

# Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



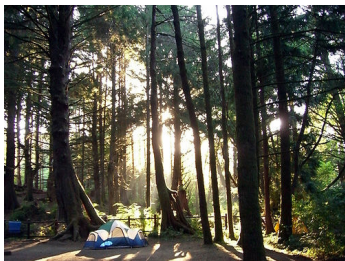
March, 2009

## Important Dates:

- March 1: LRS meeting
- March 7: Youth Swimming
- May 10: Mother's Day
- April 12: Easter
- April 17-19: Men's Retreat
- June 5-7: Women's Retreat
- June 21: Father's Day
- June 26-28: Men's Fellowship weekend at Sunriver
- 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

## Congregational Camping Trip

This year we will be camping at Beverly Beach State Park, July 31 - Aug. 2. We have 12 spots reserved, all of them next to one another. They will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis, so call Brian now. We filled every spot last year (35 souls!). Spaces will be assigned according to technical needs (tents, trailer length, etc.). Each site will cost \$22 per night, and meals will be as they were last year. Also, this year Brother Brian is not to use any sharp items or handle pointy things.



Beverly Beach Campsite

## What can I give?

I am so thankful for the way that the Lord has richly blessed the congregation in Salem. Within this humble band of Saints is found a tremendous diversity of gifts and talents. To watch the development of these gifts and the resultant growth of the branch instills a hope that is confined to those elements of humanity wherein the divine is properly realized.

In our midst we find those blessed with the gift of wisdom, knowledge, faith, and healing. We've witnessed miracles, prophecy and discernment. Some are gifted in the arts: poets, musicians, those who can draw and those who can sing. We also find leaders: those who bring things together and forge the way ahead. There are those who support, perhaps working in unseen ways to strengthen the Saints, visiting homes and instructing in meekness. We are blessed with speakers, and perhaps even more blessed by the listeners. There are those with specific skill, ready to instruct in repairs, sewing, roofing homes, quilting, building stairs, and opening locks. There are those who are driven to service and ever ready to offer the sweat of their brow for the welfare of their neighbor. We find those who are able to promote harmony in song, and yet others who promote harmony with one another. There are children, and those given to nurture them. There are men swift and responsive, and men thoughtful and careful. In all, we find a body fitly joined together, with every joint supplying that which is needful to the body.

But, which of these qualities is most important to the church? Which man, woman, or child is the greatest blessing of all?

The answer is not in the gift, but in the willingness to exercise it for the betterment of the whole. It is the one who is willing to serve selflessly, willing to give of those things which he has received. Perhaps the greatest gift of all is this mind, the mind of a servant, one given to service and satisfied in true sacrifice. This is the mind that was in Christ, and the one that will prove an adorning jewel upon the ensign before us.

We have been entrusted with something unique, something wonderful. Within each is something needful to the body of Christ, but only the one holding it may rightfully give. In a world made filthy by selfishness, I pray that the Saints might put off this temptation, and think beyond oneself. It is time that we stop thinking, "what can I get", and start thinking more constructively about "what can I give". I would challenge the Saints to take upon us this conscience. This year, at church, at men's retreat, women's retreat, reunion, youth camp, etc. do not consider what you might take away, but what you might leave behind.

These great blessings are not come upon us so that one individual may prosper. They are come upon us so that the body might be made whole.

What can you give, what relief can you bring to another? Can you visit a widow, teach a class, roof a house, sing a song, quilt a blanket, write a poem, shake a hand, pay someone's bill, hug your neighbor? Can you serve in the Ladies Relief Society or at Simonka Place? Can we look beyond ourselves? What about your presence? Will you be there? Let us shake off whatever selfish nature may beset us, and see as we are seen, as Christ sees His bride, a "virtuous woman" whose price "is far above rubies".

## Fellowship

You may not know this, but our sister Violet Anderson is a very, very talented painter. Her home is adorned with beautiful paintings that she has created over the course of many years. It was recently discovered that our sister no longer had the proper equipment to paint, and that she hadn't painted for nearly 25 years! Several of our gracious sisters of the Ladies Relief Society (Melissa Herren, Dianna Clark, and Patsy Henderson)

elected to supply Vi with a new set of oil paints and canvas. They delivered the supplies and visited with our sister several weeks ago. Two of the elders recently visited Vi at her Newberg home, and found that she had started painting again. After having not painted for 25 years, the elders were blessed to see that Vi's gift was not removed. She has already used the new paints and canvas to create a beautiful oceanic scene, with rolling waves and a sailboat. Well done Vi! Keep up the good work! And thank you ladies, for your generous effort to relieve another. Thank you to all, those noticed and unnoticed, who continue to labor diligently for the welfare of the Saints. May God bless us.



Sister Violet Anderson

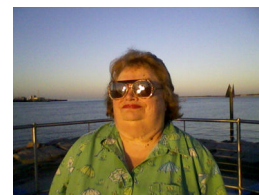
## Israel Trip Update

Progress in planning our trip to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel is being made daily. At this point, we have 19 souls committed from the Salem branch. We are also blessed by the addition of Elder Wray Moreland from Vancouver, and Elder Gary Wheeler from Independence. Because of the enormous response, the tour company has agreed to make the tour exclusive - it will just be the Saints without any outside of our group. We start in Egypt (pyramids, sphinx, climb Mt. Sinai), then move to Jordan (Petra & Amman), and finally arrive in Israel, where we will spend most of our time. We will sail on the sea of Galilee, ride a cable car to Masada, visit the Mount of Olives, Mount of Beatitudes, Garden of Gethsemane, Golgatha, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Capernaum, and more. Please pray for us. We will be touring from August 31 through September 13. Final payment for the tour is due by 6/30; payment for airfare by 7/3.

## Get to Know the Saints

This interview is with Sister Donna Johnson.

- 1) **What is your full name?** Donna Coburn Johnson
- 2) **Where were you born?** Salem, Oregon.
- 3) **Favorite hobbies:** Camping and cooking.
- 4) **If you had to pick 5 items (not people) from your home and surrender everything else, what would you keep?** The Holy Scriptures, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and my family albums.
- 5) **Favorite Color:** Amethyst.
- 6) **Least favorite food:** Sour Kraut.
- 7) **In your opinion, at what age does a person become old?** A person is old when the THINK they are old and stops doing their favorite things.
- 8) **One thing that many people don't know about you:** I can't sew, except buttons.
- 9) **The Lord permitting, what is one of your plans for the future?** Continue to travel the U.S..
- 10) **List all of the former jobs you have had.** I have been in Food Service for over 40 years, starting with Bob's \$.19 hamburgers.
- 11) **If you could meet any of the deceased, who would it be?** Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- 12) **What is your favorite scripture?** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son..." (John 3:16)
- 13) **When you think of Zion, what first comes to mind?** Very Spiritual...very peaceful...full of love.
- 14) **What person(s) has been most influential in your life?** My father, Leon Buck Coburn.
- 15) **Who would you like to be interviewed next?** Nancy Curtis.



Sister Donna  
Johnson



Priest Jim Clark,  
member of the  
Youth Commission

### An Update on the Youth of the Congregation

*Written by Priest Jim Clark*

Your youth have been busy over the past few months. Recently we have shown our bowling skills, in which Michael Livingston was the resident pro. Our Harvest Party was fun for everyone. We had a house full of fifteen youths, with prizes, food and pumpkins for all. We raked leaves and cleaned up the yards of several Saints.

Leaving them pleasantly surprised, as we fellowshiped one with each other, surrounded by God's glorious creation. Also the Senior High youth helped serve and enjoyed dinner with the residents of Simonka Place, a women's and children's shelter. We continue to work together in several activities to earn financial support for youth camp. We set up and served concessions at a congregational movie, and really enjoyed making and selling wreaths in December. We sold thirty four wreaths, thanks to all who supported us, and good job to our youth. A few have earned over half of their camp tuition! For those who are working toward their camp tuition look for the fundraising dinner we will prepare the Saints in April. It will be a fun and easy way to help you pay for a terrific youth camp experience. Last month at a overnight game and food party, we indulged in a variety of food, and an abundance of board games. Culminating with a rousing late night game of Monopoly, in which Lisa Livingston stayed awake and proved to great a match for anyone else. This month we baked and delivered our culinary efforts to several of the Saints. Soon we will be traveling to the coast to help clean up our beaches supporting SOLV. It has been a rewarding few months, thanks to all who have contributed, to those we haven't seen come join us. We look forward to the Spring and Summer, as we grow spiritually together, looking to praise and glorify our Heavenly Father thru our fellowship and service.



Sister Melissa Herren,  
secretary of the LRS

### An Update on the Ladies Relief Society

*Written by Melissa Herren*

Well, this has been a most exciting time for the Ladies Relief Society as we have just begun to have a women's group again. Our focus is to serve our fellow Saints in whatever way we are lead. We have started a visiting program in which Vi Anderson was visited by Pat Henderson, Dianna Clark

and Melissa Herren; Ray Pentland was visited by Carla and Lisa Livingston and Melissa Herren; and the Rennick's will be receiving a visit soon by Sue Herren and Tammy Foreman. We have plans to visit some of our younger mothers in the next month or so. If I may speak for all of us that have gone visiting, it has been as much a ministry to us as it has been to the saints we visited. The Relief Society also enjoyed an evening of card making and fellowship in January. Sharon Trammell hosted the evening at her house, and along with Dianna Clark, provided all of the materials and instruction for making the cards, which will be used to minister to our fellow saints. Also in attendance that evening were: Tammy F, Sue H, Lisa L, Nancy C, Traci S, Melissa C and Melissa H. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Relief Society provided a Song Service during the 9:45 worship time. A slideshow of pictures of the saints was shown while the women sang. Cessaries also provided a beautiful piano solo for the majority of the slide show. In May we will be having a fellowship weekend in Seaside. Our lodging is being provided by Steve and Traci Scuito, who have a timeshare at the WorldMark Resort. Thank you Steve and Traci! We have more activities that we will be planning in an effort to serve our Lord by serving our fellow Saints and to draw closer in fellowship. If you haven't joined us yet and would like to, please do so! We meet on the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 at the Herren house. All women, member and non-member, are welcome. If you would like to be on the e-mail distribution list for the Ladies Relief Society (you will receive news, meeting minutes and notifications of activities) please e-mail me at: [melissaherren@gmail.com](mailto:melissaherren@gmail.com).



## A Special "Thank You" From the State of Oregon

The letter below was received by the Church from the Oregon Department of Human Services in January of 2009. It was scanned and is reprinted below without any editing.



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

### Department of Human Services

Child Welfare Programs

Marion/Polk/Yamhill Counties

District 3

2045 Silvertown Road NE

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 378-6800

Fax: (503) 378-3061

TTY: (503) 378-5414

January 9, 2009

Restored Church of Christ  
C/O Pastor Brian Herren  
4627 Manning Dr. NE  
Salem, OR 97305



Dear Pastor Herren and Church Members,

Words cannot express our gratitude for your generous donations of food and gifts this past Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your kindness brought relief to worried parents and smiles to deserving children. May your kindness be returned to you tenfold!

We would also like to send a special thank you to Ron Trammell for organizing this tremendous outpouring of generosity. Thank you Ron!

Sincerely,

Janice J. Boughn  
DHS Child Welfare Supervisor

*"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"*  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

SCF 8701 (03/07)

### From Joseph Smith's Journal

Yes, that still small voice, which has so often whispered consolation to my soul, in the depth [depth] of sorrow and distress, bade me be of good cheer, and promised deliverance which gave me great comfort: and although, the heaven raged, and the people imagined vain things, yet the Lord of hosts, the God of Jacob, was my refuge; and when I cried unto him in the day of trouble, he delivered me; for which I call upon my soul, and all that is within me, to bless and praise his holy name: For although I was "troubled on every side, yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

The conduct of the saints under their accumulated wrongs and suffering, has been praiseworthy; their courage, in defending their brethren from the ravages of mobs; their attachment to the cause of truth, under circumstances the most trying and distressing which humanity can possibly endure; their love to each other; their readiness to afford assistance to me, and my brethren who were confined in a dungeon; their sacrifices in leaving the state of Missouri, and assisting the poor widows and orphans, and securing them houses in a more hospitable land; all conspire to raise them in the estimation of all good and virtuous men; and has secured them the favor and approbation of Jehovah; and a name, as imperishable as eternity. And their virtuous deeds, and heroic actions, while in defence of truth and their brethren: will be fresh and blooming; when the names of their oppressors shall either be entirely forgotten, or only remembered, for their barbarity and cruelty. Their attention and affection to me, while in prison, will ever be remembered when they came to do any kind of offices, and to cheer our minds while we were in the gloomy prison house, gave me feelings, which I cannot describe, while those who wished to insult and abuse us, by their threats and blasphemous language, were applauded and had every encouragement given them. However, thank God, we have been delivered; and although, some of our beloved brethren, have had to seal their testimony with their blood; and have died martyrs to the cause of truth; yet, Short, though bitter was their pain, Everlasting is their joy. Let us not sorrow as "those without hope," the time is fast approaching, when we shall see them again, and rejoice together, without being afraid [afraid]

of wicked men: Yes, those who have slept in Christ, shall he bring with him, when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and admired by all those who believe: but to take vengeance upon his enemies, and all those who obey not the gospel. At that time, the hearts of the widow and fatherless shall be comforted, and every tear shall be wiped from of their faces. The trials they have had to pass through, shall work together for their good, and prepare them for the society of those, who have come up out of great tribulation; and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Marvel not then, if you are persecuted, but remember the words of the Savior, "The servant is not above his Lord, if they have persecuted, me, they will persecute you also;" and that all the afflictions through which the saints have to pass, are in fulfillment of the words of the prophets, which have spoken since the world began. We shall therefore [therefore] do well to discern the signs of the times, as we pass along, that the day of the Lord may not "overtake us as a thief in the night."...

## Into All The World

The website for the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Restoration Branch is being visited by people all over the world. A visitor can listen to sermons, read articles written by the priesthood, see the newsletter, look at the calendar, flip through class notes, study church history, check in on youth activities, or email the pastor with the click of a button. It is exciting to know that the sermons being preached in Salem are being heard in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, South America, and all across North America. We also receive numerous requests for more information about the Restoration. At the time of this printing, I will have sent Book of Mormons, Bibles, Doctrine & Covenants, and various tracts to Kenya, Ethiopia Myanmar, India, and all across the United States. Here are a few emails that I have received through the website (it would require many pages to post them all - email ministry is ongoing and followed up on):

- Dear Sir,

I am a Christian here in Ethiopia and want to know more about your service so that I can join you. Please send all your materials which can help me to know more about God's truths. Deep down in my heart there is a burning desire to Know more about the word of God. I know you can help me in this regard.

- Dear Brother Brian,

I am a disenchanted Mormon convert. I believe in the Book of Mormon, but not the doctrines of the Utah church. I also have problems with the RLDS/Community of Christ Doctrines. I find myself more in tune spiritually with the "Restoration Branches" movement. I stumbled upon your site by accident, or at least I thought it was an accident. I have enjoyed the sermons you have available on the webpage, what a blessing!

Please put me on the church Mailing list.

- To Whom It May Concern:

I was once a Utah LDS member in California for about 1 year, but have since left that church and had my records removed. I have been recently considering joining a restoration church and being baptized. How does that process work if I am at a distance? Please let me know how I go about learning more about your church and find out about baptism.

Thank you very much for your assistance. Please send pamphlets if you can.

- Dear Pastor Brian,

I found your web page and was curious to know what the Book of Mormon is and how I could obtain a copy.

- Dear Beloved Pastor: Brian Herren & brethren in Christ,

Love and greetings from Kenya . I'm glad to be able to know you and your ministry through the internet. I just hooked into the internet and found your web page when I was searching and reading about the origin of man, humanism and churches. It happened that I came across your website and read some of your interesting articles which made me to be much interested with your church ministry and the love you have and do practice.

We therefore thought it better to request your office concerning affiliation and you to reach us and our groups with this good teaching of love and unity to our groups in Kenya. We feel a desire to affiliate with you and become as members of your ministry in our area Nairobi-Kenya and Kisii region.

Happy to get to know from you if somebody will be able to reach us or get in touch with us for more information and teachings. We officially invite and request you to pay a visit to our ministry and project for encouragements, teaching, investigation and observation to our ministry and our orphans ministries.

Hope to hear from you soon.

**Note:** There have been several requests from Kenya. I have been able to contact Elder Eric Odida in Kenya, who has, in turn, brought personal ministry to those who found the Gospel through our website. I have stayed in contact with Brother Odida, who has informed me that some of these groups are now receiving preaching services, ministry, etc. from priesthood members of the Restored Church of Christ. I have also heard back from some of the Kenyans that originally emailed me. They confirm Brother Odida's report and indicate that they are being truly blessed through the priesthood of the Restoration. All beginning with a single email precipitated by a simple website. Truly, we must agree that the "fullness of the Gospel" is "sent into the four quarters of the earth". May God bless this ministry.

**Note:** Every effort is made to coordinate those requesting info with local elders. Every request for books is honored as best as possible.