

Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



November, 2010

Important Dates:

- November 5-7: Regional Youth Retreat
- November 13: Youth Commission Appreciation Dinner
- November 14: LRS meeting
- November 20: Youth Activity
- November 25: Thanksgiving
- November 28: Lunch at Izzy's

Can You Help?

This year, the congregation will again be helping 2 families by providing food for a Thanksgiving meal. The Ladies Relief Society will organize the effort and make the delivery, under the supervision of Brother Ron Trammell, who has developed a good working relationship with the Oregon Department of Human Services. A sign-up sheet will be available soon in the foyer. All donated food should be brought to church on November 21. Please direct questions to Sister Melissa Herren or Brother 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

The Passover and Communion

By Brother Brian Herren

While an earnest study of the Old Testament may prove elusive in light of cultural disparity, unfamiliar vocabulary, and the demands it places upon a more comprehensive approach to the workings of an Eternal God, the efforts are often met with a rich revelatory experience in Christ. The history of man is marked by his interaction with the Creator and witnesses from the beginning the exquisite labor whereby the Only Begotten Son has reconciled the faithful to the heavenly courts from which He is come. Peter rightly attributes the authorship of the ancient records of the Old Testament (II Peter 3:2) and Paul wrote that he believed every word (Acts 24:14). From the beginning, every measure of creation is set forth to bear record of the Father (Genesis 6:66), this work being the express purpose of His creative faculty. In such an expression, the honest student finds from the very beginning the shadow of things eternal manifest in those items more tangible to human intellect. Paul eloquently wrote the same:

"For God hath revealed unto them the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, which are clearly seen; things which are not seen being understood by the things that are made, through his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse..." (Romans 1:20).

To take one small piece, often considered a tired discussion, we can view the Passover in such light. While the fundamental elements of the Passover may be received apathetically by those accustomed to its repetitious consideration, there remain beautiful nuances to be rightly won for the triumph of the thoughtful. We are familiar with the account (Exodus 11 & 12) of the tenth and final plague upon Egypt during the period of Israelite captivity. The Israelites had lived in Egypt for 430 years (Exodus 12:40) before they departed (which is also how long Enoch dwelt on earth before his departure: Genesis 7:78). They had lived as slaves for a portion of that time, Moses' grandfather Kohath having entered the land as a free man before a new pharaoh revoked the favor that had been initially enjoyed by the Hebrews on account of Joseph (Rachel's firstborn).

The first three plagues affected the Egyptian and Hebrew alike, while the next six were selectively visited upon the Egyptians.

The ninth plague (3 days of darkness) would have been a striking blow to the Egyptians who worshipped the sun, and served as an early reference to the 3 days which Christ would be entombed (see also III Nephi 4:4,17). The tenth plague would again involve all of the inhabitants of Egypt, including those in Goshen. It would result in the death of the firstborn of all those who did not honor the true and living God by way of their obedience to the instruction given. The Lord instructed the Hebrews to select a lamb from among the flock on the 10th of

Abib (the month is called Nisan after the Babylonian captivity). The lamb was to be separated from the flock and considered special, a male that was born without any defect. On the even of the 14th day, the lamb was to be sacrificed, and eaten. The blood was to be taken and applied to the two side posts of each

door using a bunch of hyssop, and also the upper door post (lintel). The faithful observers were to remain in their homes throughout the night. At midnight the Lord smote (killed) all of the firstborn of the inhabitants of Egypt, whether man or beast, except for those who had obeyed His instruction concerning the sacrifice and consumption of the lamb, along with the marking of the door with the lamb's blood. The Lord passed over the homes of those who had obeyed His counsel, and so the Hebrews remember this blessing as the "Passover". More instruction for the Hebrews was given and is recorded in Exodus 12 and 13, Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 16, and Numbers 9. Additional instruction included the provision that the Passover lamb be killed outside of the city walls (Deuteronomy 16:5), and be used without breaking a single bone (Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12).

The Christian observer finds an additional witness of the Savior in the Passover, and rightfully so, provided that everything given from the beginning of time is given to prepare men to receive our Lord Jesus Christ. One quickly recognizes that the Passover lamb is symbolic of the Lamb of God (John 1:29), and that it is by His blood that we are spared from the wages of sin (I John 1:7, Revelation 1:5, Hebrews 9:13-14, Revelation 1:5-6, John 6:53-54, Hebrews 9:17-28). Just as the Passover lamb was to be killed outside of the city walls, so Christ was crucified outside of the gates at Golgotha (Matthew 27:35). Of the three men crucified on the day of Christ's death, He was the only one that perished without a single bone being broken (John 19:32-33),

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Passover ...cont. from page 1

maintaining harmony with the prophetic nature of the sacrifice at Passover. The Hebrews had once used hyssop in the keeping of the Passover rites, and it was hyssop that was raised before our Lord (John 19:29).

The timing of the crucifixion more clearly identifies the Passover kept by the Hebrews with the life and death of our Savior. It was on the 10th day of Abib that Jesus entered Jerusalem (John 12:1-13) and it was precisely on the day of Passover that the Lamb of God was sacrificed (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22).

The Israelites were instructed to eat the flesh of the Passover lamb, and mark their homes with his blood. If they were obedient, the Lord would save the lives of their firstborn from death. This salvation was not promised to all, but to the firstborn. God has defined his firstborn as the children of Israel, the seed of Abraham (Exodus 4:22). Paul suggested that this birthright is come upon men by way of their faith, and not their lineage alone. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul wrote:

"Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham... That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that they might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith... For ye are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye are Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:7,14, 26-29).

Paul goes further in his letter to the Romans, writing: *"...Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel."* (Romans 9:6). He writes more about Abraham and those who qualify as his seed/descendents:

"...that he [Abraham] might be the father of all of them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also; And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." (Romans 4:11-13).

By these scriptures we understand that it is the faithful that are a kind of first fruits to God (see also James 1:18). They will not suffer spiritual death because the Lord will "pass over" them just as He did the firstborn of the Hebrews in Egypt. They will have been obedient to His commandments, finding a symbolic feast in the Lamb of God and having their homes marked with the blood of His atonement.

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Local Business Meeting

Please support the following officers which were elected September 26th at the local business meeting:

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

Elder Gene Luffman was appointed auditor, and Sister Melissa Herren was appointed recorder.

Regional Business Meeting

Please support the following officers which were elected October 3rd 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 April Jones
Regional Treasurer:	Priest Mitch Arndt
Regional Secretary:	Sister Kay Campbell
Regional Recreation Director:	Brother Chris Humphreys
Regional Music Director:	Sister Cessaries Galusha
Regional Church School Director:	Sister Janet Rew

Elder Glenn Vaughn was appointed as regional auditor.

Young Adult Group Retreat

By Sister Cessaries Galusha



The first Young Adult Retreat was held on September 10-12, 2010 in Pacific City.

The young saints who attended were Brian, Melissa and Trina Herren, Cessaries Galusha, Lisa Livingston, and Aaron Duke from Salem. Allie Hamblin Cabrera attended from Vancouver, and

Brothers Mike Terry and Jim Clark brought a wonderful ministry to us in teaching classes and worshipping with us. Although not present, Brother Aquila Galusha did a wonderful work in preparing a logo and design for T-shirts that were made to remember this experience. Displayed on the T-shirts is a servant of the Lord, full of strength and clothed with the sun. His feet stand upon the moon and he wears the breastplate of righteousness while holding a flaming sword of the word of God in his right hand, and an olive branch of peace in his left. Inspired from Revelation chapter 12, this man represents the children of God as we walk in the light, striving to serve Him with all of our might, mind and strength. Printed above the image reads, "because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved," from Psalm 16:8, which was our theme for the weekend.

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The Passover and Communion ...continued from page 2

A passage of note further recommends our perennial consideration of the Passover in the contemporary Church. We read the following in Exodus 12:14: “*And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.*” A worthy discussion of the Passover might include acknowledgment that it was to be kept generation upon generation by way of an ordinance. Is there an ordinance in the Church today which honors this instruction? The Passover was commissioned to be a memorial, so one would look for an ordinance that draws us to remembrance. The Passover was kept by partaking of a lamb, set apart on the 10th of Abib, and killed on the 14th of the same. We should look for an ordinance then that at least symbolically involves eating the body of a Lamb that was separated and killed on the same. The Passover was a celebration of the deliverance God made for His people. Is there an ordinance in the Church today whereby we remember our deliverance from bondage?

The Passover is honored in the Church today in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, when we eat bread in remembrance of the flesh of the Lamb of God, who was separated on the 10th of Nisan and crucified on the 14th. We partake of wine to symbolize His blood. In our remembrance, we note how it is Jesus Christ whereby we are delivered from the bondage of sin after the days of our captivity.

The suggestion that the Passover feast is honored in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is witnessed in Christ, who kept the Passover by breaking bread and giving to His disciples. He then took wine and bid them to drink. How did the Lord keep the Passover feast? The same way that those in the Church do today (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22).

“...the disciples came unto Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover? And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples... And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and brake it, and blessed it, and gave to his disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is in remembrance of my body which I give a ransom for you. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it. For this is in remembrance of my blood of the new testament, which is shed for as many as shall believe on my name, for the remission of their sins. And I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall observe to do the things which ye have seen me do, and bear record of me even unto the end.” (Matthew 26:13,14,22-25).

Christ's fulfillment of the law was not often an exoneration of men from the merits of morality, but an opportunity for the same principles to be visited in spiritual practice, for the welfare of the soul rather than the observation of the flesh.

Finally, wisdom demands that one search the scriptures if a clear identity of those entitled to this ordinance is to be discovered. With regards to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the Church has held from its restoration to the earth that emblems should only be served to those who have made a covenant with God. This covenant is witnessed in the baptismal waters and confirmed by the Spirit. This practice is supported by the words of Christ when He commanded that the bread and wine be served “*unto the people of my church, unto all those who shall believe and be baptized in my name.*” (III Nephi 8:32). No one was to be forbidden to worship with the Saints, but this ordinance was only to be administered to those who were rightly baptized (Christ also spoke of ordaining one with true authority to oversee these works, demonstrating again the value of authority):

“Therefore if ye know that a man is unworthy to eat and drink of my flesh and blood, ye shall forbid him; nevertheless ye shall not cast him out from among you, but ye shall minister unto him, and shall pray for him unto the Father, in my name, And if it so be that he repenteth, and is baptized in my name, then shall ye receive him, and shall minister unto him of my flesh and blood.” (III Nephi 8:61-62).

If the comparison of the Passover and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is an accurate one, a similarly restricting portion of counsel should be found to govern participation in the Passover feast. In Exodus 12, we read the following prohibition:

*“And the Lord said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover; **there shall no stranger eat thereof**; But every man's servant that is bought for money, **when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof**. A foreigner and a hired servant shall not eat thereof. **In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.** All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the Lord, **let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land; for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.** One law shall be to him that is home-born, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.”* (Exodus 12:43-49).

The Passover was to be enjoyed only by those who had made a covenant with God (compare to III Nephi 8:32). While everyone was invited to make a covenant with Him, and none were refused circumcision, only those who had made the covenant were to partake of the ordinance. Moreover, though the ordinance would be kept in many homes, it was to be kept “in one house” (study II Nephi 12:3-16 and Doctrine and Covenants 1:5e) and was not to be “carried forth” out of that house. Those who made a covenant were treated the same, whether they were born a Hebrew, a slave, or a foreigner (compare to Galatians 3:28), and there was one law to govern all, one faith, one covenant honored, one God (compare to Ephesians 4:3-6).

Truly the Lord is without beginning or end, weaving the thread of continuity in every dispensation through the revelation of His Son, that we might learn in the spirit those principles once observed in the flesh. Praise the Lord for His beauty, for He has not left us without a testimony of the truth. While a study of the Old Testament may demand a greater exercise of our finer faculties, the Holy Ghost attending, it is sure to shed light upon those elements of doctrine which shall remain forever relevant in the hearts of the faithful. In the mouth of two or three witnesses, He has established the truth of all things (Doctrine and Covenants 6:13b), that those who earnestly question will not go without.

Young Adult Retreat...continued from page 2

Friday evening we witnessed the most beautiful sunset over the ocean from the living room of the beach house, and after dinner enjoyed a campfire service where we sang praises and had prayer. Above us the skies shone bright and clear, and in the comfortable air devoid of winds, we watched the shooting stars glorify the Lord above us. What a privilege it was for us to witness the heavens unfiltered by the lights of the city, or clouds hiding them from view. We were blessed the entire weekend with the most glorious weather to be had on the Pacific Oregon Coast, and we are so grateful. At 6:00 AM Saturday and Sunday we gathered for morning prayers on the beach, and prepared our hearts for the day.



Shirt art by Brother Aquila

The classes brought by our good brothers gave joy to our souls and stirred our hearts with a desire to be better servants for the work. We enjoyed a perfect liberty to worship, teach, expound, and fellowship as there was need. A schedule was given to keep things organized and to help with food preparation, but we were not confined or restricted in any way. Brother Jim's and Mike's classes went well beyond the printed times, but no one desired them to end, so they continued until they were finished, and we were all the more blessed. Saturday afternoon we all enjoyed a walk to Cape Kawanda, and several climbed all the way to the top to enjoy the wonderful view and accomplishment for their exertions. All of the meals were prepared by Sister Melissa Herren, who graciously gave of her talents to bless us in this way. Many thanks to her for her preparation and love she showed us with the excellent meals she provided, and also to Sister Dianna who sent wonderful dishes as well. Saturday evening we were blessed with a beautiful Spirit at the campfire service. Along with our singing, Brother Brian read to us quotes from a book by F. Henry Edwards that brought a wonderful ministry. Near the end of the service we stood together holding hands and sang "What Wondrous Love Is This", with the Spirit guiding our way.

The following morning was quiet and peaceful, and after breakfast we worshiped by singing hymns before the service commenced. Each of the Priesthood spoke words of counsel, and Brother Brian preached a sermon truly delivered by the Lord. He spoke to us of the bonds we shared in Christ, and how we must learn to love one another to a greater degree. Only in this will we find the devotion and commitment to build the Kingdom to its fullest extent. We need to honor those that rule over us, who teach us the gospel and law of Christ, "for all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Galatians 5:14). He also shared about the two mountains in Hebrews 12, and the eyes of our understanding were enlightened to read these words in a new way. Mount Sinai, described in verses 18-21, represents the law of Moses and those things which are temporal in nature. As new creatures in Christ, we no longer walk after the old ways of our flesh, nor by carnal commandments. Now we "are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (verse 22), and live by the Spirit unto perfection through Christ Jesus. We were admonished to hold fast and continue onward because the Lord is coming to "shake terribly the earth" (Isaiah 2:19). All things will be shaken, both in heaven and earth so "that those things which cannot be shaken may remain" (Hebrews 12:27). I end with a quote he used from Bishop Albert Carmichael, and hope that we will continue on and servants steadfast in the work, that we may be that people God has chosen.

"If we think that the men whom God has chosen to do this task will not do it, then there remains for us another task, and that is to find another group of men who will do it, for somehow the work must be done. This people must have a chance to comply with the will of God, that Zion might be... Zion, the final, ultimate, complete work, the finished product of the eternal God, can never be redeemed except by a group of men and women who will work as God works, humbly, spiritually, intelligently, earnestly, with their whole souls wrapped up in the service of humanity, the redemption of the world. And God is calling, and He will continue to call until out from the creations of the infinite a human race will come, a race consecrated to the great task of saving their fellow men by losing themselves..." -Presiding Bishop Albert Carmichael, in a sermon preached at the Stone Church, June 6, 1928 – Saints Herald, vol. 75, pp 673, 675.

Wreaths

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 starting Sunday November 14, 2010 from any youth in the congregation and picked up on Sunday, December 5th. They will also be available for purchase without pre-order on the 5th. 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.



Brother Lonnie Nollen Is Baptized

By Brother Gary Livingston

Lonnie Nollen was baptized by Elder Brian Herren at Larwood Wayside Park on September 19, 2010. It is such a joy to witness one who comes before God with a broken heart and contrite spirit to give their life to Him. I believe there was rejoicing in the Kingdom of Heaven as Lonnie made a covenant with his Heavenly Father by entering the waters of baptism.

We should never forget that on this particular day we were in the midst of a rain storm. Preparations were made for lots of rain: a tarp was set up for us to have a place to stay dry,

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Brother Gary shares baptismal remarks

A Letter From the Youth Commission

As the year winds down many of us reflect on time gone by. Where did 2010 go already? As the Youth Commission looks back, we remember many great times of service, laughter and fellowship.

The youth have played a great roll in the ministry in our portion of the vineyard. This year we were able to bring snacks and goodies to those saints who are not mobile enough to make it out and about as easily as they may like. The youth also gave themselves in service to our community on several occasions by volunteering to help clean up several parks and cemeteries. After one of the clean up days, we were given a historical tour of Pioneer Cemetery. I had no idea so much history is so near. Many memories were made and bonds strengthened, with events like going to the Kroc Center and seeing who could climb the highest on the rock wall. We were also blessed with great weather this year, which enabled us to do activities such as playing games at the congregational camping trip, going to Silver Creek Falls, and who can forget the scavenger hunt? We were also able to meet together to play games as seen on "Minute to Win It" which are, by the way, much more difficult than they look. We met together to plan out a worship service to praise the Lord who has blessed our congregation and all His church with so many opportunities, and given us such wonderful young men and women who have brought such joy to those around them.

Through the blessings of God, and by the hard work of our youth, we were able to raise extraordinary amounts of funds to ensure that all who wanted to attend youth camp in July were able to go. Many of them were able to raise their entire camp fee and help raise funds for others who wanted to attend. Our garage sale was very well done and well received. We had a tremendous taco bar that was not only a blast, but was extremely successful. For anyone who wants to see how industrious and hard working the next generation is, I invite you to watch them at work making Christmas wreaths. Our dedicated young men and women made dozens and dozens of wonderfully crafted and beautifully decorated wreaths. Those who were able to buy a wreath can attest to that. We look forward this year to even more wreath making to decorate the doors of the saints.

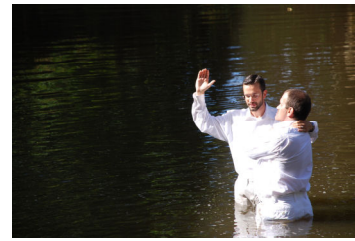
2011 promises to be equally as great as 2010. With many plans already in the works, we look forward as the Youth Commission, to serving our youth, as the youth, to serving the saints and our community. There will be plenty of opportunity to give ourselves in service and experience the love and joy of our Lord. We are excited as well, for the renewing and strengthening of our friendships during game nights, field trips and bonfires.....I've said too much.

If any of the young, young at heart or the experienced of life have any input, suggestions or comments they would like to share for the upcoming year, we would love to hear from you. Please see Traci Sciuto, Cessaries Galusha, Trina Herren or Kevin Herren. Lastly, a big thank you is owed to our kids who have been so willing to give themselves to the work of Christ. You have ministered to each other and have grown closer, but also as adults, we to have been ministered to by your service and laughter and compassion. Thank you, and get ready for 2011!

Sincerely, your servants,
The Youth Commission,
Sharon Trammell
Kevin Herren
Traci Sciuto
Trina Herren
Cessaries Galusha

Brother Lonnie Nollen

...continued from page 4.



*Brother Brian Herren baptizes
Brother Lonnie Nollen*

and many of us also brought umbrellas expecting very wet weather conditions. We should not at all have been surprised to see

the clouds give way to the sun just before the baptism took place. What a testimony that even though there might be storm clouds in our lives, there is always hope through the Son who is always there and gives us light.

Lonnie was confirmed on October 10 by Elder Brian Herren and assisted by High Priest John Henderson. It is so good to have one more brother who has become a member of our church family. Praise God!

Priesthood Retreat

The regional priesthood enjoyed a retreat at Pacific City, October 22-24. Brothers Gary Jones, Mike Terry, and Mitch Arndt taught classes. Sisters Dianna Clark and Melissa Herren served by cooking.



*Priesthood
members in
attendance.*

*Sisters
Dianna &
Melissa...
beware of
hidden cottage
cheese...*



Congratulations Jamie!



Sister Jamie Leach

Senior Airman Jamie Leach has been awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal. Colonel Butters noted that her "outstanding technical skills, professionalism, and ceaseless efforts directly contributed to the success of the wing's ...concluded on page 6

A Letter To All, Near & Far

By way of this note, I wish to inform you of the Salem congregation's hope to travel together again. The Saints began inquiring after the next trip as nearly as we had returned from the prior. In these matters, though the zeal of the Saints can precipitate our very specific wishes and our excitement yield shades of anxiety, I seek to discern the Lord's will for us. I simply find reliance upon my own faculties insufficient. In the matter of this case, I have received several testimonies that have directed our course to Kirtland. We will also take some time to re-visit Palmyra. I have prepared a packet of very elementary information that is intended to help organize our thoughts and study in Salem, in preparation for this endeavor. As previously announced, our first meeting was held on October 10th and was well-attended. We will meet again after church on November 7th to decide upon the date of our travel by way of election. As with the other trips we've enjoyed, we wish to extend an open invitation and a sincere desire to fellowship to any other Saints who might show an interest. Please offer this invitation some publicity wherever you may discern an earnest interest amongst those desirous to share in this precious opportunity.

Your brother and servant in Christ, Brian

A Most Celebrated Return

At the time of this printing, our good Brother Bill Curtis is expected to return to our fellowship on October 31st after having surgery on his kidney and heart. He is scheduled to preach and all are anxious to receive Brother Bill and Sister Nancy again. Below is an excerpt from a recent letter to the Saints from Bill:



Brother Bill Curtis

“...On August 31st, I had surgery to freeze a spot on my kidney & then three days later I had open heart surgery which included a triple bypass. After being released from the hospital, I had some complications with an erratic heart beat and then spent another six days in the hospital. While there have been many blessings in this whole process, the greatest is that the doctors discovered my heart problem and I was truly in the right place at the right time to receive the care I needed...As you might well guess, I have a wonderful caretaker, my wife, and our family has been very helpful and supportive throughout this process...Your love, prayers and concerns have strengthened Nancy and I more than you can know and I ask for your continued prayers. My thoughts and prayers are with you...

Much love to you all, your brother in Christ, Bill”

Young Adult Group Backpacking Trip, by Sister Trina Herren



Sister Trina

With a desire to draw apart from the world and closer to God, seven Saints of the Young Adults Group met at 7:00 a.m. to begin our journey to the top of Angel's Rest to enjoy the views, fellowship and camp. With everything we needed in our backpacks, Brian, Melissa, Lisa, Aaron, Cessaries, Andrew (in shorts), and Trina loaded up in the car and set out on an adventure. We began our hike up to a breath-taking sight. The path was clear half way up, but began to close in on us as the rain came down and showed little sign of stopping. Regardless of the weather, we were determined to get to the top, even soaking wet and cold if necessary. Upon arriving to the place where we were to set up camp, everyone pitched in to set up tents and gather firewood before continuing to the very to enjoy lunch and a view worth waiting for. As night fell upon us, we sat around the fire and sang praises to the Lord. The sun rose on a brand new day as we headed back to the top of the hill to gaze out over the beautiful land our Father in heaven has created. For a long while, no one said a word, just enjoying the stillness of the hour and the newness of the day. Songs of praise and thanksgiving were sung from the heart and so glorious to hear first thing in the morning. Prayer service was held in the brisk morning breeze as the Spirit of the Lord attended each one of us. Before returning to camp, an altar was built of rocks to remember the wonderful blessings of the Lord.

New Drivers

Congratulations to Sister Lisa Livingston who received her driver's license on October 8th, and Brother Travis Clark, who received his on October 20th. In honor of these new driver's, Brother Jim Clark was asked to provide five points of advise for young driver's:

- ◆ Wear your seatbelt...yes I recently started wearing mine.
- ◆ Always drive as if your life depends on your driving...for just maybe it does.
- ◆ Be patient driving...other's may not be “as good at driving” as you perceive yourself to be.
- ◆ Distractions are just times you are driving while blind...open your eyes by leaving all else alone until you get to your destination
- ◆ Entertaining police officers can be expensive...learn and obey the traffic laws

...and as always...a little prayer goes a long way...



Brother Jim Clark

Jamie...cont. from page 5

Global Mobility mission. Colonel Butters reported that Jamie “meticulously blended training requirements and aircraft availability for more than 1500 aircrew members operating 58 aircraft in Air Mobility Command's largest and most diverse wing, ensuring effective utilization of a \$110 million flying hour program. Additionally, Airman Leach managed eight air refueling tracks, balancing over 900 requests per year, essential to producing combat ready aircrew members. She was serving as a expert planner when honed with this award. Thank you for your service!

Trials in Africa



Brother Eric Odida

Recently, Brother Eric Odida (an elder in the Church) and his family suffered renewed persecution in Kenya as a result of political unrest. The following letter was sent to Brother Brian Mundy in early October:

Dear Brother,

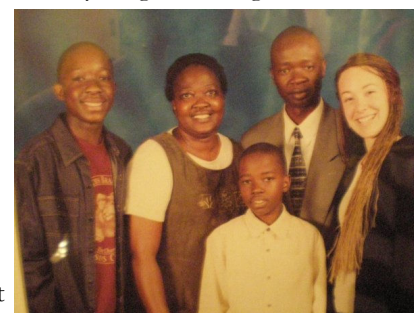
Thanks to you all for your prayers and support. It was a difficult weekend, and especially for my wife. She went through every difficult experience. The auctioneer came with about 100 people (thugs). Who threw our things down from the balcony and broke things. They filled the house, the bedroom and everywhere and just meted serious destruction to our household property. She could do nothing. We were not given any notice to vacate, and they wanted us out of the compound immediately. I was in Nakuru and had to travel back. Since our car has been down since the time Adam was here, I had to try to get a matatu to Nairobi which did not come that fast. Mostly because it was a Friday evening and many were traveling to Nairobi for the week-end. I had the longest wait of my life by the roadside. But the Lord did get me to Nairobi and by 2:00 am I was able to get Pamela to a friend's in-laws place for the night. It was a blessing we had 3 Church young men staying with us at the time but only one was home when it all began. And it was heavy traffic time so the other two could not get home in time to assist. We moved whatever we could to Walter Anditi's business premise at night in 3 lorries at night where we are moving them from today. The young saints came that night to assist us pack things into the lorries that night and left for their homes very late. What a blessing.

We have found a small place to occupy on the Eastern side of Nairobi. It is far from the road and matatus but we have no time to keep searching at this time of the month. People usually leave houses at the end of the month. That is when new tenants get houses for rental as others move out. The owner is requiring money for rent and 3 months deposit (in case we fail to pay in future). They do not trust why we had to vacate another house hurriedly in the middle of the month with broken things. They require Shs. 75, 000 deposit (\$937.50 US conversion) and Shs. 25, 000 (\$312.50 US conversion) rent in advance. We also need to pay for electricity and water deposit as the other meters were destroyed and will take some time for the suppliers to determine what happened before refunding us or charging us from the deposit they have. Our cooker was spoiled and many things were stolen by the marauding youth who invaded our house. Dining table and chairs were all broken except one chair that survived. This had been our house for many years. We had everything we have gathered in our family life in that house. It carried every thing. We feel not only violated but reduced to a starting point again. But we still feel the love of God and the cover of his protecting hands.

We have jointly come together with the other former neighbors to seek for justice. We pray we get it. The building had been grabbed by some director of KCC during the former president's (Moi) government.

My house got the worst beating and I keep asking why, while that is the house the Lord is being worshiped in every single evening of the day, week or month of the year. I know there is a reason. It is just a little difficult to get by now.

God bless you all. Please pass our love to the family and Church family with you. Eric & Pam.



From left to right: Dean Odida, Pam Odida, Pres Ekek Odida, Eric Odida and Lauren Smith.

The Saints Respond

While the Odida family did not ask for any financial assistance after their trials in October (see letter printed above), many of the Saints responded with loving hearts. The Salem congregation took up a special collection for the family on October 17th and had it wired directly to Eric (with Brother Mundy's help). The following are excerpts from a letter that was subsequently received by Brother Mundy:

Dear Brother,

Praise be to the Lord our God, and Glory and Honor be to his Holy name, forever and ever amen. I have just come from the bank and we have received the funds in our account. This will help us a great deal. Please pass our gratitude to the Saints not only for the funds but even more so for the prayers and good thoughts. We are humbled by the concern and response that have come from the saints. We have been supported and held up

by the power of these prayers and thoughts from the saints, and now we have the funds to assist us find a place to settle. We know of the many challenges facing the saints today, including economical. Yet they have responded one and all. We can only say thanks. May the Lord bless His saints with those gifts that will bring forth the Zion of God in our day.

The prayers you have been sending our way have addressed even areas you were not aware of. Some of the things that got lost were documents for property titles and certificates. One of them that really caused me worry was my friend Joseph's (the school principal) car title document. He had sent his car for me to give to an acquaintance who deals in cars sales. He also gave me the original title document for transfer in case there was a buyer for the car. Then this too got lost during the auctioneers' raid of our house.

...concluded on page 8

Saints Respond...cont, from page 7

These have been weighty cases in my mind because here one can easily obtain a bank loan with car or land title. And if you are well connected such documents can be accepted without proof of ownership. I was concerned especially for Mr. Kauko's car title. It is an expensive car that would cost about \$27,000. For 3 days I was not having good sleep at all. We shared this out with the Church for prayers on Sunday. During the prayer time one of the young men by the name Obanda made an interesting statement. He said by this day next week (meaning Sunday) this particular document will have been found, later that day two of my title documents were found at the village near Kisumu where we had transferred after the moving to the small house. On Monday the title to the smaller car Doug Smith had left here (the one that had an accident) was found amongst our things, but not the one for Mr. Kauko. My wife spent time praying asking the Lord to send the 3 Nephites to bring Mr. Kauko's title to us because we had searched everywhere in the house without success. She knew I was not sleeping well at all. The following day she got Mr. Kauko's car title document. It is interesting because all these important documents were locked together in one drawer in our bedroom but they ended up being found in different places, some not even inside an envelope. You see Brian [Mundy] the Lord is God. In that testimony he wrote me a letter telling me He is the ruler yet. And today I believe him so, I really do. We have felt held up. We have been comforted and now we can try to settle again. How powerful the love of our Heavenly Father. He alone knows what he purposed to do with what came our way here. He has turned into a good thing already but I believe a greater good is already achieved. The saints have shared His love with one who was a stranger until Christ's blood came in. And this testimony will strengthen us even further. I know my redeemer lives. Who could have done this except him?

I'll trust him yet again in re-dedication to the call to serve the cause of his Son.

God bless and love to you all.

Your brother through the miracle of Christ
Eric.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6

Youth Harvest Party

On October 30th, the youth enjoyed a Harvest Party at Borthor Kevin and Sister Trina's house. There were 12 youth in attendance. The activities included a scavenger hunt that ended with the youth discovering Psalms 27:1: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?* The youth then shared what they thought about the scripture.

Other activities included bobbing for apples, eating copious amounts of snacks, drinking punch with a mysterious fog emanating from it, and carving pumpkins. The carved pumpkins were then judged by Brothers Ron Trammell and Steve Scuito. Top prize went to Robert Ellison, second place to Micah, and third place to Zach Emery.

A special thanks is owed to the Youth Commission for their diligent efforts in providing for and serving the youth in such a wonderful way.



Pumpkins carved at the 2010 Harvest Party

Christmas Caroling

All are welcome to enjoy in the annual Christmas caroling fellowship on December 18. We will meet at Brother Brian and Sister Melissa's home at 6:00 pm. Please bring warm clothes, and a cheerful countenance. This year we may also collect non-perishable food for the Marion and Polk County Food Share as we spread Christmas cheer from home to home. Please speak to Brother Brian if you have any questions or recommendations.



Left: Carolers that joined together last year.