

Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



May, 2012

Important Dates:

- May 12: Youth Activity: Cemetery clean - up
- May 13: LRS Meeting
- May 19: Youth Activity: Kroc Center
- June 8-10: Regional Men's Retreat
- June 17: LRS Meeting
- June 27: Youth Activity: Camp - out
- July 22-27: Regional Youth Camp
- July 27-29: Congregational Camping at Fort Stevens
- September 14-16: YAG Retreat

A Beloved Sister Passes



Cleo Lela Caylor was born in Arkansas on March 26, 1925 and passed from here on April 16, 2012. She grew up in Kansas, and married

Brother Ed &
Sister Cleo

Ralph Arrington in 1941, with whom she had five children. Ralph died in 1950 and Cleo married Ed Nollen, with whom she had two girls. They raised seven children together, and were very involved in the Church. Ed passed away in 2007, and both are survived by their children: Steve, Mike, Carolyn, Deborah, and Doris. Cleo liked to crochet, embroider pillows, complete puzzles, and garden. Our Sister will be dearly missed. She was faithful to the end.

Of Salt and Savor, The Calling of The Saints

by Brother Brian Herren

Every Man, Woman, and Child

Within the most important sermon ever preached are profound principles which carefully convey the demands of Christian discipleship upon human conscience. More so than any other sermon, the "Sermon on the Mount" directs the disciple of Christ to action through means of conviction, rather than obligation, though the latter becomes the natural fruit of the former in the act of loving God. Central to the works of the faithful disciple is the conversion of his heart, wherein the inner chambers have power to either qualify or exclude his works as the will of the Lord (Matthew 7:30-33, Moroni 7:5). This is true even where the outward fruit appears indiscriminate of the inward motive. A thoughtful review of the sermon provides ample examples of a new law which cannot be kept except one begin in his heart and finish in his labors. The old law placed little demand upon one's heart, making the motive inconsequential to the fulfillment, but the new law is kept or violated, honored or broken, where no man could see, inwardly, first (Matthew 5:23-31). With perfect continuity, we are instructed in these latter days, that a man is qualified of God not by the works of his hands alone, but that the works of his hands are the honest provision of the inward virtues of his heart. One was told of the Lord that it was not wisdom, experience, or age that qualified him for the work, but that "faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God qualifies him for the work" (Doctrine and Covenants 4:1e). With this confidence, Paul counseled Timothy to "let no man despise thy youth" knowing that while his inexperience might make him a target, it would in no wise diminish his right to the powers which bless men in ministry. Again, Paul spoke of the items of one's heart in conclusion of the matter when he suggested that Timothy be an example to the believers "...in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."



The truth is, the ultimate success of any good work, including the gospel work, is wholly dependent upon the underlying virtues attending and the powers engaged in the process of its unfolding. In the sermon delivered of Christ, He teaches us more of our discipleship in drawing a distinction between the salt and its "savor" than He might have without such a distinction, and yet it is tempting to the most pious of men to ignore the core message by overlooking such a crucial difference. Often the question is sounded in

churches, "What does it mean to be the salt of the earth?", when the more valuable question is, "What does it mean for the salt to have savor?" The pertinent verse reads as follows:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the salt of the earth; but if the salt shall lose its savor, wherewith shall the earth be salted? the salt shall thenceforth be good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. (Matthew 5:15).

A careful reading of the passage reveals that the underlying value of the salt rests almost, if not entirely, in its "savor". Without the savor, the salt is said to "be good for nothing, but to be cast out". A great deal of time might be invested in considering what the salt represents and why, but the simple truth is, the salt is of little worth without its savor in any case. One might consider the uses of salt, and why the Lord might have chosen such a compound to develop Christian thought, but such pursuits may miss the point entirely. It is true that salt is used as a preservative, to add flavor, to cleanse wounds, and in a variety of other valuable ways, but every important use is always dependent upon the salt maintaining those peculiar properties which make it a unique compound and set it apart from the richly diverse chemistry of the earth. Should the salt in any way lose these peculiar and underlying qualities, every good end to which it might have been used is in jeopardy.

...continued on page 2

Of Salt and Savor, The Calling of The Saints

...continued from page 1



One might still label the compound as “salt”, but if it has lost its savor, then it can in no wise be expected to bring about the results anticipated in the moment of its creation. It is true, that salt without its savor might well be valued as dust. Common experience reveals as much. Rather than pursue a superficial investigation of the uses of salt, a more productive venture might find one examining the essence of that which makes it useful in the first place, its “savor”.

This is not to diminish a discussion of the salt, but it is to say that the Lord never intended our focus to conclude in singularity that we must be the salt of the earth, but much more importantly, that the salt of the earth must never lose its savor, its effectiveness, its potency, the power by which it meets the purpose expected in the measure of its creation. The scripture tells us that the followers of Christ are given to be the salt of the earth. It might be considered a given then that we are, provided the Lord spoke as much when He said, “I give unto you to be the salt of the earth”. The question then, is not whether any professor of the Christian faith is “the salt of the earth”, but much more importantly,

“what kind of salt is he, one filled with the savor whereby he is effective, or one who has lost his savor and is salt only in appearance (Matthew 23:24; Matthew 6:17)?” Rather than concern ourselves only with whether we are the salt of the earth, which we most certainly are, we might better concern ourselves with whether we have maintained those peculiar qualities which make it useful.

In Mark 9:50, the question is posed, “For if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it (the sacrifice)?” Again, the value of the teaching is not in the salt, but in its saltiness (savor). This scripture is harmonious with that recorded by Matthew in drawing the disciple’s attention to the underlying and unique properties which must be maintained in Christian living if the salt (us) is to maintain its fullest potential to yield desirable influence.

What is the “savor” then? What is the “saltiness”? What is the essence that must be maintained for the salt to be effective, potent, influential, etc.? What is the fire that must be preserved if the salt is to ultimately satisfy the ends of its assignment? These are valuable questions, the answers to which will find Christ’s instruction venerated and His purpose in this scripture honored. Even if these questions cause us to grapple, it seems better to grapple with the right set of questions than to answer freely the wrong.

Let every man appeal to the scriptures to answer this set of questions to his satisfaction. Whatever it may mean for the salt to keep its savor, it will mean that we must, in the least, keep these three: an abiding faith in the Living God, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and the power of godliness. To these we might add a renewing affection and understanding of the Word of God, a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and all men (charity). To these might be added others, and others still, but let it be suggested that if the salt is to maintain its savor, it must never relinquish an abiding faith in the Living God, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and the power of godliness. If these three are lost, the salt is become ineffective, its influence diminished, and its essence eroded. When so many other characteristics might be considered parts of the savor, why emphasize these three?

- 1) Faith. God works with men according to their faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).
- 2) The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the means whereby God reveals Himself unto men, guides and directs them, and manifests the truth of all things. The body without the Spirit is dead.
- 3) The power of godliness. This is a more obscure consideration, and very important. It might best be explained by revisiting history. Before the restoration of Christ’s Church to the earth on April 6, 1830, many Christians had faith and measures of the Holy Spirit. They did many good and righteous works. Still, something of the “savor” was lacking. God said that they “had the form of godliness, but denied the power thereof”. Without the power of godliness, no man may enter into the presence of God.

What about a man’s works? Should they not be considered a part of the “savor”? For example, what about praying, fasting, spreading the gospel, helping the poor, clothing the naked, and being devoted? It is true that any man filled with savor will necessarily bring about these works and more; however, it is equally true that those without the “savor” might also bring forth works with good appearance. Salt with savor may have the same appearance as salt without savor, but the discerning will know the difference in the power and virtue which is resident in the laborer.

“And many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name; and in thy name cast out devils; and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I say, Ye never knew me; depart from me ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7:32-33)

The Pharisees prayed and fasted, the Crusaders spread the gospel, and no one appears more devoted than those of the monastery. Still, each of these groups is lacking. Works do not guarantee the savor is maintained, but the virtues attending these works and the power by which they are brought forth will manifest itself. The Lord will bring these works in power if He finds in us the savor whereby to unfold them. **...continued on page 3**

Of Salt and Savor, The Calling of The Saints

...continued from page 2

In Brief

If pressed upon to give the most concise scriptural definition of what it means for the salt to have savor, I believe the whole matter may be addressed in the following words:

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:25).

If we live in the Spirit, we must do better than to methodically reproduce the works of religion. Each work must be brought to bear rightly, for the right reasons and in the right way. This may begin with a seed of faith, germinate in a sincere inward desire seasoned with love, be governed and attended by the Holy Spirit, and result in the power of godliness among men. If not, something yet lacks.

The Priesthood

Consider the calling of the priesthood, who were counseled similarly by the Lord:

When men are called unto mine everlasting gospel, and covenant with an everlasting covenant, they are accounted as the salt of the earth, and the savor of men. They are called to be the savor of men. Therefore, if that salt of the earth lose its savor, behold, it is thenceforth good for nothing, only to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men. (Doctrine and Covenants 98:5k-l)

It seems appropriate that this counsel should be given to the priesthood of latter days, as the “Sermon on the Mount” was most likely delivered with great emphasis to the twelve Apostles. The closing verses of the fourth chapter of Matthew indicate that great multitudes followed Jesus, but Matthew 5:1 indicates that, “...Jesus, seeing the multitudes, went up into a mountain”. It is to say that he departed from them for a time, as He was accustomed to doing. Who then came up unto Him in the mountain? “...And when he was set down, his disciples came unto him”. The word “disciple” may accurately be used to simply mean “follower of” (as it is elsewhere in this article), but it was also used very exactly at times in the scriptures to indicate the twelve apostles (Matthew 10:1, Matthew 11:1, Matthew 20:16, Matthew 15:34, Matthew 17:19, Matthew 26:22, Matthew 28:15). One might review Matthew 14:19, where we read that Christ instructed his “disciples” to enter a ship, while he “sent the multitudes away”. Though the multitudes were followers also, a distinction is made, and the Apostles boarded the ship. Similar language is employed in Matthew 5, and might be treated similarly, where the Lord drew apart from the multitudes and His disciples came unto Him (see that in Matthew 14:19 the Lord went “up into a mountain, apart”, just as we find in Matthew 5, showing forth a common pattern). He then told them that they would be blessed for believing on Him, but that others would be more blessed for believing on their words – a promise that has been realized many times over in the missionary work of the twelve and the canonization of their words. In the last portion of the sermon (Matthew 7), the Lord taught His disciples what “they should say unto the people”, telling them to “Go ye into the world, saying unto all, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come nigh unto you”. He told them to preach repentance to others saying, “Repent, therefore, and enter ye in at the straight gate...” – this is the type of instruction more likely directed to the Apostles, than to a group mixed with women and children who would not be called upon for such preaching. It is hard to say exactly how many people were present, and who exactly they were, but it seems that at least a considerable portion of the sermon was directed to the priesthood. Some of the people were astonished at how the Lord taught His disciples (Matthew 7:36-37). Supposing God never changes, it comes as no surprise then, that He gives the same words to the priesthood in what is recorded in Doctrine and Covenants 98. Here one might consider the savor to have great bearing upon priesthood authority, both perceived in the world and realized in power. The priesthood would do well to compliment the authority bestowed upon them with an abiding faith, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and the power of godliness. Should any of these three suffer loss, one’s effectiveness in the work to which he is called will, in the least, be compromised.

The truth is, the ultimate success of any good work, including the gospel work, is wholly dependent upon the underlying virtues attending and the powers engaged in the process of its unfolding. To be the savor of men demands properties peculiar and unique, those properties built on intangible virtue and capable of engaging powers available to those qualified by the items of one’s heart. Should those properties cease, they might be accounted as the dust of the earth and as common as the same. No one rightly reaches for salt that has lost its saltiness. It is not to suggest that these men are damned, but devoid of the precious gifts by which they might otherwise be distinguished among the sons of men. So it is with our Christian discipleship, speaking broadly of all followers, if we should lose our savor, becoming as common as the dust of the earth.

...concluded on page 4



Of Salt and Savor, The Calling of The Saints

...continued from page 3

Conclusion

We shall always be the salt, but the question remains, what kind of salt will we be: that which keeps its savor, or that which is cast to the earth for the loss of its essence? It is not the fulfillment of our creation that we simply are the salt of the earth, though it is the first result of our following Christ, but that He might bring about in us those ends which are subject to the underlying virtues and powers engaged in holiness. To this end, we must be mighty in faith, filled with the Spirit, and work in unison with the power of godliness by which righteous men enter His presence (Doctrine and Covenants 83:3c). We must have savor. A thousand pages could be written, but a very wise grandfather seemed capable of reaching the heart of the matter in a few words. He said, "It is not good enough to be good, you must be good for something". Amen.

New Beginnings

By Brother Brian Herren



This year has brought several important changes to the lives of Brother Clayton Morehouse and Sister Tiffany Morehouse of Christmas Valley, Oregon. Sister Tiffany received pre-baptismal

ministry (The elders or priests are to have a sufficient time to expound all things concerning the church of Christ to their understanding, previous to their partaking of the sacrament - D/C 17) and was baptized on March 25th. Brothers John Henderson and Bill Curtis administered the confirmation. On April 6th, Tiffany and Clayton were married in Vancouver. It was important to Tiffany that she be baptized before entering into the marriage covenant, for the remission of sins and a new beginning. The Lord provided a dry day in March, and a special day in April, allowing the sincere desires of our brother and sister to be realized for His honor and glory. Sisters Cessaries Galusha and Melissa Clark provided a ministry of music at the wedding (flute), and Brother Jim Clark served as the head usher. Cessaries also played piano and sang a solo. A special thanks is owed to Brother Jeff Rew for preparing the sound equipment, and to Brother and Sister Humphrey for their exhaustive preparation for the reception. Thank you, on behalf of the bride and groom, for the attendance of all those who supported them at the baptism and wedding. It was exciting to see over 80 Saints and family members at the wedding! Thank you to the many Saints in Vancouver who assisted in this effort, and to Brother Glenn Vaughn, the presiding elder, for his hospitality. Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Morehouse!



YAG Retreat 2012

By Brian Herren



The Young Adult Group (YAG) Retreat is scheduled for September 14-16, 2012. The theme of the retreat is taken from Galatians 5:25: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

A lodge has been reserved for our use in the Mount Hood National Forest. The Zig Zag River flows by within steps of the back door, and there is a riverside fire pit, deck area, and covered porch. Two indoor fireplaces are constructed of river rock, including an enormous one in the great room. The location is secluded on a quiet forest service road near Mt. Hood, with many miles of hiking trails surrounding. The accommodations include a fully equipped kitchen, hot tub, BBQ, and laundry facilities. May the Lord bless us as the young adults assemble for classes, worship, and fellowship.

Notice: All those interested in participating in a second white water rafting trip, please contact Brother Brian. The tentative date is July 14. This time, we hope to raft the Rogue River for 15 miles beginning in Grants Pass. The rafting begins at 8:40 am and concludes around 3:00 pm, with a lunch included in the price. Some may choose to travel on the 13th and stay overnight in Grants Pass, where accommodations can be made to keep the Saints together and share the cost of rooms. The price for the rafting is \$90 per person, and each person in the rafts must be at least 6 years old.

Please remember to pray for Sister Jamie Leach, her daughter Evelyn, and the entire family as she is being deployed to South Korea very soon.

Outreach Beyond the Branch, the Ministry of the Saints

By Brother Brian Herren

More than six years ago, the Saints in Salem began to volunteer at a local shelter for women and children. Many of the people who find themselves living at the shelter have great needs and have been mistreated by those who should have loved them. The motives in serving are simple: love and compassion. It is the right thing to do. The Saints serve dinner, sweep the floors, mop, stack chairs, wipe counters, and do dishes. It is not the kind of work that gets one noticed or is rewarded with any prestige. The Saints are not met with fancy titles or noticed for any special leadership. Their service is basic. Basically, they serve. After dinner, the Saints take their place at the tables with women and children who they might not otherwise get to know in their circle of friends. It seems that the very act of sitting with those who society often overlooks, and eating what they are eating without complaint or sophistry, is as a great a ministry as might be known in their lives. I've noticed many soften a bit when I sit next to them and take up my fork as a brother, no lesser or greater. Sometimes the women are surprised that we want to scrape the food from their dishes and wash them, or sort the garbage and care for it. Over the many years, I have grown to truly look forward to the second and fourth Saturday evening of each month. There is much heartache, of course, but also rich reward in seeing how lovely God has created each soul, and feeling how important every man, woman, and child is to Him. James wrote, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction..." I've come to believe it in a more real way.

Ammon was a man who initiated his missionary work in the act of lowly service. Certainly his efforts didn't seem like the regal works of a commissioned missionary. However, by his sincere desire to serve, the heart of the king was won and his missionary effort brought forth fruit that might have seemed inconceivable in the absence of a miracle. It all started with his simple acts of service. Something of report has happened amongst the youth of the Salem congregation under the leadership of the Youth Commission. They too have become great missionaries in their own right. From the humble works of cleaning dishes, has grown an opportunity to provide chapel services for the women and children. From the waiting of tables is come the preaching of God's word to an audience hungry to hear. I was fortunate to have been invited by the Youth Commission and the youth group to preach at a recent chapel service at the shelter. What I found was remarkable! The women and children living at the shelter were exquisitely receptive, and hungry for the gospel! The youth had the most important part of the service, and I felt as one amazed as they stood before this moderately sized congregation and spoke to them about the Lord! What's more, is that the women responded vocally in praise and thanksgiving with the most earnest sincerity. I remember one fine woman proclaiming, "Thank you Jesus!!!" while I was preaching, and seeing some moved to tears by simple scripture. In amazement, I watched the youth deliver living bread, and all because they were first willing to deliver the bread of one's table. Their ministry was commendable, and the Youth Commission had prepared the ministry extremely well.

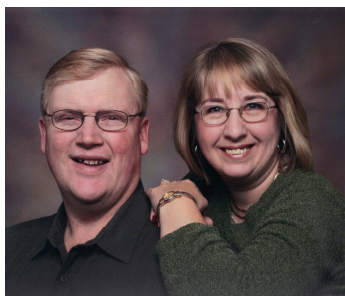
Perhaps, one testimony should not be missed. Upon arriving in the chapel, I noticed a chalkboard in the rear with a scripture written upon it. The chapter and verse of the scripture was also given. It said Matthew 11:28. Could this be?! Of all the verses of the bible, someone had written Matthew 11:28 on the board, when the Lord had prepared me to speak on Matthew 11:29. "So close", I thought! The Lord had truly prepared the way, but I hadn't known how much just yet. As I opened my scriptures to share, it turns out that the version of the bible used to write on the chalk board recorded in Matthew 11:28 what the Inspired Version had in Matthew 11:29. The two verses were not just very close, it was the same verse!!! I preached from their own chalkboard, with the youth adding more important elements to the ministry, and we were all fed. I was able to call some of the women by name, remembering the struggles they had shared with me at the dinner table, and they seemed so happy that we had remembered them in their trials. There is a strict policy against running over the time allotted for chapel, but we did. It turns out that the very woman who had shouted "Thank you Jesus" during the sermon was the one in charge, and who was supposed to keep us to our time limit. I guess she didn't care so much in that moment. She was filled. We asked if any would like to stand, and one young woman did. She bore an amazing testimony of how the same message that we had brought that evening had been brought to her two times in two different places earlier that day: once in the random opening of her bible and once at a bible study. She prayed a beautiful prayer and we rejoiced.

Sisters Traci, Trina, and Cessaries, and Brothers Kevin, and Steve, your ministry is so very deeply appreciated. And to the youth, you are each very impressive to me. I hope to serve at your side and watch many more spectacular moments where God works His greatness through you. You are so very important, young brothers and sisters, and your ministry unfolds in no small way. I am in awe. I have seen a lot, but I am so pleased and impressed. Below, Brother Michaels's words are reprinted. They are a few of his thoughts during the most recent chapel service. After selecting the hymn "Higher Ground" to close with, he said:

I love the hymn, "Higher Ground" because I believe that God is in the highest place possible. Each day as I try to get closer to God, I'm doing what the hymns is saying, "I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining every day." I realize that I can't do this by myself. That's why my prayer is found throughout the hymn, "Lord, lift me up and let me stand, By faith on heaven's table land...A higher plane than I have found; Lord plant my feet on higher ground."

On the way home in the Mustang, I commended Brother Michael on his words. Then he smiled a little and said, "You can use that in one of your sermons if you want". Good Brother, I may, but I look forward more to hearing you share again and rejoicing in the ministry of our youth. Well done.

Happy 30th Wedding Anniversary



Brother Ron & Sister Sharon

Congratulations to Brother and Sister Trammell, who celebrated thirty years of marriage on April 17th. They started as high school sweethearts and continue to demonstrate an abiding affection for one another after thirty years. Sharon related that she admires how Ron always

puts his family first. Ron deeply admires how his wife always thinks the best of people and wants to help everyone as much as possible. When asked about the key to a long and happy marriage, Brother Ron said that Sharon is his best friend, that he always wants to be with her and he misses her when she is gone. Sister Sharon spoke similarly, indicating that the key was "a deep commitment in friendship". To celebrate their special anniversary, the Trammells spent a weekend at the beach, and then enjoyed a fancy dinner at the Melting Pot in Portland. May God bless their union with many more years.

Please remember to pray for Sister Victoria Emery, who will have surgery on her knee on June 21st.

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary



Brother Willis & Sister Donna

Congratulations to Brother and Sister Johnson, who celebrated fifty years of marriage on March 17th! They have recently returned to Salem, but they have some exciting traveling ahead. On May 13th,

Willis and Donna will embark on an Alaskan cruise. In August and September of this year, they plan on serving as camp hosts at Detroit State Park. Finally, after enduring a winter in Montana, they look forward to spending the next one in Arizona. Brother and Sister Johnson have been a part of the church family in Salem for many years, but there is always something new to learn. Recently, it was discovered that Willis set the Master's bench press record in Austin, Texas when he was a little younger. He cleared 350 pounds. He also was a wrist-wrestling champion in Oregon in the left-handed division. In a recent visit, Brother Willis spoke lovingly of his wife of fifty years, when he said, "I wouldn't trade her for a million dollars". When asked about the key to the longevity of his marriage, Brother Willis remarked, "You have to have faith in each other". May God bless their marriage with many more years.

A Thank You Note

From Brother Travis Clark



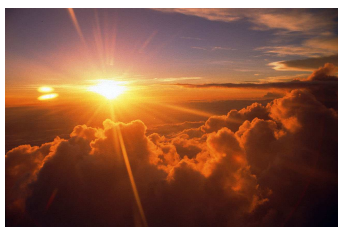
Brother Travis Clark

My Fellow Saints,
It is with great excitement and anticipation that I look forward to this summer. I still cannot wrap my mind around the fact that my Brother Brian Herren and I have been afforded the chance to visit the saints in Kenya, Africa. I continue to pray and prepare; that we might be a blessing to them

through the power, love and spirit of our Heavenly Father. I also would express my great feelings of gratitude and thanksgiving unto my brothers and sisters in Vancouver, my parents, and my sisters Sue Herren and Traci Scuito for their generous efforts on my behalf. I know I have been truly blessed and that our Heavenly father provides when we are engaged in his work and seek to do his will. I again thank all of you who have helped me and prayed for me. Please continue to pray for both my brother and I, that we might be effective in our ministry and carry out our Heavenly Father's will and spread his gospel unto all.

Your brother and servant in Christ,
Travis Clark

Sunrise Service On Easter Sunday



Eight members of the Young Adult Group assembled before sunrise on Easter morning for worship. We traveled together to

the Mount Angel Abby, where we watched the sunrise from atop the hill as we sang hymns gently, prayed together, and listened as Brother Kevin Herren brought a message of hope from the scriptures. In the quiet of the morning, the rising of the sun reminded us each of the rising of God's Son from the tomb, and the promise that He will return in His glory as the sun rises from the east and shines even to the west. (Matthew 24:27). May He be pleased in all these things.



Please remember to pray for Brother and Sister Hender-son as they travel to Independence, Missouri and beyond. Brother John will be teaching and preaching, bringing ministry in several places along the way, and hopes to be home by mid-May. Sister Pat has called from time to



time to let us know that all is well. Please also remember Brother and Sister Curtis, who will be traveling to California to see Sister Jamie off safely to South Korea.

