

# Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



January, 2009

## *Important Dates:*

- January 4: LRS meeting
- February 14-16: Regional Winter Youth Retreat
- June 26-28: Men's Fellowship weekend at Sunriver
- June 5-7: Women's retreat
- July 31-Aug. 2: Congregational Camping trip
- August 16-22: Youth Camp
- Every Sunday Evening: Genesis / Exodus Class
- Every other Wednesday evening: Prayer & Testimony service

## **Christmas Giving**

Thank you so much to the Saints who were willing to contribute food, presents, prayers, and labor to the congregation's Christmas giving this year. A special thank you to Brother Ron Trammell is appropriate, as he was in charge of this large and sometimes complex ministry. Brother Trammell, with the help of the Ladies Relief Society, delivered the donated presents & food to two families in need on December 23rd. The families were identified through the Department of Human Services. It is truly a blessing to see this good work prosper during a time of the year when so many unworthy distractions pull us away from what it means to serve Christ.

## **A New Year & New Opportunities in Christ**

Dear Saints,

I am so thankful for the ways that our congregation has been blessed with spiritual growth. I can easily recall moments of fellowship, study, worship & prayer, that I will never forget. Many of you have truly touched me by way of your ministry, and often in a way that may seem simple. To see us coming together more frequently, and with greater pursuits of serving God, and our fellow man, is a witness of the collective character of God's people. No growth is without the occasional growing pain, but our triumph is made sure in the love of Christ, and of one another.

Recent memory will illuminate some of the fruits of your labor. We have seen the introduction of regular service to the homeless and needy at Simonka Place, the collection & delivery of food for families in need, the collection & delivery of gifts to families in need at Christmas, the deliverance of heating oil to families without heat in their homes, the reintroduction of Wednesday prayer services, the formation of the local Ladies Relief Society, many youth service projects, the building of porches and the roofing of houses for the Saints, congregational camping trips, fellowship luncheons, a church history trip to New York and Pennsylvania, and the formation of an ongoing Sunday evening class.

Perhaps, we may feel the joy spoken of by Ammon when he said, "...I do not boast in my own strength, or in my own

wisdom; but behold, my joy is full, yea, my heart is brim with joy, and I will rejoice in my God; Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength, I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God; for in his strength I can do all things..."

Let us not forget the blessings we have received together as a region. The Lord has truly visited us with grace at the men's retreat, women's retreat, priesthood retreat, youth camp, reunion, and fall conference.

We have much to be thankful for and every reason to discern the living nature of Christ's Church in these last days. While the institutions of men wax and wane, Christ's Church continues to breathe life into the weak, lift up the lowly, and nourish the poor in spirit.

With the entrance of this new year, consider your place in Christ's Church, reflect upon the blessings of years gone by and prepare for the opportunities before us. Today is the day we have been given, not to spend in idleness, but to redeem with our best efforts. Today there are many opportunities in Christ. It is an appropriate time to reevaluate our priorities. Let us not diminish the moments of our learning, or the hours of our fellowship. Let this year be another year of growth, and one filled with the joyful songs of everlasting joy, the humble prayers of the Saints, the solitude of righteous worship, and the bonding peace of goodly fellowship. May our Savior be well pleased in His living body. Truly our Lord is risen, and His body is made forever new in the Gospel whereby we first knew love.

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**Announcement:** For several years now we have enjoyed a continuing Sunday evening class. Initially, Brother Herren taught a Book of Mormon class at the Trammell's home. Next, Brother Luffman taught a class on church history at the Herren's Home. A new class has just started, and we are studying the books of Genesis and Exodus every Sunday (6 pm) at Sister Sue Herren's home. The first class was held on December 7th, and the turnout was excellent, with 21 souls present. We hope to see you there next Sunday!

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**Announcement:** There is now nursery available during the 11:00 hour of Sunday church services for children 4 years old and younger. If you would like to volunteer to serve in the nursery, please see Melissa Herren. Nursery is also available at the Herren home during Sunday evening class.

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**Announcement:** Several have suggested trying someplace new for our fellowship luncheons. There are unique challenges in finding a suitable place, but on February 15, we will try Izzy's Buffet. I invite your input and we can make changes based upon our experience. I am really open to your suggestions here, and chose Izzy's this time based upon the feedback I was receiving. The banquet room is reserved for us. All are welcome, whether one can pay or not (buffet: \$8.49-\$10.49 / person).

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## Get to Know the Saints

This interview is with Sister Delight Coburn.

- 1) **What is your full name?** Delight Mary Coburn Hopkins
- 2) **Where were you born?** Salem, Oregon.
- 3) **Favorite hobbies:** Gardening, if I have time.
- 4) **If you had to pick 5 items (not people) from your home and surrender everything else, what would you keep?** 1. Religious books. 2. Hymnals. 3. Family pictures. 4. Recorded sermons from loved ones. 5. My memories.
- 5) **Favorite Color:** Blue.
- 6) **Least favorite food:** Raisins.
- 7) **In your opinion, at what age does a person become old?** When they no longer want to do what they enjoy.
- 8) **One thing that many people don't know about you:** I really like muscle cars.
- 9) **The Lord permitting, what is one of your plans for the future?** To see Mary and Branden into adulthood.
- 10) **List all of the former jobs you have had.** Field work, restaurant work (1 month), receptionist and manager for optometrist, assistant to ophthalmologist, insurance clerk for chiropractor, GTE coordinator for state office installs, US West directory assistant operator, collections manager.
- 11) **If you could meet any of the deceased, who would it be?** Jesus.
- 12) **What is your favorite scripture?** Today...Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11.
- 13) **When you think of Zion, what first comes to mind?** Home.
- 14) **What person(s) has been most influential in your life?** My mom and my dad.
- 15) **Who would you like to be interviewed next?** My sister, Donna Johnson.



Sister Delight  
Coburn

### A Testimony about the Ladies Relief Society



Sister Cessaries  
Galusha

secretary.

After the organizing business was settled, we began making preparations for our first activity of service. The women were scheduled to bring the morning worship for the following Sunday morning Church service. As we began discussing our ideas the Lord touched me with His Spirit and I felt a sense of peace, of joy, of pleasure at what we had done. I felt as though the Lord was showing me He was pleased that we had formed this group with the intention to serve those in need, and that all women are welcome to join us, not only baptized members of the Church, but anyone from the community who would be interested.

Because of the fatigue I had been feeling, I realized it was not purely my own thoughts or feelings that I felt. It was a subtle, pleasant feeling, that reminded me of a previous experience I have had with the Holy Ghost. May we go forward honoring the purity and intent of the Ladies Relief Society, endeavoring to serve others in any way we can to bring God glory.

In Christ,

Cessaries Galusha

### A Testimony about the Ladies Relief Society

For nearly 2 years my mind had intermittently found itself engaged in the consideration of a local women's group. Petitions had been made, from time to time, but an organization's value is largely predicated upon its ability to benefit those it intends to serve. I laid the matter before the Lord after having made some effort in my own mind to study out the particular nature of such a body, and the means whereby it might promulgate the mission of Christ. My mind was satisfied in the abilities of our wives, daughters, and sisters in Christ, and the need for their ministry was increasingly palpable amongst the Saints and beyond. A regional women's director office had been put in place, and effectively filled. Regional activities were well-served, but something yet lacked in terms of our local opportunity. Approximately 18 months ago, I petitioned some of the women to provide support for shut-ins, and several good-natured ladies responded, but the effort lacked organization and faltered.

Several months passed, but my mind remained excited in this vein, and my excitation was increasingly fostered by way of inspiration and the spirit which calls upon us to serve more diligently those who stand in need.

My soul found great interest in studying the history of Christ's Church, and particularly the ministry provided by a group of dedicated sisters, led by Emma Smith, who formally organized a "Ladies Relief Society" in 1842. Their mission was to serve humanity, and the Author thereof, in a way that more perfectly reflected the countenance of Christ, in love and in humility. My thoughts ignited more dedicated prayer, and my prayers were answered when I sat down to write a letter of invitation to the women in Salem, an invitation to form a Ladies Relief Society.

Ten women met on November 16, 2008, and unanimously voted to form the LRS, accepting my letter of invitation as a general guideline for its operation. I removed myself from the meeting, and retired to my room. As all ten women sang a closing hymn, "Send Me Forth, O Blessed Master", the Spirit of the Lord rested upon me, and a tremendous reassurance was given, that the Lord is well-pleased...that this good and ancient work once more finds itself within His gracious and eternal body. The Spirit conveyed the Lord's endorsement, and thrills my soul to this very moment. May God bless the efforts of the humble.  
Your brother & servant in Christ, Brian Herren

## Into the Promised Land



Dear Saints,

There will be a meeting after church on January 11, 2009 for any who might be interested in the upcoming trip to the Middle East. If you are even a little interested, please plan on staying after church to contribute to the discussion and decision-making process.



It is my hope that we can finalize a date and discuss the options with greater precision at this meeting. There have been some important and exciting changes since we met last, and I look forward to presenting the options we now enjoy at the meeting. Considerable time has been invested in terms of research and I look forward to explaining the latest developments in planning for this trip.



I will be making an expanded itinerary available before the meeting with more details than we have had to date. Please carefully review the itinerary before the meeting, as it may generate questions and make for a more informed discussion.

Things are looking very good, and my excitement is growing at the opportunities laid before us. As always, if you have questions or concerns you may call me at any time. I'll see you after church on January 11, 2008!

### **The Elders of Kirtland to Their Brethren Abroad** **Published in *The Evening and the Morning Star*** **December 1833**

Dear Brethren in Christ, and companions in tribulation:

It seemeth good unto us to drop a few lines to you, giving you some instruction relative to conducting the affairs of the Kingdom of God, which has been committed unto us in these latter times by the will and testament of our Mediator, whose intercessions in our behalf are lodged in the bosom of the Eternal Father, and ere long will burst with blessings upon the heads of all the faithful.

We have been children - and are too much so at the present time; but we hope in the Lord that we may grow in grace and be prepared for all things which the bosom of futurity may disclose unto us. Time is rapidly rolling on, and the prophecies must be fulfilled. The days of tribulation are fast approaching and the time to test the fidelity of the Saints has come. Rumor with her ten thousand tongues is diffusing her uncertain sounds in almost every ear; but in these times of sore trial let the Saints be patient and see the salvation of God. Those who cannot endure persecution and stand in the day of affliction, cannot stand in the day when the Son of God shall burst the veil and appear in all the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

On the subject of ordination, a few words are necessary. In many instances there has been too much haste in this thing, and the admonition of Paul has been too slightly passed over, which says, "Lay hands suddenly upon

no man." Some have been ordained to the ministry and have never acted in that capacity, or magnified their calling at all. Such may expect to lose their calling except they awake and magnify their office...

Let the elders be exceedingly careful about unnecessarily disturbing and harrowing up the feelings of the people. Remember that your business is to preach the Gospel in all humility and meekness, and warn sinners to repent and come to Christ. Avoid contentions and vain disputes with men of corrupt minds, who do not desire to know the truth. Remember that "it is a day of warning and not a day of many words."...If they receive not your testimony in one place, flee to another, remembering to cast no reflections nor throw out any bitter sayings. If you do your duty, it will be just as well with you as though all men embraced the Gospel.

Be careful about sending boys to preach the Gospel to the world...lest they become puffed up and fall under condemnation and into the snare of the Devil.

Finally, in these critical times be careful, call on the Lord day and night. Beware of pride. Beware of false brethren who creep in...Awake to righteousness and sin not; let your light shine and show yourselves workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Apply yourselves diligently to study that your minds may be stored with all necessary information.

We remain your brethren in Christ, anxiously praying for the day of redemption to come, when iniquity shall be swept from the earth and everlasting righteousness brought in. Farewell.

## Caroling and a Good Cause

On December 19, 2008, twenty winter-hardy and brave souls gathered at the Herren's for an evening of caroling, apple cider, and fellowship. Four days beforehand, several had canvassed the neighborhood and passed out flyers to notify the residents that we would be accepting non-perishable food items for the Marion Polk Food Share as we traveled the streets singing Christmas hymns. Approximately 130 pounds of food was collected in wheel-borrows and wagons along the way. The Food Share is a non-profit group that supplies local shelters, schools, etc., and they have experienced a lack of donations recently. Though the donations have dwindled, the requests for assistance have grown. In this one small way, the Saints have again shown their willingness to provide assistance to those in need, both within the church and without. They also demonstrated the joy of Christ as they lifted up praise to Him in songs of everlasting joy. Some sang in perfect harmony, and some didn't (in fact some weren't even singing the right words), but all sang with great joy for the glad tidings which are ours in Jesus Christ.



The Saints prepare to make a joyful noise.

### A Few Words from the Regional Leadership

The Regional theme for 2009 is "All are called, according to the gifts of God unto them". There is so much for us to study and learn concerning the gifts. I look forward to seeing how this is applied in our retreats, camp and reunion.

As many of you know, Brian Herren and Wray Moreland are my counselors this year for the region. I have asked Brian to assist and work closely with the Regional Youth Director, Dawn Terry, as the youth activities are planned and carried out.

We have the dates set for the Regional retreats, reunion and conference and will publish these in the Regional News which will come out in about a week. When you see these dates, my hope is that you will write them in your calendars and plan around them so you can attend as many Regional functions as possible.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Bill

*All are called according to the gifts of God unto them; and to the intent that all may labor together, let him that laboreth in the ministry and him that toileth in the affairs of the men of business and of work labor together with God for the accomplishment of the work intrusted to all.*

—Doctrine & Covenants 119:8b



### Are You Willing

By Nedine Clark (1965)

How far are you willing to go?  
Just what are you willing to do?  
Like Paul and the Apostles of old,  
Would you give your whole life through?

Would you suffer stoning and death?  
And still be true to the cause?

Would you work if all others denied,  
Or go half way and pause?

Are we willing to work to the end?  
No matter how rough be the way?  
Do we work in darkness and trial,  
Do we serve just in the ease of day?

Zion itself will be built,  
By people who go all the way.  
You will never be a builder,  
If from troubles you'll back away.

If you'll only go half of the way,  
If you'll only serve so far,  
Then Zion for you will be  
As far away as a star.

Remember Christ when you feel downtrodden, afflicted, and tried. Remember the Lord when you feel isolated. He said, "Blessed are ye when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from among them, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake."

The Lord considered not his popularity when choosing His course. He knew that to be righteous would separate Him from many, but regarded His Father's will of greater importance than his own social desire to fit in. I once heard a man testify that the voice of the Lord spoke to him in a garden. He said, "I too walked alone". Let us not compromise the Gospel to find favor in the eyes of men.