

Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



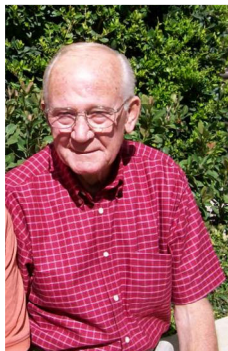
October, 2009

Important Dates:

- October 23-25: Priesthood Retreat
- October 24: Youth Harvest Party
- October 25: Worship, 10-11 a.m. at B. Herren's
- October 28: Youth Commission Appreciation Dinner

A Beloved Brother

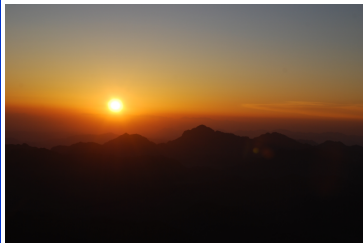
By Nancy Curtis



Rex Curtis, brother of Bill, was born on Aug. 22, 1934 and went to be with the Lord on Sept. 18, 2009. Rex

lived most of his life in San Diego with his wife Janie and three children. He held the priesthood office of Priest and later of an Elder. He spent many years holding Cottage Meetings in the home of people who were interested in learning about the Lord and he really enjoyed this part of his ministry. He spent four years in the Navy, first aboard the carrier CVA -33 USS Kearsarge and then he transferred to the LST 854 - USS Kemper County where he served with both of his brothers, Bill and Tom for two years. His life's work was spent as a carpet installer and he also enjoyed working with flowers in their yard. Rex loved the Lord and was quick to share his testimony with anyone who would listen.

Truly Blessed



Sunrise at Sinai

Twenty Saints were truly blessed in their travels to the Holy Lands, August 31 - September 13. Our experi-

ences are not easily conveyed in a few words, and will not easily be forgotten. We walked where our Lord had walked, worshiped where He preached, and baptized in the same river He was baptized in.

Our Middle East tour started in Egypt, where we visited the great pyramids and climbed into the burial chamber of one. We were also made mindful of how the Israelites had lived in Egypt for so many years and how Christ had been secreted away as a child in Egypt. The Nile River was decorated with bulrushes, like those used to carry Moses as an infant. The Saints explored the Sinai peninsula, including Elim (Exodus 15:27), the Valley of Manna (Exodus 16) and Rephidim (Exodus 17), where Moses' arms were supported by Aaron & Hur to ensure a Hebrew victory against the Amalekites. In Egypt, we climbed Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-34) to watch the sunrise as God's Spirit moved upon us. Many rode camels part of the way, but a rigorous climb awaited each Saint and proved a worthy preparation to meeting the rising sun.

Our first stay in Jordan was near Petra (II Kings 14), the ancient Nabatean city and biblical land of Edom (descendants of Esau). We stayed near Mount Hor, where Aaron died, and near the valley of Moses, where he had led the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. We also stayed in Amman, the capitol of Jordan. Amman was once called Philadelphia (Revelation 1 & 3).

As we made our way toward Israel, we were able to spend time on the top of Mount Nebo (Deut. 34, Joshua 1 & 2), where Moses first glimpsed the Promised Land. In Israel, we made an early stop at Emmaus (Luke 24), where Christ walked with 2 disciples after His

resurrection. In Joppa, we remembered how Tabitha was raised from the dead (Acts 9:36) and how Peter ministered to Cornelius after learning that he should not call any man unclean (Acts 10). We visited the remains of Peter's home in Capernaum & worshipped in the ruined synagogue where Christ astonished the people by ministering as one who had true authority (Mark 1 & 2). The Saints walked through Caesarea Maritime, the astounding harbor built by Herod the Great.

On the top of Mount Carmel, the Saints assembled an altar and worshipped where Elijah had once been blessed in his contest with 450 prophets of Baal (I Kings 18).

We stood atop Armageddon (I Kings 9, II Kings 10, Rev. 16) and looked upon the valley. Some sensed the physical presence of our Almighty Savior upon the top of Mount Precipice (Luke 4:16-31) as we looked upon Nazareth through tearful eyes and worshipped.

The Saints swam in the Sea of Galilee, and sailed upon its waters. We were blessed during a sunrise worship service as we saw the first rays light the sea. We stayed in Tiberius, near the place where Peter, Andrew, James, and John were called by the Lord (Matthew 4); and where He once walked upon the water (Matthew 14).

Near Tiberius, we visited the Mount of Beatitudes, where Christ delivered the finest sermon ever preached (Matthew 5 & 6). A visit was paid to Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16) before the Saints traveled to the Jordan River.



Brother & Sister Long at Caesarea

...continued on page 2



Sister Trina Kellogg being baptized in the Jordan River

Sister Trina Kellogg was baptized by Brother Herren in the Jordan River and later confirmed in Jerusalem

by Brothers Herren and Moreland. Many sensed the Spirit bless us.

We visited Tabgha, where the multiplication of the loaves and fishes occurred (Mark 6), and Ein Gedi, where David once hid from Saul (I Samuel 23 & 24). The Saints were amazed at the properties of the Dead Sea and how easy it was to float in the extremely warm water. There were no rocks or sand - only salt!

At Qumran, we saw the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found before riding a cable car to the top of Masada, where the Jews made their stand against the Romans in 73 AD.

It is difficult to fairly and thoroughly characterize our experiences in Jerusalem in these few words. Her troubled and majestic history seems equaled only by the spirit of promise and hope in her future. The people are hopeful, faithful, and obvious Zionist. The Holy Spirit still rests in this holy city, that much is certain. The Saints walked quietly upon the Mount of Olives (II Samuel 15, Ezekiel 15:23, I Kings 11:7-8, Matthew 24), and spent time in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26). In "the Upper Room", built to commemorate the events of Mark 14 & Acts 1, it seems that something heavenly joined in song with the Saints as we sang. Several bystanders were moved by the spirit and this peculiar group of Americans. Our tour guide was moved to tears.

The streets of Jerusalem were filled with unfamiliar sounds, smells, sights, and people, but the Spirit seemed familiar enough. Open air markets lined the streets and pilgrims from all over the world worshipped in their native tongues. We all prayed at the Western Wall, where several returned again and again to worship. Some witnessed the Jews welcome in Shabbat at the Western Wall, which was a truly awesome experience. I felt the Lord reassure me as I prayed for Judah and Ephraim that night. ...continued on page 3

Local Business Meeting

Please support the following officers which were elected September 27 at the local business meeting:

Pastor:	Elder Brian Herren
Counselors to Pastor:	High Priest Bill Curtis Elder Gary Livingston
Youth Commission:	Sister Sharon Trammell Brother Kevin Herren Sister Traci Scuito
Treasurer:	Priest Jim Clark
Secretary:	Sister Dianna Clark

The appointments for auditor and recorder will be announced November 29, when a show of support will be requested.

Regional Business Meeting

Please support the following officers which were elected October 3 at the regional business meeting:

Regional Coordinator:	Elder Gary Jones
Counselors to Regional Coordinator:	Elder Brian Herren Elected Pastor of Vancouver
Regional Youth Director:	Sister Dawn Terry
Regional Women's Director:	Sister Dianna Clark
Regional Treasurer:	Priest Mitch Arndt
Regional Secretary:	Sister Jan Esquivel
Regional Recreation Director:	Brother Andrew Trammell
Regional Music Director:	Sister Cessaries Galusha
Regional Church School Director:	Sister Janet Rew

Sanctuary

Recently I spoke to the congregation about our spiritual growth, and expressed my excitement therein. This growth has not been without growing pains, but many are pleased with the opportunity to make those efforts which restore our worship to a more pleasing form before the Lord. One such measure concerns our use of the sanctuary at church. The sanctuary had aught to be a place where the Holy Spirit abides, and where one can quietly pray or study before or after services. Loud or boisterous activities can offend the Holy Spirit and make it necessary to exert great efforts in His invocation. To diminish this, I ask that we extend our greetings and morning salutations in the foyer, and that we not enter the sanctuary until we feel that we are ready to enter the presence of the Lord. I fully expect that as we honor the Holy Spirit's presence, He will bless us abundantly. I greatly appreciate the joyful and hearty salutations, handshakes and embraces of the Saints, but ask that these take place in their proper place: the foyer. Please do not curtail your exuberant greetings, but rather set them in their rightful place. This will also permit peaceful administrations (laying on of hands) in the front rooms of the sanctuary before and after services. At the conclusion of the 11:00 service, please quietly exit without speaking. Clean-up will begin when the last Saint has exited the sanctuary. May the Holy Spirit be upon us.



Jerusalem, from Mount Olivet

Before leaving Israel, we traveled through Ein Kerem, to see where John the Baptist had been raised, and viewed the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15) where Christ had healed the disabled.

On the last night of our stay in Jerusalem, several of the younger Saints returned to the old city of Jerusalem, within the city walls. We found a quiet place that overlooked the West-

ern Wall and enjoyed worshipping the Lord with song, prayer, and scripture. The Spirit attended and ministered accordingly. I encourage the youth not to forget the words spoken there that night, nor the bonds by which they are made effectual. As our last night in Jerusalem closed, we prayed. I remember one prayer in particular: I couldn't hear a word of it because of the wind, but I felt the Spirit bring me rest, and I knew somehow that I would be blessed because of that prayer.

Would I go to Israel again? Yea, tomorrow. I'll remember the way that the Lord cleared our way...how every busy location was made quiet for us and then filled once again with clamor at the conclusion of our worship. I'll remember the joy of the Saints as we sang hymns, and the joy of the Lord as we prayed. I'll remember the steadfastness of the Saints and their perseverance. I'll remember the joy of baptizing in the Jordan River. I'll remember the counsel at Sinai and the altar at Carmel. I'll remember what happened at Precipice and not let time remove this precious memory. I'll remember how much I love the Saints, everyone in their own way...their leadership, tenderness, love, submissiveness, trust, and steadfastness. I'll remember swimming in the Red Sea with my friends, and losing my glasses in the Mediterranean sea. I'll remember the buoyancy of the Dead Sea and morning worship at the Galilean Sea. Above all, I will remember that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Mighty Son of God, Alpha and Omega, the only Savior, the great Author and Finisher of our faith. Of this, I bear my witness in His most precious name.

I would like to especially thank Melissa Herren, Kevin Herren, Suzy Herren, Gene & Kathy Luffman, Jim & Dianna Clark, Travis Clark, Melissa Clark, Cessaries Galusha, Steve and Traci Scuito, Jacob Scuito, Ken & Ilene Long, Wray Moreland, Gary Wheeler, Trina Kellogg, Andrew Trammell. Thank you Heavenly Father, for your guiding hand and tender mercies.

I believe that the hymns are one of the shining gems that the Lord has delivered to the Saints. They should be on our tongues continually, and we should express joy in their proper use. One should understand that music is much deeper than making a sound that pleases the ear. It is a gift that eases our burden, invokes dedication, and invites the Spirit which makes us courageous in our work. It is much more. We should prepare to come to Zion singing songs of everlasting joy! To this end, I have asked Sister Cessaries to cultivate and develop the use of music in our lives. This is a broad and deep ministry, which will be better understood in time. It is not an effort to create a performance concert choir and is not directed at creating something shiny or dazzling in the eyes/ears of men. It is a personal and collective ministry that should combine with other ministry to bring about the truest works of Christ's church. Cessaries' efforts may culminate in new ministries of music on Sunday, but they may also be directed in more private and individual ways. I will know the work is prospering not necessarily when I hear a *perfect* sound, but rather when I hear a *joyful* sound, proceed from the hearts and lips of the Saints. I will see it in the countenance of the congregation. In terms of administration, Cessaries will also coordinate ministries of music within & without the church, and work with Sharon to decide whether the piano or organ is used. This responsibility does not represent a new office with independent authority, but rather a ministry to continue under the direction of the pastor in an effort to fulfill the will of God as nearly as it is understood. May our response please the Lord.

Christmas Wreaths Available 11/29/09

Written by the Youth Commission



Our youth will again be making and selling beautiful Christmas wreaths for \$10.00 each in an effort to raise money for youth camp. The wreaths can be pre-ordered from any youth in the congregation and picked up on Sunday, November 29th. They will also be available for purchase without pre-order on the 29th. If you received one of these wreaths last year, you know how beautiful they were and how long they lasted. Make your plans now

and let all your family and friends know of this wonderful opportunity to help send a youth to camp and decorate your home with the beauty and fresh fragrance of the great outdoors.

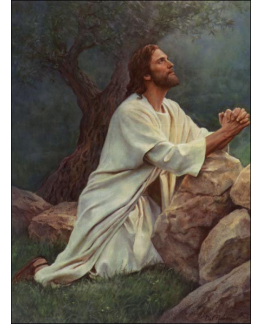
Young Adult Group

Efforts will soon be made to organize the young adults of the congregation. This group will be open to young adults who are at least 18 years old. Service, worship, and recreation opportunities will be discussed with those interested. Hopefully you have noticed the burgeoning leadership that is developing in our midst. We are blessed as a result of the faithfulness of these young men and women. Our first meeting will be at 8:00 p.m. on November 5th at the Herren's home.

Prayer Services

Something exciting is happening in the church. We're growing! There are those who have a desire to meet together more often, to pray more, and to fast more! Beginning in November, there will be prayer service every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The meetings will be at Brother Kevin's house (4701 Rawhide Court NE) on the first two Wednesdays of each month. The remainder will be at the Clark's home. On the final Wednesday of each month the Saints are invited to fast for the purpose of drawing closer to God and in preparation for the communion. This provides an opportunity for us to consider the importance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper several days before partaking, and enables us to seek out the Lord in a concentrated way. Some may also fast as a part of repentance, seeking the Lord's will in their lives, or communing with Him in spirit. It should be done with express purpose and may serve as a means whereby our spirit gains the mastery over our body. This spiritual exercise will complement our prayer and study in the church. Each family may bring food items to the final prayer service of the month, and we will all break bread together after the service.

In the Scriptures, Moroni wrote that the Saints met together often, but what did they do during these frequent meetings? The answer is found in Moroni 6:6: "And the church did met together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls: and they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus...". May the Lord find us so faithful, and disciplined, in our good efforts.



Sunday Morning Classes

Beginning early in 2008, we began a serious study of those topics considered fundamental to our faith. Please look forward to the final classes of this series:

The Word of Wisdom	Elder Brian Herren
Prayer	Elder Gary Livingston
Study	High Priest Bill Curtis
Fasting	Elder Brian Herren
The Financial Law	Priest Jim Clark
Stewardship	High Priest Bill Curtis
Laying on of Hands for Administration	H.P. John Henderson
Signs of the Times	High Priest Bill Curtis

Holiday Ministries

The Saints have often brought ministry by singing together hymns and songs of praise with joy and gladness for the benefit of all. This Christmas let us try something a little different and form a choir. All who would like to participate are invited, and we need plenty of both men and women! Whether you consider yourself a music genius or not, please come and share beautiful music as we ask the angels to join us in singing praise to our Heavenly Father and rejoice in the birth of His Son. Schedules are busy and hectic, but we have an opportune time to rehearse at the church on Sunday mornings before worship starts at 9:45 am. Beginning November 1st we will have choir practice every Sunday morning at 8:45 am, which will give plenty of rehearsal time and a break before worship begins. We will prepare one piece for ministry in the 11 o'clock service on December 20th, which will have CD accompaniment as Cessaries is not able to be with us that Sunday. Please come one and all and bless us with your beautiful voices. Though you may not think they are beautiful, they are to me and they are to your Heavenly Father.

Sister in Christ,
Cessaries Galusha

Can You Help?

Dear Saints,

We will again be assisting some needy families during the upcoming holiday season. I will again be organizing this effort. I would ask your support each month for the next three months for the following needs.

I would like to start with collecting cash donations during the month of October that will be used to provide heating oil. Winter is coming and heating a home can be very expensive. These donations can be given directly to me and I will deposit them in the account the church has set up at Marc Nelson Oil, where a decision can be made to have them deliver oil to any family that we become aware of throughout the winter months.

During the month of November I would like to provide a full thanksgiving dinner for two families. I will again be contacting family services (Department of Human Services) for a recommendation of families in need. I will have a sign up sheet for the different items needed and will need the food delivered to me at church on Sunday, November 22. I will plan on delivering it that day so that the families will have it in time to prepare for Thanksgiving Day.

During the month of December I would like to provide a full Christmas dinner for two families along with gifts for both families. I will have a sign up sheet for the different food items needed and also provide sex, age, and sizes for gifts for the families. These items will need to be delivered to me on or before December 20, 2009 so they can be delivered that day to the families.

I thank you for your past support and ask that again we reach out to the community to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Yours in Christ,

Ron Trammell

"Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee; or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in; or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." - Jesus Christ