

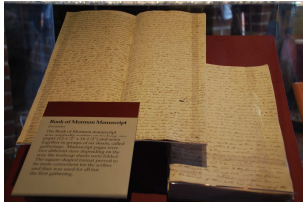
Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



November, 2007



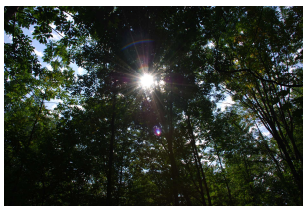
Original printer's manuscript of Book of Mormon



Susquehanna River



Hill Cumorah



Sacred Grove



the Saints

Church History Trip

By Brian Herren

Within the course of eternity, there may be moments wherein God's plan finds its execution in a most palpable way in the lives of men. He is prone to condescend in ways which evidence His power and maintain order within His creation. Such moments are always before us, I believe, but the specific touch of His graceful hand occasionally transforms, and perhaps preserves, the places where the Eternal moves upon the mortal in extraordinary ways. These places are never again the same, at least for those who are sensitive to His touch. Perhaps they never were ordinary to begin with.

I believe that there are places upon this earth which have been made special by His presence and remain to be governed by His heavenly courts and the mandates of His Majesty. Mankind is truly God's finest creation, and the glory of such a creature becomes more reflective of its Creator when he seeks the image whereby he is made, and is introduced into such a setting as can provide for this discovery.

The Sacred Grove where God appeared with His Only Begotten Son, the banks of the Susquehanna River where John the Baptist and the Apostles Peter, James, and John returned the keys of the priesthood to the earth, and the Hill Cumorah where a sacred record was hid for ages: these are places not only of historical significance, but of eternal spiritual consequence. These are places wherein the gates of eternity were transcended and the souls of men were transformed. Because of the eternal nature of the events occurring in these holy venues, they cannot be hid from the eyes of the discerning in the pages of history. They are alive today, just as they were in the moment of their service, and they continue to call upon those who seek the truth. The Peter Whitmer farm where the church was formally organized on April 6, 1830; the Martin Harris farm which was mortgaged

to provide the means for the spread of the fullness of the gospel; and the E.B. Grandin building where the first copies of the Book of Mormon were published: these are sites to be respected, whose principal occupants once changed the world through their obedience to God, and His will to restore the truth to the souls of men.

It was with these understandings, to some degree or another, that 18 souls from the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Restoration Branch gathered often in prayer and study before traveling to New York on August 25, 2007 to visit these sites, worship on these grounds, and learn for ourselves of the Spirit which abides therein.

We were blessed in ways innumerable, and by means eluding photography. Nevertheless, I present these few pictures with the hopes that they may inspire some reflection of the singularity of God's church, His people, and His call to us today. What cannot be documented on film is the Spirit which flowed upon us as we prayed together and sang hymns in the Sacred Grove, spent quiet time on Hill Cumorah, and worshiped on the banks of the Susquehanna. We walked where prophets once stood, where solemn Saints once worshiped, where the Book of Mormon sprang forth from the earth with a testimony of Jesus Christ, and where God Himself descended to men of low estate. Let this be my testimony, that these were days never to be forgotten, memories formed in places forever changed by the majesty of our Savior.

Note: You can view over 250 pictures and read a summary of our trip by visiting www.restoredchurchofchrist.com and clicking on "History Trip". A DVD slide show is available for all those interested.

Get to Know the Saints

The interview this month is with Brother Ken Long.

- 1) What is your full name?** Kenneth Eugene Long
- 2) Where were you born?** Bakersfield, CA
- 3) Favorite hobbies:** hunting, fishing, and hiking
- 4) Favorite color:** blue
- 5) Least favorite food:** cooked carrots
- 6) In your opinion, at what age does a person become old?**

Eighty-five: "As long as you're healthy".

- 7) One thing that many people don't know about you:**

"I can't think of anything that people don't know about me".

- 8) The Lord permitting, what is one of your plans for the future?** I would like to learn more about the scriptures and travel.

- 9) If you had to pick 5 items (not people) from your home and surrender everything else, what would you keep?** The three standard books, our kid's baby pictures, and my mother-in-law's faith.

- 10) List all of the former jobs you have had?** Picking cotton and beans, farm work, and working for seed companies.

- 11) If you could meet any of the deceased, who would it be?** Joseph Smith Jr.

- 12) What is your favorite scripture?** John 3:16

- 13) When you think of Zion, what first comes to mind?** Peace.

- 14) What person(s) has been most influential in your life?** My father-in-law and mother-in-law.

- 15) Who would you like to be interviewed next?** Gary Livingston.



Brother Ken
Long

Regional Women's Retreat Update:

Good News!!! In a prayerful search, the Lord blessed me in finding a suitable location for our regional women's retreat. I passed the information along to Brother Bill Curtis, who is charged with coordinating the regional events. His diligent efforts, and those of others from Vancouver, resulted in the securing of the "Menucha Retreat" grounds April 2-4, 2008. The location is 22 miles East of Portland, and overlooks the Columbia River Gorge. Please continue to pray for the retreats organizers, participants, and ministry. - Brian

Local Business Meeting

Please support the following officers which were elected or appointed October 14 at the local business meeting:

Pastor:	Elder Brian Herren
Counselors to Pastor:	High Priest Bill Curtis Elder Gary Livingston
Youth Commission:	Priest Jim Clark Sister Dianna Clark Sister Traci Scuito
Treasurer:	Elder Gene Lufman
Secretary:	Sister Dianna Clark
Auditor:	Priest Jim Clark
Recorder:	Sister Nancy Curtis

Regional Business Meeting

Please support the following officers which were elected or appointed October 7 at the regional business meeting:

Regional Coordinator:	High Priest Bill Curtis
Counselors to Regional Coordinator:	Elder Wray Moreland Elder Brian Herren
Regional Youth Director:	Priest Jeff Rew
Regional Women's Director:	Sister Lori Buckbee
Regional Treasurer:	Sister Kathy Moreland
Regional Secretary:	Sister Jan Esquivel
Regional Activities Director:	Elder Wray Moreland
Regional Music Director:	Sister Jan Esquivel
Regional Church School Director:	Sister Janet Rew

Note: Please remember that volunteer opportunities are available at Simonka Place (ask Brian for details). Also, Brother Ron Trammell will take the lead again this year in organizing the sponsorship of a family in need for Thanksgiving & Christmas. Additional details will be available soon. Please consider giving generously to this worthy effort.