

# Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



July, 2009

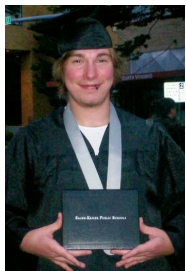
## Important Dates:

- July 31-Aug.2: Congregational Camping Trip
- August 8: Congregational picnic at Bush park
- August 9: Book of Mormon Evidences Class, 7pm at the Church
- August 12: Campfire Service at the Trammell's
- August 16-22: Youth Camp
- August 23: Baptismal Service at Larwood (see below)
- August 30: Confirmation Service at the Church
- August 31: Saints travel to the Holy Lands
- Every Sunday Evening: Genesis / Exodus Class
- Every other Wednesday evening: Prayer & Testimony service

## Directions to Larwood Park

1. From Salem, travel 13.6 miles East on Highway 22.
2. Take the second Stayton exit, toward Santiam / Sublimity.
3. Turn right onto Cascade Highway (which becomes North 1st Ave. in Stayton).
4. North 1st Ave. becomes Stayton-Scio Road. (Stay on this road for about 3 miles after exiting Highway 22 – don't worry about the name changes).
5. Turn left on Cole School road and travel 3.2 miles.
6. Turn right onto Ridge drive and take a very slight left onto Richardsons Gap road.
7. Travel on Richardsons Gap road for 4.4 miles.
8. Turn left onto Larwood Drive and travel 4.7 miles.

## Congratulations Tyler!



Brother Tyler Vyhna

On June 3, 2009 Brother Tyler Vyhna graduated from Barbara Roberts High School in Salem, Oregon. His mother, Sister Brenda, mentioned that he graduated one year ahead of schedule because of his hard work. She writes that, "he wants to further his education in HVAC systems (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning), but at this time he is taking a well deserved breather". We are praying for you Ty and we take joy in your accomplishment. Congratulations.

## Book of Mormon Evidences Class

Recently, I was invited to a local ward of the LDS church for a presentation on the evidences of the Book of Mormon. The friend who had invited me is the 1st Counselor to the Bishopric, and well-acquainted with many of the Restoration beliefs. I was unable to attend, but afterwards I asked my friend for his opinion. He was very excited and positively endorsed the class. I was able to contact the teacher of the class, Dr. Loyd Colvin, and speak with him at length. We acknowledged the significant differences that continue to exist between the LDS church and the Restored Church of Christ, but we also spoke lovingly of a most powerful bond: Jesus Christ, and the witness of Him made by the Book of Mormon. After speaking with my counselors, I invited Dr. Colvin to give the class to the Saints of the Restoration, and shared with him my expectations. He agreed with some excitement. The class will be at 7:00 p.m. at the church on August 9th. Other Sunday evening classes will be postponed. The class is a PowerPoint presentation and will last about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Dr. Colvin will not be teaching about the LDS church, or discussing the differences between our beliefs and theirs. He will focus only on the Book of Mormon: the archeology, linguistics, animals, and evidence that it is a divine work and not the invention of any man. I hope every Saint will attend. Our landlord has agreed to our use for no extra fees. I asked our brother to forward some information about himself, and I devote the remainder of this article to this biographical summary:



Brother Lloyd Colvin

Lloyd W. Colvin is the father of eight children, and the husband of Ella for 50 years.

### Education

- B.S. (Music) and M.S. (Ed. Admin.) Degrees at the University of Utah

- Doctorate Degree at the University of Oregon (Educational Administration and Research)

- One Year of post-Doctoral training in Research & Evaluation, University of Oregon, funded by the U.S. Office of Education.

### Professional Experience

- Taught at elementary, high school, college, and university levels (Music, English, Typing, Library Science, Research, Program Evaluation, and Measurement)

- Research Assistant for the Dean of the Sch. of Ed., University of Oregon

- Supervisor of Research, Portland Public School System, Portland, Oregon (4 years)

- Director of Research and Planning, Phoenix Union High School System, Phoenix, Arizona (10 years)

- Director of Research & Planning, Kern High School District, Bakersfield, CA (From 1978 to 1999, retired)

- Taught at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Arizona State University, California Lutheran University, and California State University, Bakersfield as a part-time instructor (Research, Program Evaluation, and Statistics courses)

- Auditor and Evaluator for U.S. Office of Education.

- Consultant & President of Research and Planning Services. Advanced planning studies (capacity analysis, 10-year enrollment projections, and demographic studies) for many California school districts. Additionally, demographic studies for Mercy Hospital.

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## Book of Mormon Evidences Class

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### Church-Related Experience

- Ward and Stake Music Chairman, Organist, Choir Director
- Scoutmaster, Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver Award
- Community Orchestra Director, St. George, UT
- Priesthood Leader and Teacher
- Served on several High Councils
- Stake Executive Secretary
- Sunday School President and Teacher, Gospel Doctrine
- Young Men President and Teacher
- Ward and Stake Mission Leader
- Full-time missionary, Central Atlantic States, 1957-59
- Bishop, Tempe Seventh Ward, Tempe, AZ
- 1st Councilor in Stake Presidency, Bakersfield, CA
- Early Morning Seminary Teacher
- Senior Missionary, Ukraine, 18 months (2005-2006)

### Announcements:

1) Remember, the calendars and newsletters are available at [www.restoredchurchofchrist.com](http://www.restoredchurchofchrist.com). You can also listen to the sermons there.

2) Please use 503-949-2484 to reach Brother Brian, and 503-949-2346 to reach Sister Melissa. The other number will not work.

3) Cessaries' new address: 4923 49th Ave NE, Salem, OR 97305

4) Kevin, Trina, & Gabriella's new address: 4701 Rawhide Ct. NE, Salem, Oregon 97305

## Missions, by Brian Herren

It has been a blessing to me to be able to send scriptures and church history books to Africa, South America, Australia, Asia, Israel, Europe and throughout America. Several relationships have been developed & I maintain correspondence with several in gospel bonds. In the Spring of this year, a man named Manuel emailed me from England. He had a great desire to study the Book of Mormon and felt that he had been told of God that the Book was inspired by the Holy Ghost. Once he received a Book of Mormon his thirst continued, and he requested a Doctrine & Covenants, as he felt the Lord had led him to this church & he was desirous to join. I began to search for an elder near Brother Manuel & found none. I mailed him a Doctrine & Covenants, Inspired Version of the Bible, and a church history book. Brother Manuel continues to study diligently, though his English is imperfect (he was raised in Portugal & later moved to Bracknell, England). He writes often, and demonstrates an unusual comprehension of the Gospel of Christ and the laws by which God governs His Church. Brother Manuel remains desirous of baptism, so I suggested we both pray about the matter for a time. After prayer & fasting, I received my answer: the Spirit said, "Go". I emailed him and told him that I would travel to Bracknell and baptize him and any others of a like mind if it was God's will. He continued to pray & recently emailed me back. He feels that he has had a confirmation of my answer by way of the Holy Spirit, but was led to begin a Restoration prayer/study group. He will gather all of a like mind and they will study the Gospel, the Restoration, church history, the priesthood, etc. for 12 months. He has invited me to plan my visit sometime in the Fall of 2010, Lord willing, when as many as have been prepared might receive baptism by one having authority (2 of us will travel), and perhaps a mission or branch be established. I will see how the Lord directs, but I ask for your frequent prayers. Many things can change between now & then. Please pray for us all.

## From the Camp Pastor, Elder Gary Livingston

Dear Campers,

I would like to take a few moments to write to you about our upcoming regional camp. My prayer is that each of you will have an experience that will have a special place in your heart for many years to come. This can and will happen as you feel the Spirit of God touching your lives.

I remember very well my own camping experiences as a youth. Yes, I had lots of fun. I played games, did crafts, and participated in many activities. Those things are all an important part of camp but they took a back seat to what was most important to me. The part of camp that was most important to me, that holds true to me to this very day, was the manner in which the Spirit of God touched my heart. You see, it's the spiritual side of camp that helped me experience the love and power of God for the very first time in my life. It's those spiritual experiences which bonded me to my faith and continues to be with me today even as it did when I was a camper.

I trust that each of you have a desire to experience God's Spirit at camp. These experiences don't happen by chance or luck. They happen as a result of proper preparation. I learned a long time ago that you get out of something what you put into it. If you put little thought or effort into something then you must not expect very much in return. If, however, you desire to receive a lot from camp, then you must put a lot into it. This is where preparation comes in. With proper preparation you open the door to your heart in which the Spirit can find place to abide. Here are some things you can do to help prepare yourself for camp:

**Prayer** – Pray each and every day about camp. Let God know how much you want to feel his Spirit and how much you love Him. Pray for others who will be attending camp with you. Prayer is how we communicate with God.

**Fast** – Fasting turns our attention away from our own human needs and helps us focus solely on our Heavenly Father. It humbles us and prepares our hearts for the spiritual food which only God can give.

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Brother Livingston

## From the Camp Pastor

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**Study** – Open up the scriptures and read the Word of God. As you read, pray that God will help you to understand His Word. Doing this every day will help your heart and mind come in tune to God.

**Family** – Talk about camp within your family. Let family members know how important camp is to you. Include your family in your preparation. Families can pray, fast, and study together.

I believe with all my heart that with proper preparation each of you will be blessed by your Heavenly Father this year at camp. I know that you will have a lot of fun, but my hope and prayer is that you will experience the Spirit of God in such a way that it will bond your heart to Him for the rest of your lives... just as it did mine.

Your Brother In Christ,  
Gary

## Fellowship Weekends



### Men's fellowship weekend

This year, the Salem branch enjoyed two new opportunities to come together in fellowship: the men's and women's fellowship weekends. The women's weekend was planned by the Ladies Relief Society and was spent in Seaside, OR. The men's weekend was spent at Sunriver Resort near Bend, OR. Both weekends were financed privately, and no church funds were used in any way. The Scuito's graciously donated their timeshare for the women. If you wish to help reimburse for the men's weekend, see Brian.

Thank you to everyone who participated. The Lord can minister to us through every man and women according to the gifts carefully placed within them. I felt very blessed by the ministry of every man who attended the men's weekend. Let us continue to keep each other in our prayers, bear one another's burden's, rejoice together, suffer together, and renew our faith in the service to an unequalled Lord. Let us continue to grow together.



### Women's fellowship weekend

## Answer to Prayer

By Bill and Nancy Curtis

Have you ever been accused of something that you didn't do? Having an accusation made against you is bad enough by itself, but when you don't have much recourse against the charges and it could mean a prison sentence, it is a very lonely and depressing emotion to deal with. It's there when you fall asleep at night and with you when you wake up. It's a nightmare that doesn't go away. This is what happened to our grandson, Bill.

Since early in April, he was being held in the Alexandria, LA county jail on charges that he assaulted another person. He flatly denied it but nevertheless, he was being held as one of three men who had committed this crime.

We asked for prayers on his behalf at prayer service and told Bill that we had shared our concerns with our church friends. We also were in contact on a regular basis with his court appointed attorney who went by the name "Mr. Billy". Every time we faxed or called the attorney's office, we were always met with very polite, caring people. If Mr. Billy wasn't in, he still always returned our phone calls when he returned to his office. We were told that he would get to the bottom of the matter and we felt personally that he would do all that there could be done for Bill.

On Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 in the evening, we received a call from Mr. Billy and he told us that the District Attorney had dropped all charges against Bill and he would be free to go home as soon as they could get the paper work done. What a huge answer to prayer! (**Blessing #1**) He thought it might be about 48 hours. He told us that we could call Bill and let him know. I looked up the phone numbers for the county jail and did not realize that there are three detention centers and I called the number for #1 when I really needed #3. I dialed the number listed for the warden and a woman answered. I told her what the attorney had just related to us and asked her if there was some way she could get word to Bill and ask him to his grandmother. She told me that she was in facility #1 but she could still get word to him. I thanked her and waited. Fifteen minutes later Bill called. Since his grandfather had been sick, he was afraid that I had bad news for him. I asked him what the best news would be that he would like to hear. He said "that the charges have been dropped". His grandfather and I both said at once "your charges have been dropped". He was speechless and couldn't believe what he was hearing. He hollered out to other men standing nearby, "my charges have been dropped, I'm going home". The others were really happy for him. He said he needed to go for a walk and let this news process and he would call back later in the evening. I called the phone number again for the warden's office wanting to thank the secretary for contacting him so quickly and when no one answered I looked at the clock and realized that it was 6:45 pm their time and the office closes at 5 pm. Somehow, she had been available after the office closed. (**Blessing #2**)

On Thursday morning at 7:30 am our time, we received a call from Federal Agent Denise who informed us that Bill was to be released within the hour.

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## Answer to Prayer, by Bill and Nancy Curtis

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We told her that we had to make plane reservations and could she hold him a little longer. She said it was against the law for her to hold him but understanding the situation she could occupy herself with some other matters first. She gave me her personal cell phone number (**Blessing #3**). We began to think through all the details that would be necessary to get Bill home. The first thing we realized was he had no personal ID on him that would allow him to board an airplane. I called Denise and she said she had not thought of that but would make a copy of some ID that hopefully would take care of it. We then realized that he didn't have any money for food on the trip home. We had sent Bill a money order on Monday for \$50 so I called the jail again (once again calling the wrong phone number) and asked if that money had possibly been placed on his books yet. The woman I spoke with told me I had the wrong facility but said she could still look it up. She said the money had just been recorded on his books and would be available to him in check form when he left. (**Blessing #4**) I called Denise again and told her about the money but didn't know how he could possibly get it cashed. She said she would take him to her personal bank so he could get it cashed. (**Blessing #5**) As we talked at different times during the day she related to us that she had taken Bill and someone else to court that morning and as she walked in she was told that there would be no court for him, his charges were dropped and he was to be released. She said that had never happened to her before. (**Blessing #6**)

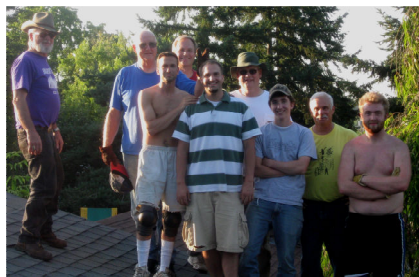
Then it was time to make plane reservations. I called American Airlines because they had a flight with only one stop, and spoke to a woman about the immediate situation. She asked if he would have luggage and I told her he would only have the clothes on his back. I explained what had happened and she said "well, I'm going to get him a window seat all the way home", and she did. (**Blessing #7**) I called Denise back explaining the options of two different times to fly out and since she wasn't sure about the earliest flight, we took the later one because she would be taking him to the airport. We asked if Bill could call us before he took off and she said she would see that it was done.

We wanted to give Bill a calling card number so he would be able to reach us at any time during his trip. Agent Denise took him to her bank, then the airport where she spent three hours with him talking over lunch and getting him through security. (**Blessing #8**) She had Bill call us on her personal cell phone and it was still unbelievable to him that he was on his way home. He arrived in Portland at 11:45 pm that night and several family members were there to greet him. It was such a happy time of relief, gratitude and thankfulness to the Lord for his bounty to us. (**Blessing #9**) The following morning I called Denise to thank her once again for her kindness to Bill and her help on so many different levels. She said she had wondered if he got home alright and said she had prayed for him. (**Blessing #10**) I thanked her for her concern and for seeking the Lord on his behalf.

Daily, we're continually thankful for the prayers of the saints and for justice on his behalf.

### Roofing Project Complete

Several of the Brothers came together during recent evenings to replace a failing roof for an elderly couple in West Salem. Special thanks to Brothers Ron Herren, Ron Trammell, Willis Johnson, Brian Herren, Jim Clark, Gary Livingston, Kevin Herren, Gene Luffman, Andrew Trammell, and Travis Clark. The Ladies relief society planned and delivered meals each evening to the workers. Special thanks to Sisters Sue Herren, Carla Livingston, Dianna Clark, Melissa Clark, Melissa Herren, and Sharon Trammell. Also, thank you to Sister Cessaries Galusha for caring for our children while we worked. If you become aware of any particular needs within or without of the church, please be sure to let Brother Brian know. We look forward to many more opportunities to serve our fellow man and multiply our fellowship in the bonds of servanthood. Please do not hesitate to call.

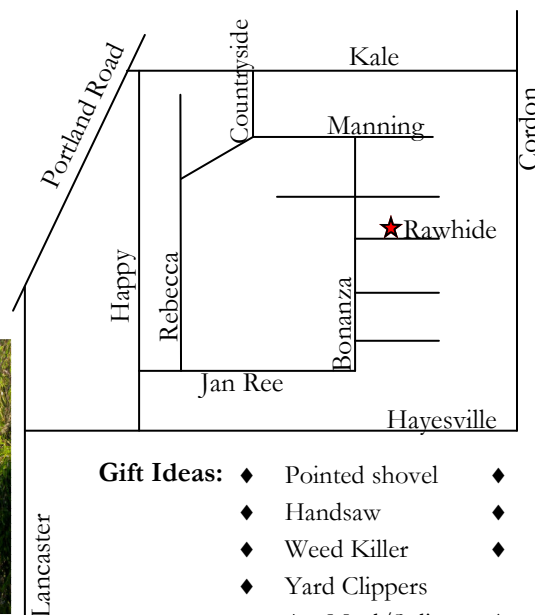


**The Roofing Crew**

(not pictured: Brother Gary Livingston)

### You're Invited to a Housewarming

Kevin and Trina have recently moved into a rental house at 4701 Rawhide Court NE, Salem, OR 97305. Everyone is welcome to a housewarming party on August 10th at 6:30 pm.



**Please RSVP to Melissa at (503) 949-2346**

For those interested, there will be a money tree to help with the purchase of window coverings.

- Gift Ideas:**
- ◆ Pointed shovel
  - ◆ Favorite Recipes
  - ◆ Handsaw
  - ◆ Baby Gates
  - ◆ Weed Killer
  - ◆ Door Mat: "As For Me and My House..."
  - ◆ Yard Clippers
  - ◆ Seasoned Wood for fireplace
  - ◆ Ax: Maul/Splitter
  - ◆ Hose nozzle