

Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



March, 2011

Important Dates:

- LRS Meeting 1:30 pm.
- March 21: Youth Activity: Appreciation Dinner
- March 25-27: Men's Fellowship Weekend
- April 5: Youth Activity: Fireside Chats
- April 7: Special Music at the church, 7:00 pm
- April 8-10: Women's Fellowship Weekend
- April 17: LRS Meeting
- April 24: Easter
- April 30: Youth Activity: Service Opportunity
- May 13-15: Women's Retreat
- June 10-12: Men's Retreat
- June 25: YAG Skydive
- July 14-21: Church History Trip
- July 25-31: Youth Camp
- August 16-21: Reunion
- August 25-28: YAG Retreat
- Every Sunday Evening: Exodus Class
- Every Sunday Evening: Church History Class
- Wednesday evenings: Prayer & Testimony Service
- The 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month: Serve women and children in need at the Gospel Mission (Simonka)
- Final Wednesday of each month: Potluck after Prayer/Testimony Service

"And Behold, Ye shall meet together oft..." - Jesus Christ

Guest Ministry in Salem

by Brother Brian Herren

On April 2, Elder John Larson will be joining us in the Pacific Northwest for one week. Brother Larson is a school teacher, and each year he chooses someplace different to travel and visit with the Saints during his week of Spring Break. Last year he visited the Saints in Stonington, Maine and provided ministry there. This year he has asked if he might be able to visit the Saints in the Northwest. He will be staying with the Herren's between April 2 and April 9, and hopes to get to meet as many of the Saints as he can. Presently, Brother Larson attends the Zion's Witness Restoration Branch in Independence, Missouri, where he was ordained an elder by High Priest Dave Brooks, Elder Dave Larson (his father), and Elder Rick Gard in October of 2002. He has provided ministry at various youth camps, and has served missions in Africa.



Elder John Larson

After praying about the matter, and receiving direction, I have invited Brother Larson to serve in several ways during his stay in Salem. He has been asked to bring the morning message on Sunday, April 2, and will provide a fireside chat for the youth on Tuesday, April 5. The fireside chat will be enjoyed at Brother Kevin and Sister Trina's home at 6:30 pm. All of the youth are invited. If any of the youth are in need of a ride, please contact Brother Brian or any member of the Youth Commission.

On Wednesday, April 3, Brother Larson will join us for our weekly prayer and testimony service at Brother Kevin and Sister Trina's at 7:00 pm. A special music service will be enjoyed on Thursday, April 7 at the church building, beginning at 7:00 pm. Elders Gary Livingston and John Larson will bring acoustical guitar music to worship the Lord and praise Him. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the wonderful music and fellowship. The Saints in Vancouver have also been invited to attend. The owners of the church building have agreed to our use of the building without any charge, and I am grateful to the Lord for His bringing everything together. Outside of the aforementioned ministry, several men of the congregation will be taking our Brother on a deep sea fishing adventure on Tuesday, April, 5. We will

depart from Depot Bay. I have contacted many of the brothers already, but if you have not yet been invited, but would like to attend, please let me know. Elder Larson will also enjoy a hiking trip in the Columbia Gorge during his stay here.

I am excited for our good brother's visit. I trust the Lord will be honored, and the Saints will be well served. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Youth Dinner With the Pastor

On February 15th, nine of our youth gathered at the Herren's for tacos, apple blossom dessert, ice cream, and fellowship. We shared about our faith in Christ and the bonds we will always have with one another because of Him. We also "tussled" (ask Brother Robert for a definition), arm wrestled, played games, and built a human pyramid (see picture at left). Our youth are truly wonderful, and continue to prove a tremendous blessing to the congregation.



Youth Commission Update

by Sister Traci Scuito, on behalf of the Youth Commission



Some of the youth make cookies to give to the Saints

Our year is starting off great with more involvement from our youth, which is a wonderful feeling. So far this year our youth have already collected old wreaths and tore them apart (the rings will be used for our Christmas wreath-making this December), prepared a morning worship, and baked Valentine's cookies which they delivered to the Saints at church. Collectively, the Youth Commission has planned many activities for the coming year, some of which include bowling, helping the Saints with their needs, a priesthood appreciation dinner, a carwash fundraiser, plus many more exciting events to come. The Youth Commission would like to thank all of the parents in the congregation for their participation and support, and for encouraging the involvement of our youth. Thank you.



Sisters Cessaries and Trina help the youth plan a worship. Not pictured: Brother Steve, who also helped here.

was 35° Fahrenheit, and the air temperature was 10°. Afterward, the group broke bread together, enjoying a nice dinner in Bend. They lodged in a comfortable condominium in Sisters, Oregon where a large and cozy fire was built in the fireplace. The Saints drank cocoa before singing hymns, and offering prayer together. Sister Cessaries played hymns on the ocarina to our delight. The next morning, some studied their scriptures before they made snow angels, and traveled home in fellowship. Frostbite averted, and fellowship/worship enjoyed, the trip was deemed successful. See pictures on page 3.

Upcoming Young Adult Group (YAG) activities include:

June 25th: Skydiving. Members of the YAG are planning a skydiving expedition with Skydive Oregon in Molalla, Oregon. They will exit the plane tandem at 13,000 feet and freefall at 120-140 miles per hour for approximately 1 minute (around 2 miles) before pulling for the parachute and enjoying a gentle and serene ride toward the earth for another 5-8 minutes.

August 25th-28th: Young Adult Group Retreat. The Young Adult Group retreat will be held on a houseboat (sleeps 14) on Lake Billy Chinook this year. The retreat will be open to the region, and Brothers Mike Terry and Jim Clark will provide ministry. Classes, song services, fellowship, study, swimming, campfire services, and a preaching service will be enjoyed. The theme of the retreat is, "the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp", and is taken from the following scriptures:

For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy; that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee. – Deuteronomy 23:14

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. – Zephaniah 3:17

Another Step

by Sister Sheri Hull



Sister Jamie Leach

When my daughter Jamie told me she was going to join the Air Force, it came as a shock. Jamie and military/soldier was (to me) an oxymoron! But my "little girl" who was such a "prissy" child, an independent teen who clearly marched to her own drum, sure enough did join the Air Force. She has had many hurdles to jump over and she prepares well for each one. Upon her return from overseas, she had a PT (physical training) exercise to pass. This includes running, sit ups and push-ups. Although she had trained very hard while she was deployed, she was not able to complete the exercise. She scored very high but lacked ½ of the 18 push-ups she was required to do. Because she failed, she was required to be at the base gym every morning at 6 am, which meant getting Evelyn up at 5:15 so she could be dropped off at the babysitters in time. She continued to work out while home on Christmas vacation and along with the hard work and prayers of many of you; she passed her test and was able to do 25 push-ups. Looking over her lifetime, I know without any doubt that you (Jamie's extended family) have also had a great impact on her life. Your faithfulness in prayers, love and support have been and is paramount to the person Jamie has grown to be.

Young Adult Group Update

by Brother Brian Herren

On February 25th, members of the Young Adult Group attended the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge in Bend, Oregon. The event provided an opportunity for the group to raise more than \$400 for the Special Olympics of Oregon and jump into some very cold water as a result. At the time of the plunge, the water

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Young Adult Group Update

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The Young Adults Group also hopes to make additional efforts in assisting the homeless and needy. They are presently collecting coats, blankets, socks, shirts, etc. and adding to a storehouse they've created to supply for future outreach efforts and any needs which might find their attention within the Church. Please contact Brother Brian if you have an item you'd like to contribute or if you have identified a need that might be met here.



Sisters Trina, Lisa, and Cessaries wait for the Polar Bear Plunge to commence.



Brother Brian eagerly awaits the Deschutes River, pictured behind him.



Sisters Lisa, Cessaries, and Trina make snow angels.

Happy Birthday, to a Beloved Brother



John Henderson, 12 months



High Priest John Henderson

We pray for the warmest birthday blessings for our Brother John Henderson, born on March 30th, 1924.

Breathtaking Blessings in Hawaii

by Brother Jim Clark

With the generosity of others and the graciousness of our Heavenly Father, we were afforded a fabulous adventure to the fiftieth state of our union. There were so many things to see, the weather being fantastic even though our arrival and departure were met with significant storms. We were blessed each day and we could not express all the ways in which our needs were met and we were shown good fortune.

From zip-lining above the tops of the trees, to snorkeling in the azure blue seas. From canyons and valley's broad and vast, flora and fauna in every cast. We swam with great turtles, saw whales in the sea, fish so brilliant too numerous to be believed. Harbor's a plenty particularly "Pearl", sacrifice and dedication demonstrated for sure. More chickens than we have ever seen, you can't believe how entertaining they can be! Sunsets majestic, sunrises too, so many experiences days just too few. Memories to cherish, beauty and wonder in all thing attested. Evidence shown forth of all He hath invested.

From the tiniest of shells to the grandeur of the highest mountain, a tremendous testimony of the excellency and perfectness of His creation, and the graciousness of His hand. That all may know of our Almighty God, his greatness, and the love he has for each one of us. Praise God!



Waimea Canyon at Kani, Hawaii. Picture from Brother Clark.

I Corinthians 3:16-17, I Corinthians 6:19, II Corinthians 6:16,
D&C 90:5f, Acts 7:48-49, Acts 17:24, Ephesians 2:20-22,
Mosiah 1:82, Alma 16:235, Helaman 2:59, John 2:19

“I cannot boast of much success of attaining the reality of this virtue [humility], but I had a good deal with regard to the appearance of it...In reality, there is, perhaps, no one of our native passions so hard to subdue as pride. Disguise it, struggle with it, beat it down, stifle it, mortify it as much as one pleases, it is still alive and will every now and then peep out and show itself; you will see it, after in this history; for even if I could conceive that I had completely overcome it, I should probably be proud of my humility.” - Benjamin Franklin

“And now behold, I say unto you my brethren, If ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, Can ye feel so now? Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? That your garments have been cleansed and made white, through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem his people from their sins? Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, If ye are not, ye are not prepared to meet God.” - Alma

“Be of good cheer, little children, for I am in your midst, and I have not forsaken you, and inasmuch as you have humbled yourselves before me, the blessings of the kingdom are yours.” - Our Lord