

# Pulse of the Congregation



**Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch**



**October, 2011**

*Important Dates:*

- November 1: YAG sushi night
- November 13: LRS meeting
- November 18-20: Regional Youth Retreat
- November 21-22; 28-29: Youth: wreath making
- December 9: Youth: Movie
- December 11: LRS meeting
- December 16: Caroling
- December 20: Youth: party
- December 25: B-fast@church
- January 6: YAG snowshoeing and overnight in cabin

## Christmas 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 from any youth in the congregation and picked up on Sunday, December 4th. They will also be available for purchase without pre-order on the 4th. 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.

## Sister Sydni Williams is Baptized

*By Brother Brian Herren*



*Sister Sydni is baptized by Brother Brian Herren*

On September 11, 2011, Sister Sydni Williams was baptized at the convergence of the Roaring River and Crabtree Creek in Scio, Oregon. Sydni and her family live in Bend, Oregon and have been a true blessing to the Saints in Salem for many years.

The pre-baptismal classes were held in Bend and in Salem. Sister Sydni was confirmed



*Brothers Bill Curtis and Brian Herren lay their hands on Sydni's head during confirmation*

September 18, 2011, in Salem, Oregon. It was noted during the sermon preceding her confirmation that her family has a deep history in the Restored Church of Christ. The hymn "Salem's Bright King" was compiled in the first hymnal of the Restoration in 1835, one year before Sydni's great-great grandfather was born, and was sung by Sister Cessaries at the confirmation service. Sister Sydni's great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother have been faithful servants in the Church. May God bless His children generation upon generation.

## An Opportunity to Help

Dear Saints,

We will again be assisting some needy families during the up coming holiday season. I will again be organizing this effort along with the Ladies Relief Society. I would ask your support each month for the next two months for the following needs. During the month of November, I would like to provide a full thanksgiving dinner for two families. I will again be contacting family services (Department of Human Services) for a recommendation of families in need. I will have a sign up sheet for the different items needed and will need the food delivered to me at church on Sunday, November 20. I will plan on delivering it that day so that the families will have it in time to prepare for Thanksgiving Day. During the month of December I would like to provide a full Christmas dinner for two families along with gifts for both families. I will have a sign up sheet for the different food items needed and also provide sex, age, and sizes for gifts for the families. These items will need to be delivered to me on or before Wednesday December 21, 2011 so they can be delivered to the families. Please contact me if your items need to be picked up on the 21st of December to make arrangements. I thank you for your past support and ask that again we reach out to the community to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Yours in Christ,

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 Saints of All Ages Worship With Us

By Brother Jim Clark



Brother Jim Clark

First of all I would just like to thank our Heavenly Father for His mercy, His blessings and I so appreciated being with my brothers and sisters. For we were together every morning, we walked together each day, and when I laid my head down at night I knew they were all near around me. To them I just want to say thank you, each one of you, I love you. When we were able to worship in the Kirtland Temple, the moment we entered the Spirit was there in great abundance, and as we sang I was made aware it was not us singing solely, for there were just nineteen who were singing in the chapel that night. In our small group wherever we would sing, there were some with stronger voices and you could hear...concluded on pg. 4

## New Online Resources

Two new websites have recently been created to assist the Saints. Brother Benjamin and Sister Holly McLean created [www.restorationbranches.org/directory](http://www.restorationbranches.org/directory) as an online directory of Restoration branches throughout the world. It is one of the most complete directories available and allows the user to search for a Restoration branch by zip code, keyword, or state. One may also simply select a location by clicking on the map. Presently, there are 195 Restoration branches listed, with contact information available for most of them. Brother and Sister McLean have also built [www.restorationaudio.org](http://www.restorationaudio.org), where one can Purchase Restoration audio books on CD or download the books for instant listening. Some of the titles available include: Between the Covers of the Book of Mormon, Between the Covers of the Doctrine and Covenants, The Call at Evening, Joseph Smith the Prophet and His Progenitors, Joseph Smith Tells His Own Story, the Church Member's Manual, and True Restoration Testimonies.

Visit the Vancouver Branch's  
new/updated website at:

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

## Local Business Meeting

Please support the following officers which were elected or appointed on September 25th at the local business meeting in Salem:

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

Sister Melissa Herren was appointed to the office of recorder. The office of auditor is pending appointment.

## Regional Business Meeting

Please support the following officers which were elected on October 2nd 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 Joanne Vaughn
Regional Recreation Director:	Elder Ed Mason
Regional Music Director:	Sister Cessaries Galusha
Regional Church School Director:	Sister Priscilla Mason

## Christmas Caroling



The Saints who assembled for caroling in 2010

All are invited to come and praise the Lord by singing Christmas hymns door-to-door with the Saints on December 16th. We will meet at Brian and Melissa's home at 6:00 p.m. As we lift our voices heavenward, we will also collect donations of non-perishable food items for the Marion and Polk Food Share. Last year we collected 139 pounds from the homes we visited! Please dress warm and bring your loved ones. Comfortable clothes are recommended (and if you brought a cookie or two, that would be OK).



## Correspondence with Saints in Boise, Idaho

*By Brother Brian Herren*



*Brother Morgan and his wife, Sister Bethany, with their daughter Emma. Also pictured is Sister Cathy, Bethany's mother.*

Recently, I received an email from Brother Morgan Wigle, an elder who lives with his family in Boise, Idaho. It has been a privilege to correspond with him. Brother Jim Clark and I plan to travel to Boise at the end of this month to meet with the Saints there. Brother Wigle was asked if he might give a brief overview for this newsletter. His response is published below:

My name is Morgan Wigle I've been associated with the Restoration movement since I was 14 years old. I was never a member of the RLDS Church growing up; I was baptized by my late father-in-law when I was 16. My wife, Bethany was born and raised in the church. We have a daughter, Emma who is 5. We are both Members of the Restoration Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Our group was once over 30 members and spanned from Boise to the Twin Falls area. We have

been looking for like-minded people with the same beliefs in the scriptures that we can grow with. We are a small group, but our desire is to serve, and understand what a privilege it is to serve the Lord. We are looking forward to Brian's visit this fall, and can't wait until we all can get together. We look forward to the day when we all can meet and join in worship and fellowship!

## Northwest Regional Priesthood Retreat

*By Brother Gary Livingston*



*The Priesthood assembled for a retreat. Not pictured: Brothers Jeff Rew and Glenn Vaughn.*

Our Northwest Region Priesthood Retreat was held at Pacific City during the weekend of October 14-16. Our theme was "I Have Found The Glorious Gospel" which is found in I Timothy 1:11. There were fifteen priesthood members in attendance. The Lord blessed us throughout the entire weekend through our worships, classes, and fellowship. We began our retreat on Friday evening with a song service followed by prayers for the weekend. The priesthood from Salem led our Saturday morning's worship service. Classes throughout the day were taught by Elder Gary Livingston, Elder Wray Moreland, and Elder Gary Jones. There was great participation throughout all three classes. Saturday ended with Gary Jones leading us in evening chats during which we had great discussions. Sunday began with the Vancouver priesthood providing our Sunday morning worship service and concluding with a Sacrament / Prayer and Testimony Service with Elder Gary Jones in charge assisted by Priest Mitch Arndt.

The time we spent together in worship, prayer, study, and fellowship allowed the priesthood in our region to grow closer in our bonds of brotherhood. We are very much aware and appreciate all the prayers which the saints are offering on behalf of the priesthood.

## A Rich Blessing in Harvest

*By Brother Brian Herren*



*Brothers Benjamin and Daniel play near two grape vines*

The Lord has counseled us that it is best to use homemade communion wine (Doctrine and Covenants 26, and 86) if possible. For many years, Brother and Sister Rennick have faithfully cultivated grape vines, harvested the grapes, made grape juice and preserved the juice for use during the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Several years ago, Melissa and I planted 4 vines to provide for the congregation should such become helpful in the future. We were told that the vines would take up to five years before they began to produce fruit. They started producing grapes in their 3rd year, and this year they produced richly. The Saints in Salem use approximately 1 pint of grape juice for each Sacrament service. This year, we were able to preserve 52 pints. Much of the juice was stored away for use in Salem after the stores from Brother and Sister Rennick are exhausted. A significant portion of the communion wine was also given for use at the Vancouver Branch, and was received by the pastor, Brother Glenn Vaughn. We wish to thank the Lord for His provision and praise Him for the expert care with which He blesses His children.



*Grape juice resulting from the above pictured vines, to be used as communion wine in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

# The Saints of All Ages Worship With Us

*...Continued from page 2*



*Sunset at the Kirtland Temple*

...those voices, and there were some with weaker voices and you could hear their offering unto their Heavenly Father as well. However when we began to sing *The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning* the Spirit was unleashed, and we had angels singing with us. We did not have strong male voices in our midst, and yet, there were deep strong male voices singing, and a multitude of other voices singing with us, and I was singing at the top of my lungs as loud as I could sing. Normally, if one does that, you can hear yourself singing. I could not even hear myself. Normally, I hear Sister Cessaries' beautiful voice rise up on top, and I could not hear her voice. It was so loud, and so joyous, so beautiful a sound that these nineteen souls were producing, for that's all that I could see, yet I knew with surety that we were not singing alone but were joined with a presence that was undeniable both audibly and physically. It was a true delight to one's soul. All praise and glory to our Father in heaven!

The night before our departure home, we went to the Sacred Grove. As we gathered and entered solemnly in, I heard another congregation singing. It wasn't the singing like we had enjoyed in the Temple in that, only we were singing, but when we would stop I would hear they're singing of a different hymn. I could hear it was a hymn, I could tell it was male and female voices, but I could not hear the words distinctly, they were singing somewhere deeper in the Grove. As we entered in, there is a special place for me in the Grove, the Grove being quite expansive with many trails. This is due to a previous experience I had been given there, and I did not know where my brother Brian had purposed, or even if he had, to go. So was I desirous in my heart that we would go to this one place that was very special to me, and as we drew nigh, my heart just leaped. We turned to go to that spot I was just so grateful, having not communicated in any way, and yet in one sense having a prayer answered. I sat there on my rock as our little band did sing our praises. Every time we'd stop singing, I would hear the congregation elsewhere in the grove, and I thought, "this is fantastic that there's another group of Christians down the trail a bit, that are here worshipping at the same time that we are here this night," supposing it to be. And when my brother Brian was offering his prayer, and there was a menagerie of sounds, and when he said "silence" (*snap*), in an instant, in the very second, not only that singing, but all creation was silenced. And I felt all creation focus on our worship and come together as one, even that of the insects, that of the leaves, and the breeze, everything in the creation of our Heavenly Father was perfectly still, silent and participating in our worship. In due time, after having experienced a wonderful worship with healing, exclamation, praising, and rejoicing, we concluded. I being rearward as we departed, again the voices and those hymns being sung were so very audible. Only now I understood it to be the Saints of old. I did not speak with anyone, nor did I say anything. I being last exited the Grove, and we came together, and we sang, and I had the privilege to offer a closing prayer. And being in the Spirit, I did not think of what I would pray beforehand, I did not think of what I would pray during the prayer, I do not know to this day one word which I spoke. The Spirit was there in great abundance. And as others began to drift away there soon became just three remaining, and again, I had not spoken to anyone, and as I was standing there just basking in these hymns, these beautiful hymns emanating from within the Grove, from a large congregation that was singing them. One next to me said, "Do you hear singing?" and it was a confirmation to me, and so then I could not withhold myself and poured out my soul, and said, "I heard them as we were entering in, and I hear them now," just as they were also hearing them. I was overcome by the Spirit. When we are one in faith, one in love, one in heart, we are not so far apart, and maybe at times we are separated by those veils because of our own selves, yet they are there rejoicing with those who will serve our Heavenly Father just as they have always served. I believe that is what we experienced; that although I did not see them, I heard them and we were one with them, one congregation praising and glorifying our Heavenly Father. May we continue to desire this, may we continue to look unto unity and righteousness, for I know I was strengthened, and desire to increasingly serve my Heavenly Father in such ways.

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God...

- Ephesians 2:18-19



## A New Song

By Brother Gary Livingston



Brother Gary Livingston

For many years it has been my humble desire to express in music and to share with others those things which are in my heart. Although I fully understand my limitations as a songwriter, musician, and vocalist, I joyfully give back to the Lord what I believe He has freely given to me. It is my prayer that the music on this CD will touch the hearts of those who listen and that they will feel the Spirit of the Lord and hear the gospel message contained therein. The music on this CD contains a variety of different styles; from songs which are peaceful and gentle to those of a more contemporary and upbeat nature. No matter the style, each song is an expression of my love and devotion to Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Each CD is absolutely free of charge. If you

would like to have one, all you need to do is ask. If you would like to give any out to family members or friends, feel free to do so.... just let me know how many you would like. Here is a listing of the tracks on the CD and a brief description of what each song is about:

1. "A New Song" – An upbeat song of waking up in the morning to a brand new day and singing "A New Song" of praise to the Lord.
2. "Take Up Your Cross" – This tells the story of a man who lived during the time of Jesus and who had a life changing experience when he met Jesus face to face for the first time.
3. "When Jesus Comes Again" – This song was inspired by the testimony of our brothers Brian Herren and Jim Clark when they testified of a storm that suddenly came upon them when they were at the top of South Sisters.
4. "A Carpenter's Son" – A good friend, Donna Hawley from Missouri, asked if I could put music to a poem she had written. The Lord truly blessed Donna and myself as this song came together. It has an intriguing message.
5. "Thou Art With Me" – No matter what, the Lord is always at our side. We never need to stand alone.
6. "Jesus Is The Great I AM" – An upbeat song which testifies of the might and power of Jesus. He's our mighty fortress, our refuge, our rock, our shield, our defender, and the list goes on. "Jesus Is The Great I AM"
7. "Forever Faithful" – This song came following a very rough period of time in my life. No matter what, I will always remain "Forever Faithful" to my Lord.
8. "This Child's Blessing" – The words of a man who remembers the day many years ago when he was blessed as a little child by Jesus.
9. "I Believe" – A gentle and melodic song which just simply states, "I Believe."
10. "Sing Unto The Lord A New Song" – The last song on this CD brings us back full circle to where the CD starts. A song of praise singing a new song unto the Lord.

May the Lord bless those who listen, is my humble prayer.



A New Song - CD cover art

## Piano Tuning

By Brother Brian Herren

Recently, the Church had Mr. Jim Harter tune and repair the piano in the sanctuary. His primary office is in Monmouth, OR and he has been repairing, restringing, voicing, and restoring pianos for more than 25 years. We wish to thank him for his excellent service. In addition to tuning the piano, Mr. Harter pulled the entire jack system in order to repair two broken hammer jacks. As he only had one jack with him, he carefully built a second jack to be used. Although this process required an additional 1.5 hours of labor, Mr. Harter demonstrated kindness in his billing practices and we were richly blessed in his generosity. Thank you, Mr. Harter.

## Choir Rehearsal

By Sister Cessaries Galusha



Sister Cessaries

The year has gone by quickly, it seems, and Christmas is just around the corner. Autumn falls upon us and November is nearly

here. We have had so many tremendous blessings from the Lord this year, and we grow toward our hope of becoming a people worthy to dwell in Zion. Let us come together and sing His praises, let us celebrate the birth of our King, Who has come to save us from ourselves. He is worthy of our all, and shall we not praise Him? All are invited to come Sunday mornings, starting November 6th, to the chapel on Nusom Rd at 8:30 am for choir rehearsal. We will sing and give glory to the Lord, preparing for ministry on Sunday, December 11th. I hope to see you there!

# An Outpouring of the Holy Spirit, A Perfect Peace

By Brother Kevin Herren



Brother Kevin Herren

I, too, would stand before you today and testify that our God lives, that Christ is the Savior, and that He works through men today, even as He did from the very foundation. In preparation for the trip to Kirtland and Palmyra, we met together and had two Sunday evening classes. The first was an Old Testament class that had started before our plans to travel. Immediately following the first hour, we had a Church History class to learn about the sites that we'd be visiting, and to learn the history of the

things that happened there of a spiritual nature. Not just the history, but the spiritual nature of those places. For the final seven weeks we came together in fasting, and we had a season of prayer. At the end of the prayer service we would break bread together; brother to brother, sister to sister, in preparation for the trip. I can't express the importance of this preparation, as I'm sure many would testify. We didn't go on the trip as a vacation. We didn't go to have fun and see some sites. We went there to worship our Heavenly Father, and we did so with proper preparation. One particular night, we were able to worship in the Kirtland Temple, which was built by sacrifice, built by men who gave their all, who sold their properties, women who sewed the curtains, people who destroyed their own property for the beautifying of the sanctuary and of the Temple. I felt unworthy. I thought, "What sacrifice have I given? Why should I get to be here?" but as we sang that sanctuary was filled with the Spirit of God. It was filled with the most beautiful singing I have ever heard. I was singing at the top of my lungs. I couldn't hold back. In fact, at the end of it I had to refrain on the next hymn because my throat was hoarse. I was yelling. I suppose it wasn't yelling, but I was singing as loudly as I possibly could, and I could hear no one else, but I was in that moment, and I was in the Holy Spirit, and I was singing to my God. I was singing to God whom I knew was receiving our hymns and our prayers, and we were pleasing Him, and that's all that mattered. I didn't mind that I have a terrible, terrible voice, and I thought for sure that I was the only one heard since I was the only one I could hear, so I hope the others will forgive me.

The night before our last service in the Sacred Grove, each person had free time. There was no agenda. We each had our time to go down to the Grove, spend time with each other, spend time alone, spend time in prayer, or however we saw fit. Several groups went different ways, and my wife and I went off to pray together and be together in silence. We found a bench to sit on, and as we sat there and discussed our lives, discussed the raising of Gabriella (our young daughter), and discussed our relationship with our Heavenly Father, we found several of the saints, who had not traveled together, but some came from this way and some from that, at the end of the little walkway. We couldn't make out faces because it was so dark, but they came walking up. We knelt there and we prayed together and spent time together in silence with our Father. And then as they left, I felt moved upon to lead my wife and I in the pouring out of our

whole souls. I was reminded of what Joseph Smith had done there, and so I wanted to make sure that we poured our hearts out to our Heavenly Father because I knew He would answer. It wasn't a hope, and it wasn't faith. I knew that the prayers that were offered that night would soon be answered, and so we poured out our whole souls, poured our whole hearts, to our Heavenly Father. As we did, I just felt such a release. It was like someone had taken the yoke from off my shoulders, like someone had taken a burden from me. We retired for the night, and prepared for the service the next day. The night when we were to go down and worship, the Holy Spirit was with us from the very time that we left the hotel to walk down there. We stopped in the beginning of the woods before we entered, and we prayed that we might enter properly, and give reverence, not to the physical body, but give reverence to what had happened in that place. That place is a holy place because God has sanctified it, so we wanted to enter in with proper hearts, and we did. As we were walking down the path Trina turned to me and she grabbed my arm and stopped, and looked into the woods. I thought she might have just seen some fireflies or other bugs flashing. I said, "Don't worry, I've been seeing that too...it's just the fireflies... they're going behind trees and they're flashing and don't be concerned, there's nothing out there." Then we took a few more steps. She said, "I just... there's something, there's something out there...there's... I feel like there's something out there." I said, "Don't worry, the Lord will take care of you, it'll be fine," thinking that she was scared, not knowing that she was much more sensitive than I. And so, we came to the place in which we had been kneeling and praying the night before. In Brian's opening prayer, he asked for the Holy Spirit to be with us. He asked that our worship might be pleasing, and he asked that our hearts might be still. He asked that we might be still, and that the night might be silent. I bear my testimony here, as soon as he prayed, the noise was done away. It was completely done away. It was silent. A silence that I am unfamiliar with, a silence in which I can't describe other than to say it was a perfect peace. Perfect serenity. No traffic, no buzzing of the bugs, no molestation whatsoever to our ears or to our bodies. In the Grove, mind you, the bugs are so numerous that as you walk you can swat your hand and you'll hit four or five every single swipe. Other days, many of us had been practically eaten alive by the mosquitoes and bitten. That night there was not one bite. That night, not one thing that would distract us from the Holy Spirit was present. Brian prayed that all would be silent, and it went silent. I lifted my head because we were bowing in prayer. I lifted my head just out of sheer shock and curiosity as to what had happened. I didn't have any ideas, but I just looked up because it was such a difference, instantaneously, from the noise, it was a pretty noise of nature, but from the noise, to the complete and utter silence. It was shocking so I looked up. As the night went on, people offered up their prayers, and the Holy Spirit guided us and directed us in our... **...Concluded on page 7**

# An Outpouring of the Holy Spirit, A Perfect Peace

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...singing, and in our prayers. And then at one point, I felt the Spirit dwelling, and building, and residing within me, and so, as to try to keep the awesome solemnity of the night that we had been enjoying, I tried to harness it as much as I could. I tried to keep still and keep quiet, but it built and built and built within me to the point to where I stood up, and I took deep breaths, and I tried to not silence it, but only to harness it. However, I felt as though I needed three extra hearts to hold the joy and the love and the perfect peace that I felt. I felt that if I didn't shout "hosannas" that my heart would escape from my chest. I felt that it would leap from me completely, so I waited for a moment when I wouldn't be interrupting anybody's prayer. I could no longer contain myself, but to say hosannas to our Father and share of the testimonies in which our brother received in the healing of his hand instantaneously, and to thank God for the faith in which my mother had shown by not even packing the boot/brace for her broken foot because she knew our Father would be with her, that He would strengthen her, and heal her, and make her whole. He did. I was so overcome that I could no longer be silent, I had to stand and give praise to our Father, and so I did. In speaking I felt led to share a testimony, which I had been given a few nights previous.



*The skies over the Sacred Grove on the evening of our experience*

A few nights before, a couple of us had gone down to have a service in the Grove. I believe it was the first night we were there. A small handful of us, maybe five or six, went down and we stopped and we prayed and we sang. In the middle of singing I felt prompted to turn around. We were in a circle facing toward each other. I felt prompted to turn around. It was night time and we were the only ones in the Grove. I did, I turned around and I continued to sing. The group then was behind me, and not by a voice, but rather just by knowledge, just by a feeling within my soul, I felt as though God was telling me, "If I place you in a place all by yourself, if I lead to where there is nobody else to stand with, to whom will you sing? If I lead you to stand alone, if you feel alone in your home, if there is nobody around you, will you pray aloud unto Me?" I felt the Spirit rest within me and tell me, "These trees are Mine, these rocks have I made. Everything that you see before you is my creation, and they worship with you. If you are by yourself, sing to these trees. If you are alone, preach unto the rocks, but in all things bear testimony of Me. Share the gifts that I give you." Then I was prompted to turn around and regroup with those who were singing, and in that time I was turned around, I again felt completely alone, not in bad sense, but completely by myself, and I sang with everything that I had. I was unaware if I was even singing the same song as everyone else. Later my wife told me, just the other night as I was bearing this testimony again to her, she said, "Yeah, I know you were singing...you were pretty much all I could hear." And I said, "I won't make apologies for it because I was singing to my Heavenly Father, and as ugly as it may be, it's a sweet savor in His ear, and that's what matters." She said, "No, it was beautiful."

Let me return again to our last service. I stood and bore the testimony of what had happened a few nights previous, being prompted because I felt the desires of the heart of one of our good sisters. I wasn't sure on the night that I received the testimony why, or what it meant, and I'm still not clear, but I felt lifted that night to share it, and I don't know the inner workings of the Father. I do know that was the perfect time. I can't explain to you the perfect peace that enveloped me. The rejuvenating of my soul. The renewing of my heart, and I know, not that I've learned something new, but I've been reminded that our Father is still with us. In that service, Steve stood up, who's not one to great excitement, but he stood up and he said, "Before I came on this trip I had a growth on my hand". He said, "I was just rubbing it right here, sitting here, and it's gone! It's gone!" Right there, he was exclaiming that the Lord had healed him instantaneously. What manner of God is this that condescends, but a loving Father, a loving God who will not forsake us? He will not leave us, nor will He give us anything that we cannot handle. Sometimes I feel that God feels that I'm stronger than I am, but I find that not to be true, because He is with me, and through Jesus Christ I can do all things. And so I bear this testimony today, and bear my testimony before the courts of heaven and before my brothers and my sisters, and I thank God for giving me the opportunity to go on this blessing of a trip and for the renewing of my spirit. May God be with us.