 3). – Jesus is the Truth personified. (John 14:6.)

2. About the Book of Mormon and its authorship: Did you not know that it was Joseph Smith who had introduced himself as an *AUTHOR and Proprietor* of the Book of Mormon? (See the First edition of the Book of Mormon of 1830, name page.) *Author* is a person who writes a book or books, is it not? It was not until later editions of the BoM that "*author and proprietor*" was removed and replaced with Joseph Smith as *translator*.

The fact remains that The Book of Mormon is very similar to a religious novel, "*View of the Hebrews*", written 7 years before the Book of Mormon by Rev. Ethan Smith (who just happened to be a minister of Oliver Cowdery's family!!!). That novel has the same story line as the Book of Mormon and likewise quotes the Bible a lot. The Book of Mormon is fiction, written by Joseph Smith, using other books and writings as his source for the content.

If you really want to know what B.H. Roberts, General Authority and Historian of the LDS Church, has written about origins of the Book of Mormon, go to www.amazon.com and get his book, "*Studies of the Book of Mormon*". It was edited

by <u>two LDS professors</u>, Sterling McMurrin and Brigham Madsen. It might enlighten your mind a bit.

3. The true gospel of Jesus Christ, who is *God with us* (Matt. 1:23), is presented in the Holy Bible. No other books are needed!
Jesus said that He alone (no church or people) is *the Way, the Truth and the Life, and that no one comes to the Father but by Him*. (John 14:6; Acts. 4:12.) He also said that *UNLESS we believe that HE IS GOD, we will die in our sins* - and thus not go to heaven. (See John 8:23-24.) Jesus explains in these two little verses that *mankind did not come from heaven* – only He did (v. 23) – and He says that <u>He is *the Great I AM*</u> , and that *if we do not believe that He is God, our sins will not be forgiven* (v. 24). Only God can forgive sins. (Mark 2:7.) Jesus is NOT a created being nor a brother of mankind and Lucifer – <u>He is the Creator of all</u>! (John 1;1-3, 14; Col. 1:16.)
Salvation is received by those who repent and believe that Jesus is God. Salvation is the <u>*gift of God*</u>, not of works. (Eph. 2:8-9) One cannot work for a GIFT!
When we "*receive Him*", then, and only then can we *BECOME sons and daughters of God*. (John 1:12.) It requires spiritual rebirth that Jesus said we MUST have in order to enter heaven. (John 3:7.)
My prayer for you is that you will check these things out, receive Jesus, and be on your way to heaven.

<u>4. I am a very happy person for I know that I am saved</u> (1 John 5:11-13). If I died today or tomorrow, or whenever, I KNOW that I will be immediately with Jesus in heaven.
<u>I care enough about Mormons to inform them that following Joseph Smith's religion will lead them to eternal hell</u>. The Bible commands us, who know the truth, to warn those who may not know – that is you too.
If there was <u>a bridge out</u> in a short distance from us, bridge that went over a deep canyon, and we knew it, would we just smile and give a friendly wave as people were driving towards their sure death, <u>or would we step even in front of their cars, to the middle of the road, and yell: STOP, STOP, bridge is out? If we care, we will do what ever it takes to warn them</u>. (I care, that is why I continue to warn, and answer this *not-so friendly* letter of yours.)
If we know the truth, God requires that we share it. What you do with the truth you read here in this letter, and what you heard last night, it is now between you and God: you can accept it, or you can reject the Truth (Jesus), <u>but God has called us to be</u> "*watchmen on the wall*".
God, trough Ezekiel, warned (33:7-9), "*I have made you a watchman… therefore you shall hear a word from my mouth and warn them for Me…but if you do not speak to warn…his blood will I require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn…and he will not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity (sin); but you have delivered your soul.*"
I am praying for you.
In His service, Rauni Higley - - <u>www.hismin.com</u>

<u>He responded to my above letter and said,</u>

"Rauni, You don't know anything about the Book of Mormon. It's very apparent. If you did, you wouldn't make such wild claims. I'm glad you have your religion. I'm glad you are a happy person. Keep trying to 'bring Mormons to the truth,' We could have debates for years on end and nothing would get resolved. We Mormons aren't being

deceived by our leaders. In the end if Mormonism were wrong, we've done as much as you have and believed every bit as much as you have in Christ (And there is only one Christ, by the way). So, we will be saved right along with you and all your cohorts. It tickles me that you all are so bound and determined to prove the LDS faith is incorrect. Keep trying. You aren't the first or the last to try. W"

I tried again to reason with him and answered :

I think I know a lot about the Book of Mormon. I too was an LDS missionary and I have read it over and over again. And while I was working for the LDS Church as a translator, interpreter and language coordinator (I worked there over 14 years), one of those years I was given the assignment to check the BoM translation in my language, verse by verse, comparing it to English. - I have read and studied it alright!
I am in agreement with many prominent LDS in that *the Book of Mormon is not history of American Indians or "Lamanites"*. I already mentioned B.H. Roberts' (LDS GA and historian) book, "*Studies of the Book of Mormon*". He demonstrated in it that the content of the BoM is taken from several novels and writings of Joseph Smith's day, including the Bible. An LDS Seminary and Institute Director, Grant H. Palmer, in his book "*Insider's View of Mormon Origin*", takes a reader through most of Mormon-claims and shows where they came from, and that they are not true. It is a well documented book, and I have seen just about all of his documentation in the LDS Archives – I also have hundreds of those same books in my own personal library.
I am sure that unless your desire is to know the truth, you could argue against it till the end of your days, but I am not willing to continue in fruitless arguments. My question to you, and to any LDS who writes to me, is: IF WHAT YOU NOW BELIEVE (i.e. Mormonism) IS NOT TRUTH, WOULD YOU WANT TO KNOW? If you do not want to know, which seems quite obvious to me from your letters so far, I have no reason to continue corresponding with you.
However, I want you to know that your faith in *Mormon-Jesus* will not save you, no matter how much you want to believe it. Our faith is only as good as is the object of our faith. Jesus of the Bible is not Lucifer's brother, nor are you or I His or Lucifer's brothers or sisters. False Jesus' are just that: false. They only exist in imaginations of their creators – in your case, Joseph Smith, who took biblical stories and attached them to his version of "Jesus".
You are correct in that there is only One True Christ, but there are many, many false Christ's – Jesus Himself said that. (See Matt. 24:24 as one example.) Paul warned about "*another Jesus*", that is presented along with "*another gospel*" and "testified" by "*another spirit*" to those who are not willing to test. All this comes via *false apostles* that have received their doctrines from Satan, who is appearing as *an angel of light*. (See 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; 1 Tim. 4:1.) Those who do not *test all things* as 1 Thess. 5:21 commands, will be fooled (been there – done that). We must test our "feelings" or "testimonies" that can come from demonic spirits (1 John 4:1) and we must compare all teachings to the Bible.
I will not *keep trying* unless you want to *test all things* and learn the truth.
Sincerely, Rauni Higley
[Rom. 10:17, "*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*" The Bible must be read with faith in God. (Hebr. 11:6.) Word of God does not profit those who do not believe in God of the Bible. (Hebr. 4:2.)]

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We want to thank you, our friends, for your prayers and financial help to this ministry. <u>You are</u> <u>as much part of this ministry as we are, for without your help we could not continue</u>. You are enabling us to share the truth of the Bible and Jesus, who alone can save. We feel very much connected with you, for we talk to our Lord about our needs – be they spiritual or physical – and the Lord talks to you and lets you know how to pray for us and how to assist us. We see that very clearly and recognize you as our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, for you and us, we are joined together by the Holy Spirit, who *teaches us all things*. (John 14:26.) We praise Him and thank the Lord for you.

Our class at Calvary Chapel is about half over. God has sent those whom He has chosen at this time to come and learn how to share the Lord's Word with those who are lost and deceived. We are very thankful for the faithfulness of His own who are willing to sacrifice their Sunday afternoons, when most would rather stay home and rest. By their faithful attendance they show their love for the Lord and willingness to obey His command *to teach all people* His truth in boldness of the Spirit. (Matt. 28:20; Acts 4:31.)

We have in our prayer-list many LDS people we have been ministering to very recently who need courage to continue to test Mormonism with the Bible. Please pray for Chad, Desiree, Ann, J.P, Wade, Dan, Michael – and some others who have written to us anonymously.
Please pray also for those Mormons who are upset and write angry letters to us after having read articles from our website and who accuse us of hate as our motive. All we can say is that if we hated Mormons, we would close our website and be silent. It is because we care, we are determined to continue warning of the coming "*Day of the Lord*", when repentance and salvation is not possible any more. "*Today is the day of Salvation.*"

Please pray for our relatives and family members and their salvation (too numerous to list by name) – and also for our formerly very close LDS friends - pray that the Lord will send someone else to deliver the salvation message they have rejected from us. (Romans 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9; John 8;24; 1:12; 14:6.) We pray for them every night and wonder when it will be too late for them to respond to the Lord's call – for we all are growing older and nearing the end of our lives. They must hear and accept now, for after their death there is no hope for them.

Please pray also for Bruce's children and grandchildren. They need salvation.
Judy is in need of our prayers for her finances and direction.
Dale's wife, Sharon, reported that Dale is improving some, but he still has a long road ahead, and many more surgeries to go through.(You may recall that Dale was in a serious motorcycle accident in June, and is paralyzed from waist down.)
Please pray for pastor Phil Foard's small grandchild in Germany. She is very ill with hives from head to toe and so far doctors have not been able to help her.
Thank you again for your prayers and faithfulness to Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

We are wishing you all Lord's blessings and a Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

In His service,

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