

# Pulse of the Congregation



June, 2010

Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



## Important Dates:

- June 11-13: Men's Retreat
- June 25-26: Youth Garage Sale
- July 2-3: YAG Hike / Camp
- July 10: Congregational White Water Rafting
- July 18-24: Youth Camp
- August 6-8: Congregational Camping at D Lake
- Every Sunday Evening: Genesis / Exodus Class
- Wednesday evenings: Prayer & Testimony service



## Congratulations Andrew!

Andy Trammell is graduating as a merit honor student from North Salem High School on June 11. This summer he will serve as a CIT at the Regional Youth Camp and will be Recreation Director at the Regional Reunion. He looks forward to attending University of Oregon this fall. Andrew plans to earn his Bachelors degree in mathematics. Ultimately, he hopes to receive his Masters of Education and teach high school math.

To the Saints, who I love,

I feel pressed upon to write a few words of encouragement here, to bring us into remembrance of those noble principles by which the government of Christ is made manifest in the bonds of peace. Firstly, and lastly, let us remember the love of our Savior whereby we might escape life's darkest moments, though they seem ready to devour us at an instant. Remember into Whose hands we are surrendered, and know that His claim is secured by more than passive affection, but by the very power of an immortal, incorruptible King who shall in every way defend His prize with perfect majesty. When it seems a host is against us, let us remember One who is for us, and not the heir of unseen principalities, but the very Son of God, whose command is sufficient to shake eternity itself and render the souls of men the estate of His Father. Remember that it is His desire to forgive us as little children, to lift us, to hold us when there is none to hold, and to deliver us from ourselves if it must be, in times of loneliness, confusion and despair. The Lord is Good. He is Wonderful. He loves us with an abiding love that will not tarnish with time or extinguish upon our wrongdoing. Zion will be redeemed, the Saints clothed with light, the fullness of the Kingdom manifest, and the enemies of God's children subdued. The Church shall not fail, neither shall she be moved. The faithful will be recovered and crowned at the right hand of God, and His glory will shine radiantly forever. Every tear will be wiped away and His Majesty will liberate the captives. The day of peace will come, and the sons of men will rest. But, we will not stumble into the presence of our Lord by chance, nor will we find a more full revelation of His Son today in the throws of apathy. He will be found today in the same place He has always been found, and I suspect, by the same disciplined means. Then let our focus not be upon our present woes, to our perennial sorrow, but upon the One who guarantees that they shall not be worthy to be named next to the glory that is to be revealed in us. Remember your brothers and sisters, and the times we have shared. Remember where we have been, each place we have stood together, knowing that these things have worked together for the welfare of those who have surrendered themselves to this gift. Let us purchase His will at the expense of our own, and be courageous against every foe, together. These may be the days when the hearts of men fail, but it will not be said of His children. Speak the truth, honor the King, defend His bride, and know that though we must engage in the present conflict to ensure our covenant ratified in measures of faith, we will not fight alone. Be cheerful then Saints in your warfare, that you might be joyful in your triumph. Fight one more day...against darkness, loneliness, despair, doubt, fear, loss, pain, and selfishness, and know that you will not fight alone. Today the noise of battle, tomorrow the Victor's song.

With you always,

Your brother and servant in Christ,

Brian

## A New CD, by Brother Gary Livingston

Dear Saints,

This letter is to let you know that I have recently completed a CD entitled, "Sing My Heart To Thee." It contains a collection of songs I have felt inspired to write during this last year. The only instruments used are my two acoustic guitars which I believe gives the music a gentle and personal flavor. As each song is a genuine reflection of my love for Jesus Christ, my prayer, hope, and desire is for this ministry to touch the hearts and lives of as many people as possible.

...concluded on page 3





Sister Jamie Leach

Jamie is finally at the half way point in her deployment to Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan located in Central Asia. The US base there is ten miles from the capital city of Bishkek where the uprising and coup occurred in April. The contract that the US has with that country to use the base ends in July but according to a recent newspaper article, the new president has assured the US that they will sign another contract for the coming year. The income to the country for the use of the air base is one third of their local economy.

In late April, a three star general who is in charge of all deployed people was scheduled to visit the Manas Air Base. A dinner was planned in honor of his visit and Jamie was selected to attend, representing those who work with the C-17's. As word was sent from one officer to another pertaining to her attending this dinner, each one had very good things to say about Jamie. Some of those accolades included her work ethics, also, during the uprising she was on guard duty for seven hours and then had to do her office work and the fact that she volunteered to help build the "tent city" (in the rain) for incoming troupes and did all this without complaint. She received a response back from a Full Bird Colonel telling her that they knew they were sending a rock star to Manas but did not know that she was also a "steely eyed warrior" and gave her a "well done".

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The second annual men's fellowship weekend was held March 18th though March 21st in Sunriver, Oregon. Of the thirteen who gathered many were familiar from last year, with a few new faces as well. We stayed in a beautiful house complete with a fireplace, pool table, lots of room, and all the comforts of home. With the cooperation of the weather many activities from bicycling to Croquet were enjoyed by all. Communing within the creation of our Heavenly Father many opportunities to walk and to talk abounded. The team of Ken Long and Kevin Herren proved to be unbeatable with the bocce ball. Brother Gary Livingston provided comic relief as we laughed and enjoyed each moment. Eating was a pleasure under the direction and preparation of Brother Ron Trammell, we did not lack of anything, and the fellowship between all was seamless and memorable. Worship and song services provided a time to come together in prayer and thanksgiving of our Heavenly Father, from whom all such blessings flow. Brothers



spending time together allows for bonding and an awareness of the unique qualities of each of His sons, and the strength we share as one joined in His love. All that attended were left wanting to continue in the spirit, and thus looking forward to next year! "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and

there is none occasion of stumbling in him." - I John 2:10

### A Message Delivered through Elder Hougas

**Editor's note:** The following was given through Elder Ward A Hougas at the Eastern Colorado Reunion, August 24, 1950. It is reprinted here for those who may find it of benefit in the Spirit.

The voice of the Spirit comes to you, this my people, on this beautiful morning bringing to you the assurance that your Heavenly Father is pleased with your spirit of devotion, with your desires, with your intentions, yet His heart is grieved by the fickleness of your convictions and the manner in which we toy with the things of the Restoration as a child toys with the trinkets about his feet. And in the most crucial hour that the world has ever known you still play with things of the world and give yourselves to the pleasures of the world as though no responsibilities rested upon your shoulders.

And the things that might have been so grand and beautiful would have been by now, had those upon whose shoulders rested the ability to do so much, done more, but you have done so little; and I speak especially, this morning to those who have accepted the responsibility of the priesthood because you stand in the stead of the Master, and yet, because of your desires for the things of the world, because of your desires for wealth, and for popularity, and for power, the responsibilities of the Kingdom have been forgotten. Did not my servants of old leave their nets and their places of tribute that my Kingdom might be established?

Many of you who are parents have failed to give to your children the heritage of a faith in God and a faith in the Kingdom which impels them into service. Your negligence is painful in my sight. I would this morning that my people might understand that the time is short. The days of war are at your very doors and nation upon nation shall go down and even this choice nation which it is the Master's desire above all else to protect cannot be fully protected because of the sins of the people.

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## Young Adult Group (YAG) Garden, by Sister Cessaries Galusha



The Salem Young Adult Group came together for fun and fellowship on the morning of April 24th, with a mind to plant a garden. Brian and Melissa Herren, Andrew Trammell, Lisa Livingston and Cessaries Galusha all gathered at Kevin and Trina Herren's home and tilled the earth, prepared the soil and replenished it with "premium garden soil" in hopes of providing the most suitable ground for growing vegetables. In nearly perfectly straight lines and exquisitely spaced mounds, we planted tomatoes, carrots, green beans, jalapenos, cucumbers, zucchini, pumpkins, sunflowers and love. It was a cool morning, and

the good Lord gave us the watering we needed, which added to the fun of the day. Our efforts culminated in a prayer over the crops. Providing that our efforts are rewarded by the fruits of our labors, the produce will be taken to the Saints and those who may be in need. Let us remember to serve one another in the bonds of love and brotherhood.



### A New CD

...continued from page 1

This CD contains songs of praise as well as songs which are unique to our restoration movement. There are also personal songs which testify that Jesus loves, Jesus forgives, and Jesus is always there as we struggle through those trials and tribulations we so often find in our lives. I pray that whoever listens will feel and hear the message of hope that is always found through Jesus Christ.

The song titles on this CD are:

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Sing My Heart To Thee | 7. He Loves Me                 |
| 2. Light Of This New Day | 8. Let Not Your Heart Be       |
| 3. My Friend, My Jesus   | Troubled                       |
| 4. Marching To Zion      | 9. There is a Place            |
| 5. The Rod Of Iron       | 10. I Will Praise Thee, O Lord |
| 6. I Never Realized      |                                |

As already stated, my prayer is for this music to be made available to as many people as possible. If anyone would like a copy, feel free to ask. Because of the expense of putting this together, I am asking \$5.00 for each CD to help cover the cost of discs, jewel cases, photo paper, photo disc labels, printer ink, etc. If you would like a copy but are unable to pay the \$5.00, please let me know and I will be more than happy to give you one for free. I would also like to inform you that I have a web page which tells about the CD. It contains song samples which can be downloaded and has links to the lyrics of all the songs. The CD can even be purchased through this web site so if you know of anyone who might be interested, please let them know about it. The web page is called "Living Faith Music" and is located at:

[www.livingfaithmusic.com](http://www.livingfaithmusic.com)

I believe with all my heart that inspired music can minister to people in unique and powerful ways. My humble prayer is that through my limited abilities, I have offered up unto the Lord songs that are pleasing to Him and music He can use to bless His children through His Holy Spirit.

Your Brother and Servant in Christ, Gary

### 2010 Youth Camp Fundraising

by the Youth Commission

Our youth has again been participating in fund raisers to help cover the cost of the 2010 Regional Youth Camp. In December, the youth made and sold Christmas Wreaths. In May they held a congregational taco dinner and in June will be holding a garage sale. We set a goal of \$1200.00 which will likely cover 100% of the costs for the 6 youth that are eligible to attend this year. To date, the youth have earned \$954.00 towards this goal. A big THANK YOU is given to all the saints who attended the Taco Congregation Dinner on April 16, 2010 and were so generous with their donations. The garage sale will be the final fund raiser for this year and is being held on June 25th and 26th at the home of Brian and Melissa Herren. We encourage everyone to donate any items they may no longer need and to also come by and say hi and see if we have something that you can't live without. Again, we thank the wonderful saints who have been so supportive and generous this past year and are looking forward to our youth being able to attend the 2010 Regional Youth Camp and continue on their spiritual journey.

### Young Adult Group Retreat

There will be a Young Adult Group Retreat at Pacific City, September 10-12, 2010. The theme is taken from Psalms 16:8: "...because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved". Doctrine and Covenants 45:4e and Colossians 1:23 should also be considered. Brothers Mike Terry and Jim Clark will provide the guest ministry and teach classes. The attendance is limited to 12, and the spots will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. If you are interested in attending, contact Brother Brian Herren.

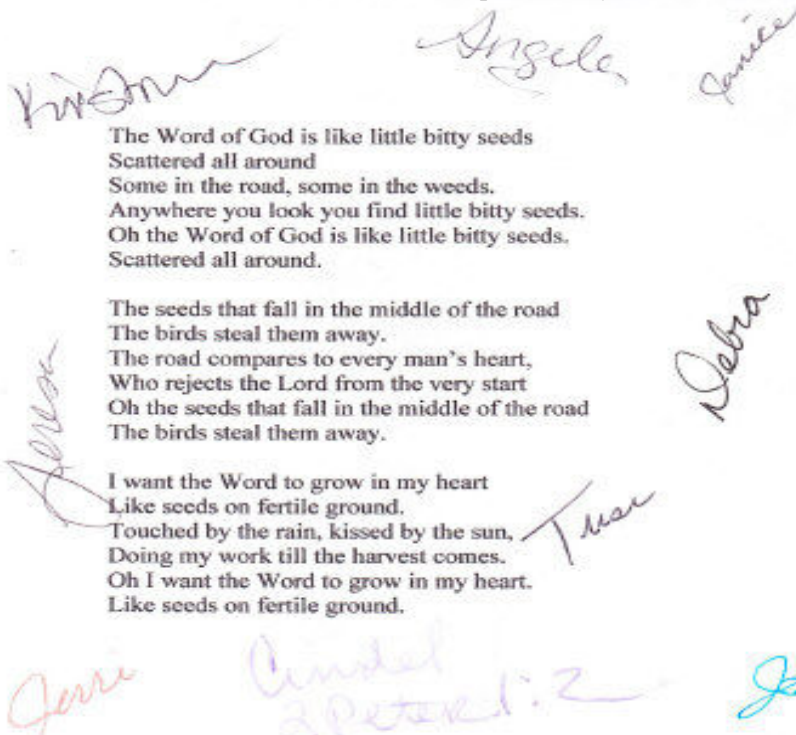
Also, the Young Adult Group will be hiking and camping in the Gorge (Angel's Rest), July 2-3, 2010. All young adults are welcome. We will have sunrise and/or sunset worship services, a campfire service, fellowship, hymns, exercise, and fun. There is no cost for the hiking trip. Please contact Brother Brian if you are interested, as we will be meeting prior to the trip in order to organize responsibilities, prepare our backpacks, and plan our hike. Young Adult Group activities are open to both members and non-members of the Church.

## A Special Thank You From the Union Gospel Mission

By Brother Brian Herren



For almost five years the Saints have been serving the women and children at Simonka Place on the 2nd and 4th Saturday evening of each month. Simonka Place is a women's shelter overseen by the Union Gospel Mission, and anyone who is in the 6th grade or beyond may serve. The sign up sheet is in the foyer each Sunday. I believe that the Saints have been richly blessed in their efforts here, and I am occasionally reminded of that which is recorded in James 1:27. Recently, the Church received a card in the mail in order to thank those who serve at Simonka. The front of the card appears at the left, and the inside of the card is shown below. I too would like to thank you brothers and sisters, for the care that you show in Jesus Christ. Our motive is love, and that unfeigned, and I trust the Lord is pleased in your labors, and earnestly numbers your treasures in heaven.



Thank you for Volunteering at  
UGM Simonka Place.  
Your words of encouragement, smiles, time,  
helpful hands nurture us and those we serve.  
May God continue to richly bless you.

*Kathy Medina*

## Regional Women's Retreat, by Sister Dianna Clark



The theme for this year's Women's Retreat was "Joy of Steadfast Faith in the Gospel" Col 1:23. There were a total of 30 women who were in attendance at this years

retreat. Our guest ministry for the weekend was provided by Elder Brian Herren and Elder Gary Jones. To prepare our hearts and minds, we started Friday night with singing praises to our Heavenly Father lead by Sister Cessaries Galusha. We also began each morning by singing praises to our Heavenly Father and King. Sister Cessaries did a wonderful job in picking the hymns, scriptures and leading all of us in songs of praise. We were blessed to have her talents throughout the retreat. The Salem ladies provided the

opening worship on Friday night, which was centered on our theme. Due to Sister Janice Anderson's preparation and much prayer, the mixer ended our first night pleasing the Lord. The Vancouver ladies started Saturday with a morning worship followed by our classes. There were three classes provided this year which were taught by Sister Jan Esquivel, Brother Gary Jones and Brother Brian Herren. We were all richly blessed by the preparation and ministry that each class provided. Rest and recreation time was enjoyed by all. Some went on walks around the camp area to see all of God's beauty and others enjoyed participating in making a photo album to take home. Saturday evening began with Puyallup's worship then progressed into "Evening Chats" lead by myself. As I prayed and prepared for the women's retreat, I was very apprehensive about doing an "Evening Chats". However, the Lord was truly with us during our time together.....we were becoming one as Sister's in Christ and all were blessed. Our evening ended with a wonderfully planned ...concluded on page 5

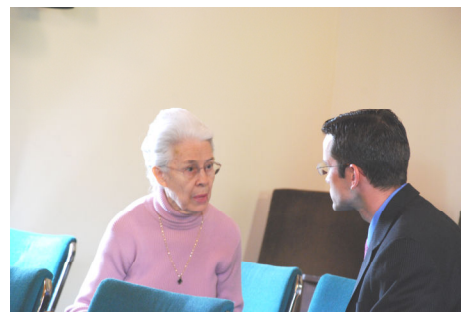


## Regional Women's Retreat ...continued from page 4

and organized campfire lead by Sister's Shari and Priscilla Mason, who prepared a meaningful skit enjoyed by all. Others joined in the campfire with stories, poems and a violin duet performed by Sister's Janice and Lois Anderson. As Sunday was approaching and the retreat would soon be over, I felt sadness in my heart. As I was preparing for prayer/testimony service, someone told me "I wish we didn't have to leave this peaceful place" and I wondered if others felt that very same way. Our



weekend could have not ended more spiritually than it did with the morning worship done by the Yakima ladies followed by a prayer/testimony service. Many women shared testimonies/prayers and Brother Gary Jones delivered a meaningful message from the Lord to all the women present. We said our goodbyes, but this time not as just women from different branches....we were now SISTERS saying goodbye. I know our Heavenly Father was well pleased, as we left feeling the Holy Spirit and having been truly blessed. Thank you Lord for you are worthy of our praises, joy and the steadfastness of our faith.



## An Update...continued from page 2

Jamie is very, very, very anxious to get home. We are so proud of the job she has done and she is appreciative of all the prayers that have been offered on her behalf.

On Mothers Day, May 9th, Jamie was invited by her Master Sergeant to attend the local "Victory Day Celebration" along with eight other Air Force personnel. The celebration is held annually and included the Captain of Police as well as the local Mayor. It was an all day celebration. Lunch and dinner were provided and children in their tribal dress, danced. Jamie said that the food was delicious. During World War II, there was not one family in the city that had not lost at least one member of the family in the war. The people are so grateful to the Americans who liberated them that they celebrate yearly in remembrance.

"Remember that the condition of humility is essential in order to receive the presence and power of His Spirit in [one's] life...which will allow [one] to receive blessings of insight and wisdom and understanding beyond anything which [they] have ever imagined"

## White Water Rafting Trip

All are welcome to join the Saints for a white water rafting trip on July 10. The outfitter is Sage Canyon River Company in Maupin Oregon. We will be rafting class III and IV rapids on a 6 hour, 18 mile adventure. The cost is \$80 per person, which includes a BBQ steak & chicken lunch, professional instruction, and guides. We will leave Brother Brian's home no later than 6:00 am on July 10th. If you are interested, PLEASE advise Brian. At printing, there are roughly 20 Saints who are signed up. Each raft will have a professional guide, dry sacks, 6 Saints, and great potential! Brochures are available.

## A Message...continued from page 2

My Saints shall stand in places of tribulation, shall stand in places of great trial and the very foundations upon which you stand shall be shaken, except your convictions be great and except you give yourselves without reservations, you too, shall face and eventually shall be counted among the lost. And yet in the face of this hour many people fail even in the simple things. Many of you are not faithful at the place of prayer, and many of you are not faithful as my saints gather together with faith for instruction and devotion, into avenues that I have established for your growth and development, and yet are looked upon as trivial things incidental to your way of life. The days of peace are gone from the world never again shall you see eras of peace as you have seen them in the past, and only between the greater eruptions of humanity shall there be lulls in which you shall find peace and happiness. Yet my promises are true and those who shall give themselves, free from reservations that have held them down and live aright shall find even in this hour, peace and joy and satisfaction. My arm is not shortened. My promises are not limited. My love stands forth as true for my people as ever before. I would gather you as I would many times have gathered you together, and yet you would not, and ye will not, except you repent.

So, my little children, this morning I plead again that you forget the selfish ambitions that keep you from the causes of the Kingdom. Expel from your lives the things of the world which causes the people of the world to find you no different than they. The little habits, the little traits which you have developed in your pattern of living must give way to greater life, to living which shall bring you closed to the Master. So in the Spirit of this hour you can go forth, and this Spirit can be yours and will be yours to that degree to which you give yourselves unrelentingly, free from reservations and free from worldliness that the voice of the Master might be with you eternally. Thus saith the Spirit unto you my people. Amen.

### **Dinner with the Pastor,** by Brother Robert Ellison



On Tuesday night (February 23rd) we had a youth activity. We went to have dinner at the pastors house. We had lasagna, salad, and bread sticks. It was so good. Later, we played board games and built a human pyramid! We even made up a new game. The point of the game was to throw the ball past the two defenders and the defenders could use pillows to block the ball! I really enjoyed being with my friends from church that night. I will never forget it.



### **Youth Service Project,** from the Youth Commission



The Youth Commission recently received a letter from the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery (FOPC) thanking them for their service. Ms. Elisabeth Potter of the organization wrote: On May 22, ...Special thanks to Sharon Trammell and her crew from the Restored Church of Christ for removing blackberry vines from the street-front boxwood hedge and collecting debris from the perimeter fence line, inside and out, The crew included Steven Scuito, Kevin Herren, Travis Clark, and Melissa Clark. Your varied tasks moved us forward in important ways to receive the public over the Memorial Day weekend. The good work of each one of you has been truly appreciated.

This letter was sent throughout the FOPC organization and to other volunteers. Again, our youth have demonstrated leadership in serving their community and in bearing a good witness of the Lord and His Church. The Youth Commission deserves our gratitude as they continue to serve in an important post, and tirelessly pursue the development of men and women of the finest moral character. They lead the youth of the congregation in fellowship and service activities, and their efforts are much appreciated.

### **Sanctuary,** by Brother Brian Herren

Last winter, it was decided that we should take extra care in how we occupy the sanctuary. I wish to thank you each for the respectful manner in which you've honored this decision. Beginning on July 4th, an usher will help us keep order as we exit the sanctuary. Each row will be dismissed one at a time. It would be best if we were quiet until we had been excused by the usher and had exited. Nobody will be made to leave of course, but those who remain behind should remain quiet. Those of you who are older will remember that this is not new. For years and years this is how the Saints exited the sanctuary after service. I acknowledge that restoring order is much more difficult than maintaining it, but I believe our efforts will be blessed. It is not always the most popular decision that is best, but the one founded upon good principle. Please be patient as our comfort is challenged to some degree. I do hope the fellowship of the Saints continues to be a rich part of our experience. I have taken some effort to provide for many opportunities. If more room is needed after services on Sunday morning, the Bennett's (our landlords) have agreed to our use of all of the downstairs area.

### **Ladies Relief Society Update,** by Sister Melissa Herren

The Ladies Relief Society has been keeping busy with a number of activities throughout the last year. Our fellowship has been richly blessed as we seek to serve others and grow closer to one another. I feel truly blessed that we have such a wonderful and caring group of sisters. In November we helped Brother Ron T. organize and deliver the Thanksgiving dinner donations for a family in need. Also in November, we were treated by some of the men in the congregation as we traveled around for a progressive dinner. Special thanks to Brothers Brian H., Ron T., Gary L., Kevin H. and Jim C. for the hospitality and delicious food! In December we made and sent homemade cookies to all of the guest ministry that had preached in Salem in 2009. In January we prepared and presented a ministry of music (Joseph Smith's First Prayer). Also in January and February, the sisters visited the Saints and collected recipes for the Congregational Cookbook. In March we were blessed with the opportunity to attend a fellowship weekend in Seaside. Thank you to Steve and Traci for the use of your time share! April brought an opportunity to collect supplies and send out a care package to Sister Jaime Leach who is currently stationed in Kyrgyzstan. In May we gathered together to dust off our sewing machines and



sew pillowcases to donate to the Simonka House. Sister Sharon T. led the way in our instruction as Sisters Traci S., Dianna and Melissa C., Cessaries G., and Sue, Trina and Melissa H. fellowshipped and put together pillowcases. 14 beautiful pillowcases were made with love and care. I look forward to our ongoing growth and ministry.