

Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



February, 2010

Important Dates:

- February 13: Youth Activity: deliver treats to the Saints
- February 21: Lunch at Izzy's after church services
- February 23: Youth (under 18) dinner with the Pastor
- March 12: Women's Fellowship Weekend
- March 18: Men's Fellowship weekend
- April 4: Easter
- April 16-18: Women's Retreat
- Every Sunday Evening: Genesis / Exodus Class
- Wednesday evenings: Prayer & Testimony service

Congregational Camping

Reservations for the 2010 congregational camping trip have been made at D Lake in Lincoln City for August 6-8. Brother Ron Trammell will again bring his ski boat for fishing and tubing. We will have campfire services as in years past, fishing, s'mores, polar bearing, and a morning worship on Sunday. Everyone is invited. There are 12 sites reserved, and they will fill very quickly. If you are interested, please tell Brother Brian soon. Each site has specific restrictions and will be assigned based upon individual needs. The meals will be treated as in years past, i.e. volunteers receiving meal assignments. Full hook-up sites are \$28 per night. Tent sites are \$21 per night. Financial help is available. Bring your smile!

A Small Seed & A Glorious Tree, by Brother Brian Herren

Shortly after the death of Christ, Joseph of Arimathea requested the body of Jesus, that proper care might be given to our King. We have good reason to believe that Joseph was a faithful and honorable servant. While little is written of Joseph, it is made clear that he was one who "waited for the kingdom of God". We might rightly consider whether the disciples of Christ fully understood what had happened in the incarnation of our God, that the kingdom had drawn nigh unto them, and had been sown again upon His footstool.

Jesus did not teach His disciples to wait any longer for the kingdom of God. Instead, He said, "Seek ye first to *build up* the kingdom of God". In 1834, the Saints were counseled by the Lord to be good stewards, "for the purpose of *building up* my church and kingdom on the earth..."

While it is fair to consider the minds of those who have come before us, a more fruitful inquiry might find us evaluating our own hearts. Let us ask ourselves, "Am I one who is waiting for the kingdom of God, or am I one who is seeking to build it?" Waiting or building?

If waiting, then little demand is placed upon our conscience, but if building, then there is

much work to be done. The kingdom of God is not built up by way of brick and mortar, but by the faithful response of the earnest disciple to the Spirit of God. We can be sure of many elements that might contribute to the process, but let me write of one alone: charity, the pure love of Christ.

We should press forward, rather than waiting, with a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and all men. Develop the bond of perfectness, charity, and *seek everyday the means whereby we might serve and fellowship with another*. Paul wrote, "Let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith". We say "brother" or "sister" by way of salutation, but these words are more than greetings. In baptism, it is understood that we become a part of an elect body, with an invitation to "bear one another's burdens", "mourn with those that mourn" and "stand as witnesses of God at all times". Let us continue in the good way, giving over more of ourselves each day. Perhaps today we can offer a helping hand, or a single prayer and lay another stone in the kingdom of God, choosing to build rather than wait. It seems to me that many will wait for the coming of something that has already come, because it came as a small, small seed, ready to grow into a mighty tree.

A Loved One to Deploy, by Sister Nancy Curtis



Sister Jamie Leach

On February 24th, Jamie Leach will be deployed. Jamie has been working in an office for two years scheduling "in-flight" refueling of the large airplanes such as C-17's and the C-5. In January she transferred to another unit called SARM (Squadron Aviation Resource Management) where she is part of a three person team. They check the credentials of each pilot and crew member to certify that they are qualified to fly. When a crew returns, she inputs their flight information into the computer. This particular unit deploys every 18 months to relieve another unit that is on deployment.

While Jaime is away, she plans to study for her Staff Sergeant test which she will take when she gets back to Travis AFB. She is both excited about seeing another part of the world but also very sad at leaving her 18 month old daughter and husband John. Please remember Jaime in prayer for a safe journey and strength in being away from her family.

All Are Invited

by Sister Cessaries Galusha

In celebration of our Savior's birth this past Christmas several of the saints joined together as a choir to sing praises to our Heavenly King. We sang "Breath of Heaven" for the Sunday service on December 13th, 2009, and we were richly blessed in both our preparation and ministry. This lovely piece tells of the experience of young Mary, a mother-to-be that was not just any mother, but truly the mother of our Lord. Through trials of suffering, fatigue, persecution and fear, she sought help from the Father above to give her strength. She gave her entire being into His loving care so that she could be used in the ways He desired, and all generations from that time even until now call her blessed. It is good to sing the praises of our King and our Redeemer. Not only is it pleasing to our Heavenly Father, but it is likewise pleasing to our souls and fills our hearts with joy. All praise and thanksgiving be to such a God that grants unto us the gift of music that we treasure so!

Some who participated in the choir did so with trepidation, unsure that the ministry would be effective or that the preparation would bring the hoped for results. These doubts were completely unfounded however, for the Lord took our weaknesses, particularly those of the director, and turned them into strengths. Thank you to all of the good saints for your patience and diligence in rehearsals and the enthusiastic effort you put forth!

For all who may be interested there will be opportunity to join again in a choir to sing for the celebration of our Savior's resurrection. Ministry will be prepared for Easter Sunday, April 4th, 2010, and rehearsals will begin February 7th. As before, we will have choir practice every Sunday morning at 8:45 AM at the church. All are invited to participate, with the expectation to lift your hearts and voices unto the Lord, for He is good and worthy to be praised!

And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion singing, with songs of everlasting

Christmas Caroling

December, 2009

On December 18th, the Saints again assembled for an evening of Christmas caroling. Familiar hymns were sung as we traveled from door to door and lifted our voices in praise. We were well received and often thanked. The most agreeable weather was enjoyed during our time of fellowship. If you missed the caroling last year, it's not too early to start looking forward to next year, Lord willing.



Christmas Carolers

What's a YAG?

A Young Adults Group, that's what! Recently the young adults from the Salem Congregation have started assembling regularly for fellowship, and service. The group is open to those who are 18 years and older, and numbers as many as 11. The young adults have delivered hot sack lunches to the homeless, gone sledding at Santiam snow park, and participated in a fundraiser for Special Olympics of Oregon. The fundraiser included collecting pledges for a "polar bear plunge" into the frigid Columbia River. A total of \$500 was raised by the team. The team name was "the Shivering Saints" and Brother Kevin Herren was the captain. At the time of the plunge, the Columbia River was 38 degrees. To provide some perspective, the Pacific Ocean at Newport is 50 degrees in the winter and 55 degrees in the summer. Some pictures from the YAG activities are provided below.



A Happy Engagement

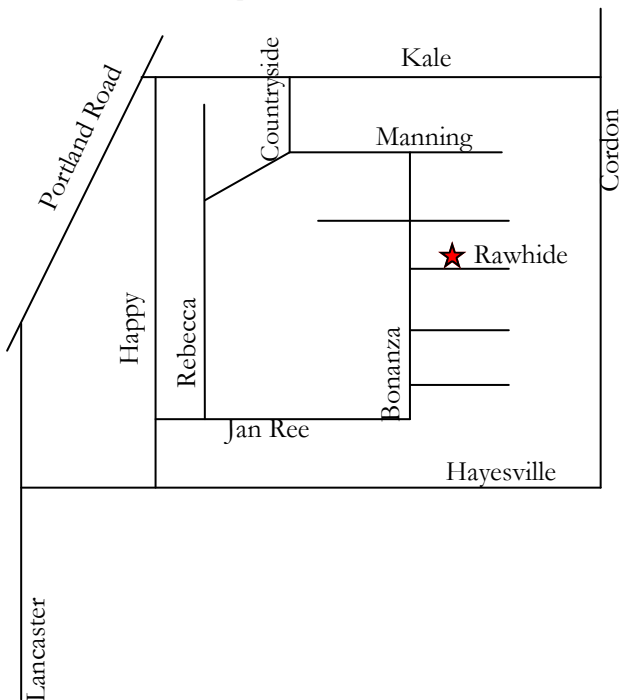
by Brother Kevin Herren



Brother Kevin and Sister Trina in Israel

Many of you know; however for those who may not, Kevin Herren and Trina Kellogg were engaged to be married in August of 2009. The date they have set for the nuptials is April 3rd, here at the Salem Branch. They would like to invite any of the church family who would like to bear witness of their commitment to each other before God. At present, Kevin is living with his older brother and family, but looks forward to the blessings of the home provided on Raw-

hide, where Trina and Gabriella now live. Sister Trina was baptized in the Jordan River last summer and confirmed in Jerusalem by Elders Brian Herren and Wray Moreland. The family has opened their home to the church, and prayer services are held at 4701 Rawhide Court NE on the 1st and 2nd Wednesday of each month. Here is a map to the home:



White Water Rafting

July 10, 2010

On July 10, 2010, a group of the Saints will be rafting 18 miles of the Deschutes River, beginning in Maupin, Oregon. The trip will take a total of 6 hours and will begin at 10:00 a.m. We will stop at a park along the way and enjoy a BBQ steak and chicken lunch. The group discount is \$80 per person, which includes a professional guide in each raft, all of the necessary equipment, instruction, a dry bag for personal belongings, and the BBQ lunch. Everyone is invited; however, each rafter should be at least 6 years old. If you are interested, please let Brother Brian know as soon as possible. At the time of printing, 19 Saints have signed up. Friends and family, members and non-members are invited. It's going to be a lot of fun in the sun!

A Special Offering to Help in Haiti

February 14, 2010

Recently, one of the Saints recommended that the local Branch provide assistance to those suffering in Haiti after a 7.0 earthquake devastated the region. The Pastorate discussed the matter and agreed that to help our fellow man was the right response. One of the most efficient means whereby the Saints might be able to provide significant assistance is by way of a donation to Medical Teams International (MTI), a non-profit group capable of immediate aid to the Haitians. A special offering will be collected on February 14th, and will be donated to this organization. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. Below you may read from a report taken from the MTI website:

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake rocked southern Haiti on January 12. One of the hardest hit areas is Port-au-Prince, the nation's capital. With a death toll in the thousands and millions of Haitians left homeless, injured and struggling to survive, the January 12 earthquake is considered by many to be the worst disaster to hit the country in 200 years. In the first two weeks, Medical Teams International sent 8 teams with more than 35 doctors, nurses and other health professionals. In partnership with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), World Relief, Surgical Implant Generation Network (SIGN), Haiti Foundation of Hope, HaitiOne and the Wesleyan Church in Haiti, our teams provided disaster relief aid through medicines, supplies and medical services in local hospitals and in the tent cities all around Port-au-Prince. For the next six months, Medical Teams International will provide hospital care with surgical capacity, establish support to local health centers and operate mobile medical units to aid in the transition from relief to rehabilitation. Through its new local office in Port-au-Prince, Medical Teams International will work to meet immediate to medium-term orthopedic and medical care needs and help re-establish a functioning health care system.

Men's & Women's Fellowship Weekends

The men's fellowship weekend at Sunriver resort is March 18-21. There are two spots remaining. Contact Brother Brian if you are interested. Also, if you are able, \$20 per person can be given directly to Brother Ron Trammell to cover the cost of food for the entire weekend. Ron will be organizing us in our kitchen assignments. If you wish to make a donation to help offset the rental of the house, please speak with Brian. No branch funds will be used to support the men's or women's fellowship weekends. The men were given an extra night free (Thursday), so there may be a carpool leaving Thursday, March 18th and a second one leaving Friday, March 19th (for those working Friday). The 3,500 square foot house at Sunriver is equipped with a pool table, BBQ, hot tub and bikes. The women will enjoy a stay at the Oregon coast.

Address Updates

Congratulations to Brother and Sister Cvitanovich, who will move into a new home in March: 17048 Silver Falls Highway, Sublimity, OR 97385. Congratulations to Brother and Sister Scuito, who recently moved into a new home: 4403 Raccoon Ave, Salem, OR, 97305.

Missionary

The Salem Branch has recently mailed scriptures and church-related books to Nigeria, India, and Arizona. Many seem hungry for the word of God and thankful for the provision.

Dear Saints, Please find the most recent regional newsletter reprinted below and take note of the date change at the bottom of the page:

Pacific Northwest Regional News

Restoration Branches of Oregon & Washington - January 2010

NW Region Theme for 2010 - "I have found the glorious gospel."

Dear brothers and sisters,

May the lord bless you in this New Year. 2009 was gone in a flash thus we should rejoice that our lord draws nigh. As we look forward with our eye single to the glory of God have we drawn closer in our relationship with him? I pray that all have. Our theme this year is "I have found the glorious gospel"

1 Tim 1:11 "According to the glorious gospel of the blessed god which was committed to my trust."

When one is truly searching, they truly find. As I have in my own search found many gospels but only one glorious gospel that is in this Restored Church of Jesus Christ which with its three witnesses; Inspired Version, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants. I Matt 13:46 "We see the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hid in a field and when men hath found a treasure that was hid, he secureth it, and sell all that he has to buy the field."

Sometimes a man finds a treasure and thinks he can come back another day to secure it only to find the treasure is gone. Be wise in your days of probation.

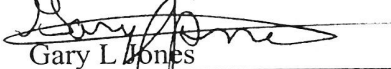
The scripture that helped me through some hard times was Mark 5:28 "Be not afraid, only believe." I look forward to serving you in the coming year and do ask for your prayers for myself and all elected officers that they may be blessed and serve you as God directs.

- Upcoming 2010 Events -

April 16-18	Women's Retreat
June 11-13	Men's Retreat
July 25-31	Youth Camp
Aug 17-22	Reunion
Oct 2-3	Fall Retreat
Oct 22-24	Priesthood Retreat

Thanks to the efforts of Brian Herren and Jim Clark we have secured an exciting new location for Youth Camp. It will be at a pleasing new location, Sky Youth Camp, located in Springfield Oregon. July was only time we could get for this year, so on that note Youth Camp is in July and Reunion is in August. As we attend the upcoming events lets prepare ourselves to meet our lord, that his Spirit would bless us.

Your servant,



Gary L. Jones

Regional Director: Elder Gary L. Jones Cell 360.219.6720, Hm 360.785.8747
Counselors: Elder Brian Herren 503.949.2484 & Elder Glen Vaughn 360.256.8528

Excerpt from
Joseph Smith's
letter written from
Liberty Jail
(Winter 1838/39)

We are desirous, that in your general conferences, every thing should be discussed, with candour [candor] and propriety, lest you grieve the Holy Spirit, which should at all times be poured out upon you, when you are exercised with the principals of righteousness [righteousness] and are properly affected one towards another. Be careful to remember those who are in bondage, heaviness, and deep affliction for your sake. If there are any among you, who aspire after their own aggrandizement and [aggrandizement] opulence [opulence] [while] their brethren are groaning in poverty, and laboring under sore trials and temptations, they cannot be benefited by the intercessions of the Holy Spirit: we ought [ought] at all times to be very careful that such high mindedness have place in our hearts, but condescend to men of low estate, and with all long suffering, bare the infirmities of the weak [weak].

Date Change: After the printing of the Regional Newsletter (above), the regional leadership was contacted by SKY Camp and informed that another group had requested the week we had reserved, and would only be able to use the camp this summer if this week were made available. We had the reservations secured and were informed that we were under no obligation to consider the other group's request. After due consideration and prayer, it seemed best to help the other group if possible. We now have the campground reserved the week earlier, **July 18-24. Regional Youth Camp will be July 18-24.** This also places an extra week between youth camp and reunion.