

Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



September, 2013



Congratulations to the Murnieks family on their new home. Charles and Deanne Murnieks recently moved to Salem from Colorado Springs with their 12-year-old daughter, Ginger and 10-year-old son, Donovan. Brother Charles is a retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, a masters degree in business administration, and a PhD in Entrepreneurial Strategy. He will be a professor at Oregon State University in the business department beginning this Fall. Sister Deanne graduated first in her class with a degree in interior design, and presently home schools their children. Sister Ginger enjoys math, science, soccer and playing the flute. Brother Donovan enjoys basketball, and plays the guitar and piano. The whole family has proven a tremendous blessing to the congregation and they continue to bring forth much fruit for the kingdom of God.

Three Baptisms

by Brother Brian Herren

On Sunday, August 25, 2013, Machaela Kurowski, Caleb Cvitanovich, and Benjamin Herren were baptized in Crabtree Creek near it's intersection with Roaring River at Larwood Park in Linn County. In measures of gratitude, one might recall the beautiful way that the Lord blessed us with soft rain as we assembled. In His goodness, He refreshed the Saints and watered the earth after a long dry spell. As the rain fell, it was easy to consider the promise of God to bless His children, refresh them in the wilderness, and cause their soil to bring forth fruit in abundance. It was wonderful. Sister Machaela and Brother Caleb were baptized by High Priest Bill Curtis, and Brother Benjamin was baptized by Elder Brian Herren. The morning sermon was delivered by Elder Gary Livingston, and Sister Cessaries led us in song. An evening confirmation service was held at the church building, where Elder Brian Herren preached the final sermon of the day. The mothers of the congregation were asked to pray aloud for the young before Brothers Brian Herren and Bill Curtis laid their hands upon the heads of Brothers Caleb and Benjamin in the name of Jesus Christ in solemn prayer. Surely the Lord is pleased in the covenant made by these young Saints, the Holy Spirit bearing witness. Sister Machaela will be confirmed in October, when her family can travel again to Salem.



Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost..." - Jesus Christ

Book of Mormon Lands Trip: 2015

By Brother Brian Herren

It has been a true blessing to travel with the Saints. Many testimonies and immeasurable gifts have been recorded in our hearts as we have traveled as one body to Palmyra, New York; Harmony, Pennsylvania; Kirtland, Ohio; Egypt; Jordan; and Israel. It is difficult to portray in text the offerings of the Holy Spirit in the Sacred Grove, the power of God revealed in the Kirtland Temple, or the presence of the Lord as we traveled the Holy Lands. These destinations have undoubtedly been enjoyed by many, but there are fewer who understand by personal experience the treasures unfolded in visiting them with a body of Saints, together. Our travels have not been vacations, and should

not be confused with the shallow hauntings made by many tourists, who pass quickly and without vision, forfeiting the riches unearthed in Saintly worship and fellowship. It is one thing to pass through the Sacred Grove, but another to bow with twenty Saints as the Holy Spirit floods the forest and silences nature.

One may tour the Kirtland Temple at leisure, but it is something altogether different to occupy the pulpits and bring together the Saints for preaching and prayer in solemn and unfettered worship. Many pass by the Western Wall, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Upper Room, the Sea of Galilee, but much fewer pause on bended knee, preach from open streets, sing in hallowed halls, receive communion in sheltered caves, and come to be baptized in water and Spirit in places made special by the ancients. No, for these blessings we must look to the Lord, who can lead us in ways that no other can. To travel is our hope, but to go in His blessing is our need, lest we find our fruits the best efforts of man rather than the divine offerings of His Majesty. To this end, my prayers are extended continually, and are answered again in the opportunity which lies before us. The Lord has moved, bearing witness within my heart. He has blessed the righteous desires of the Saints and prompted some action in me by way of preparation. Please continue to pray about a trip to Mesoamerica in 2015. As we continue to study the Book of Mormon Sunday evenings, a trip to the Book of Mormon lands draws closer. The Lord has opened the doors, and by His provision we might go. I was recently invited to spend a morning with Brother Lyle and Sister Sherrie Smith of Oak Grove, Missouri (please see Brother Lyle's biography in this newsletter). We talked long and my excitement grew, knowing that the Lord had brought me into this home with purpose. Brother Lyle has led the Saints on 35 tours or more to Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and



Both pictures on this page: Tikal in Guatemala

Israel. He helped found the Pre-Columbian Studies Institute which “fosters the study of archaeology, anthropology, and linguistics as it relates to Mesoamerica and it’s relevance as supporting evidence for the truth of the Book of Mormon”. When leading tours, Brother Lyle opens the Book of Mormon on site, explaining the connection between the sacred text and the ruins, artifacts, and hieroglyphs encountered along the way. While he is quite humble in spirit, Brother Lyle’s international experience is considerable. He has lived and worked in Haiti, Panama, India, Indonesia, Afghanistan, China, El Salvador, Macedonia, and Bulgaria. Brother Smith has served missions in Nepal, India, Kenya, Taiwan, Honduras, and Mexico. He has traveled to

Egypt, Lebanon, Pakistan, Iran, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, the Caribbean Islands, Germany, Austria, France, Holland, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Great Britain. Perhaps of greater worth than his rich understanding of the Book of Mormon, Book of Mormon archaeology, and

the ruins of Mesoamerica, is his genuine humility and meaningful ministry. Our time together during my recent trip to Missouri was wonderful and I came to love Brother Lyle and his wife Sherrie a great deal. Brother Lyle Smith will be in Salem, November 8-10, 2013. He will be teaching classes on Saturday, November 9th on the topic of Book of Mormon archaeology. All are invited to attend the classes, whether they are interested in the trip or not. Attendance does not obligate one to the trip being planned, nor does absence exclude any individual. Additional meetings will be held Sunday afternoon, when

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Book of Mormon Lands Trip: 2015

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Brother Lyle will outline four possible itineraries that he and I have discussed, including destinations in Mexico, Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala. There will be ample time for every question to be answered as it pertains to the trip in 2015. A vote will be taken Sunday evening to decide the final itinerary, and preparations will begin in earnest. Watch for more details about these meetings, as the time draws closer and the schedule can be confirmed. All Saints from the northwest will be invited to attend the meetings, and are invited to join the trip. The trip will likely last between nine and twelve days. The details depend upon the specific itinerary selected.

Brother Lyle and I will share leadership responsibilities.

A preliminary meeting will be held before the Book of Mormon class, 4:00 pm, at the Trammell's on September 29, where basic questions can be addressed and further information can be distributed.



Both pictures: Palenque in Mexico



Elder Lyle Smith

A brief biography, courtesy of Sister Sherrie Smith



From his initial introduction to living in foreign lands in 1961 as a member of the first Peace Corps group (assigned to Colombia, South America), Lyle Smith has lived and worked internationally in ten countries and traveled extensively throughout the world. In the early 1980s, he took an active interest in archaeology, especially that of Mesoamerica and Israel, and began a serious study of the subject. In 1987, he and his wife Sherrie (who was with him for six of those countries) decided to try leading a tour to Mesoamerica. It was such a success that they have continued leading tours ever since to both Mesoamerica and Israel. Lyle's ability in Spanish and his ability to make current archaeological evidence understandable as it relates to The Book of Mormon, and Sherrie's ability in languages, are great assets for the tours. In 1994, he and Sherrie with Don and Pat Beebe were founding members of

Pre-Columbian Studies Institute which fosters the study of archaeology, anthropology, and linguistics as it relates to Mesoamerica and its relevance as supporting evidence for the truth of The Book of Mormon. The organization produces *Glyph Notes*, a bi-monthly newsletter/journal, and officers and volunteers associated with the organization give classes and lectures that correlate new archaeological findings with The Book of Mormon. Lyle and Sherrie regularly attend archaeological conferences and hieroglyphic workshops and study new texts to keep current in order to share these findings with others. Lyle is an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ, Oak Grove Restoration Branch in Oak Grove, Missouri. Both love The Book of Mormon and its testimony of Jesus Christ and the beautiful spirit that comes when reading the book.



Brother and Sister Smith

Congregational Camping Trip 2013

By Sister Cessaries Galusha

Each year the Salem congregational camping weekend gets better and grows in number of those attending! This year we had 40 Saints in attendance, which has been the most we've ever had, even while missing some of the regulars that were not able to attend. The weather was just perfect, beautiful and warm and the sun shone down upon us. The Lord has blessed our gatherings, and He continues to do so. We enjoyed the same campsites at D. Lake that we have had in years past, and Brother Ron Trammell took as many as were interested out in boat rides and tubing, and even water skiing. Sister Deanne Murnieks impressed us all with her skill and ease, which she employed so gracefully in maneuvering a single water ski. Many of us enjoyed spending time on the beach exploring, taking walks and in fellowship. Brian Herren, Doug Williams, Robert Ellison, and some strangers helped push a man's truck all the way across the beach to the exit after he had backed up so far he could not move forward any more. It was a blessing to watch our men in this act of service to our fellow man. To top it all off, several of our youth (and a few not so young) accomplished building a ten-person pyramid with little Kameran on the very top! The Saints gathered together and united as one body in every opportunity. We ate together, played together, enjoyed one another's company, and worshiped together. Friday and Saturday evenings we held campfire services, one of which the Builders and Climbers planned and led. I remember that night especially for the blessing the Spirit gave to us, and for the sharing of tremendous testimonies of healing and miracles performed in our lives by the Lord's hand. Sunday morning we were blessed with a song service and preaching service, and we heard inspiring words from our Brother Gary Livingston. The weekend was full of joy and blessings from our Heavenly Father, and I look forward to the next gathering of Saints and continued work in building the Kingdom!



*"So we, being many, are one body
in Christ, and everyone members
one of another" - Romans 12:5*

Introducing Mr. and Mrs. Dukes

By Brother Brian Herren



Brother Aaron, Brother Brian, Sister

tended by the families of the bride and groom, as well as many members of their church family. Sister Cessaries Galusha provided a ministry of music during the ceremony and served as pianist for the occasion. The Dukes' enjoyed a honeymoon at the Oregon Coast before returning to their new home together. Aaron and Lisa are presently leasing an apartment in South Salem, near Aaron's boyhood home. Brother Aaron is working two jobs and Sister Lisa is working for Marion County. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in theater design from Willamette University last spring. Aaron has studied computer and electrical engineering. Both remain active in the Young Adults Group at Church and continue to bless the congregation with their many gifts.

Brother Aaron Dukes and Sister Lisa Livingston were married on July 8, 2013, at the Reed Opera House in Salem, Oregon. Elder Brian Herren officiated in the service, and the Ladies Relief Society provided dessert afterward. The ceremony was well attended



Tacos and Trampolines

By Brother Kevin Herren



Melissa, Travis, Jesus, Cessaries, Trina, Lisa, Kevin, Jasmine; not pictured: Brian

On Tuesday, June 24th the YAG got together for a night of great fellowship and great food. Brother Jesus showed us again some authentic Mexican cooking. We had tacos made from homemade tortillas and authentic toppings and ingredients. Sister Lisa Livingston made homemade pico de gallo, which made our mouths water. Sister Melissa Herren made her world famous guacamole. God was good to us when He placed an avocado in our good sister's hands. There were tacos al pastor and tacos de pollo marinado and tacos de carne, all very, very delicious meats, yet when asked his favorite part of the meal, Jesus smiled and said, "The guacamole. It's better than mom's, but don't tell her." It is a great treat for me personally when the Saints gather for any purpose, but when we come together with joy and laughter simply to be together and strengthen our bonds over a meal that each contributed in making, it is especially heart lifting. ...concluded on page 6

Baseball Veggies Abundant

By Sister Trina Herren



Who knew tomatoes could be the size of a softball and zucchini could turn into a baseball bat overnight? Year after year the Young Adult Group comes together to plant a garden in hopes of serving the saints in some small fashion. This year was no different with the exception of the size of the plants as well as the harvest. Corn stalks tower over Kevin like the short stop no one can get around, tomato bushes had to be held up with big blocks of wood, and the zucchini....well let's just say they did not like sharing good dirt so they did everything in their power to take over. Some items did not yield what I would have expected of them, but overall it was a very successful season. Zucchini was so abundant in order to use it all, muffins were made for reun-

ion. The cucumbers did much better than in years past as well. We hope you look forward to corn and colorful carrots available for anyone to take home and enjoy. Each and every year I look forward to laboring with the saints in this manner and thank our Heavenly Father for His grace and allowance of a location for the garden as well as willing hands. Like a good baseball game, everyone came to play, learn and grow together in fellowship and fun. We had coach Brian, right fielder Kevin who loves to play, but was kicking dirt or in this case attached to some tree branches in the way of the sun, and our strong short stop Aaron who always shows up to work hard and labor in any way he can along with many others. Thank you all for your support as well as all who were willing to taste the reward of fresh veggies. We look forward to another year of fun, fellowship, and great veggies.



Tacos and Trampolines

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authentic YAG taco

To labor together, then enjoy the fruits of the labor is a gratifying feeling. I learned more about each person and some met new people. I learned that Brother Brian may not be the most efficient tortilla cooker, as he took twice as long as Jesus, the professional, yet his

culinary abilities rival that of famous chefs. The meat was exceptionally tender and juicy. I also saw someone put ketchup on her taco. When Jazmin (from Corvallis) asked for ketchup I assumed she was teasing, but alas, no joke was told. As we talked, laughed, cooked and prepared vegetables together we were able to grow closer to being one. We were able to learn of certain struggles and personal victories. After stuffing ourselves with more than any one person should consume in a single sitting, the suggestion was made to “work off our meal on the trampoline.” Uuummm... not a good idea. If you ever find yourself in that conundrum please hear this wisdom, don’t do it. Take time to settle. Never rush from food to fun too quickly. Perhaps on the next occasion to gather and eat, we can have a song service before we anger our bellies in strenuous activity.

A Beautiful Quilt

By Brother Brian Herren



Sister Nancy's quilt

the exhibit stopped to tell us that many people had paused to take pictures of Sister Nancy's quilt. Each year she reliably submits a true work of art and craftsmanship. Beautiful.

It was a true pleasure to admire the many quilts displayed at the Oregon State Fair this year, but one quilt in particular was most exciting. Hanging on the eastern wall, in beautiful array, a quilt tagged, “Nancy Curtis, Sublimity” caught the attention of passers by. The detail and pattern is impressive and the woman overseeing



7th Annual Congregational Picnic

By Brother Brian Herren



On Saturday, August 24, 35 Saints gathered for the seventh annual branch picnic at Bush park. They played badminton, soccer, & ladder golf. A special challenge was offered, combining golf, Frisbee, and football. Delicious side dishes were added to hot dogs and hamburgers, and the youth enjoyed a game of football after lunch.

Fellowship

A Lot and Land for the Lord's Work and Glory

By Brother Brian Herren



Brother Ron Trammell mows the church lot

On July 31, 2013, at 1:17 pm, a statutory warranty deed was filed with the Marion County Clerk, declaring the Restored Church of Christ as owners of parcel 2, Partition Plat No. 2013-11 adjacent to 3725 45th Ave. NE, Salem, OR. The Church body had commissioned it's officers in the pursuit of the property with the intent of building a house of prayer and worship, but only God Himself could have delivered it. We wish to formally praise His Glorious Majesty and thank the Lord Jehovah for turning the hearts of men of business, law, and industry to our favor, and revealing His delight in the work set about by those who are called by His name. The receipt of a conditional use permit was a provision of the original purchase agreement, granting six months of due diligence during which the Church could labor with all her might to secure that which would prove necessary to use the land in the desired way. No one could have rightly forecast the arduous process, in law and civil pursuit, that ensued. Still, as each obstacle presented herself as the end to our hopes, the Lord quietly wrestled our loss from the passions of our foes and resolved the matter without so much as a fray in the cloak of His Bride. In wonderment, those men most intimately involved watched the Lord demonstrate His pleasure and approval of our pursuits by making the impossible to speak to His own praise and glory in the dissuasion of every potential pitfall. Even those men of industry, perhaps less familiar with the hand of God, seemed impressed along the way, as the doors were opened to a small and seemingly inconsequential body of the humble. They exclaimed in our good fortune, as they observed the perfect timing of closure, adjacent zoning, fortuitous infrastructure, reversal of supervisorial hearts, and absence of typical unnecessarily procedural processes. As the men of law viewed the work as very lucky on multiple counts, those men advancing the cause kept to their knees by day and

night in thanksgiving and petition. Surely God has shown His hand, and this land shall be used for His divine purpose so long as it yields it's fruit under the careful stewardship of His Church. It shall be used to honor His will, and build up His kingdom upon the earth, being given to Him that we might keep His commandments cheerfully and glorify Him in our generation. To formally dedicate the land to this purpose, and petition God's hand to ever prosper it for His glory, a special service will be held on the grounds at 10:00 am, September 22, 2013. To be clear, our vision is thus: that this lot belongs to God, and not to any man. As a part of the process of dedicating the land to God and His purposes for it, a tree will be planted. Brothers Ron Trammell and Jim Clark were commissioned to review the site plan and make a recommendation for the variety and placement of a tree that might serve to remind those of present and future generations of the goodness God has shown in these dealings, and the purpose for which these efforts were made. Until the Lord comes, it may be that those who are young today someday look upon a great tree and remember when their fathers placed a small sapling in the ground with unfettered hope. As we watch the tree grow year-to-year, we might ponder continually upon our own growth and remember the day when we so cheerfully set our hands to it's planting with righteous anticipation. Given the collective effort of the Church in deciding every matter to this point, and the desire that we continue to make every decision as one body, whole, of one heart and one mind, it is the hope of the leadership that everyone who attends the special service will come prepared to assist in the planting of the tree. If families are able to bring a one gallon milk jug filled with water, we might come together to bury the roots and water them for the first time together. A small cinder cross will be erected in advance at the potential cornerstone of a future building, and will serve as a place where the Saints young and old can gather in their own time for quiet prayer and meditation. The youth may also find this special place a place of devotion and worship. Building plans, as was the site plan, will be a matter of congregational process, allowing each to voice his or her suggestions, questions, approval, or disapproval. We will do it together, every step, without the entrapments of men and bureaucracy of the wearied. It has been shown that land can be obtained with every willing member participating, and it will be shown that building can be done in the same. At this point, every effort should be made to pay off the residue of our debt, and prepare ourselves to live in the sacrificial way that any future plans of substance will demand of us. Every good work of God is at first impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done. Site plans are available for anyone who would like one. The approved footprint for future building is 4,000 square feet, considerably larger than the space we now enjoy each Sunday for worship. We have the liberty of reducing the footprint, building more than one level, expanding parking, or leaving the site plan as it is. We might begin to consider what we truly need to worship, finding the present land a most blessed provision and more than we could have deserved. In this light, again, we thank our Heavenly Father for His rich blessings and the fatness of the earth at our disposal for His glory.

"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all." - I Chron. 29:11

Thank You, Sister Deanne

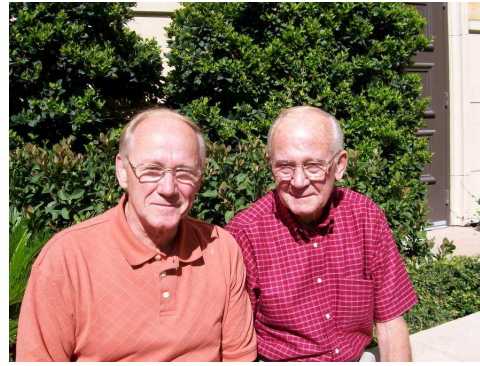
By Brother Brian Herren

Recently, Sister Deanne asked if it might be a blessing to place a worship center at Church on Sundays. She had been doing so in Colorado Springs and had collected a number of items useful in beautifying the rostrum, helping to elevate one's spirit, and contribute to the spirit of worship. On Sunday, September 1, Sister Deanne created a thoughtful and appropriate addition to the pulpit area. By placing a painting of the Lord Jesus Christ, our attention was especially drawn to Him as the preacher made remarks about the sacrifice He made on our behalf. The flowers and candles were tasteful and contributed greatly to beautifying the area. Her thoughtful contribution of those skills she has developed in a way that glorifies God is very appreciated. Thank you.



A Special Happy Birthday

By Brother Brian Herren



Brother Bill and his late brother, Rex

We wish to extend our greetings especially to Brother Bill Curtis who celebrated his 76th birthday on August 2. Having served in every priesthood office save one, serving as pastor for many years, district president, and regional direc-

tor, we feel grateful to him for his outstanding leadership and service. His ongoing leadership and ministry demonstrates the earnest conviction and gifts of one called and chosen of God.

Brother Bill, his granddaughter Jamie, wife Nancy, and great-granddaughter Evelyn, at Sister Jamie's pinning ceremony (sergeant)



Revival Preaching Series in Independence, MO

By Brother Travis Clark



Brother Travis Clark

My Brother Brian Herren was recently asked to travel to Independence, MO to speak at an old-style revival preaching series hosted by the Colbern Road Restoration Branch. This entailed four nights of preaching services, starting at about 6 p.m. and continuing into the evening. My brother graciously asked if I might accompany him on this trip and so I did. We were greeted in the Kansas City airport by Stu Gage, who kindly opened his home to Brian and I. He and his wife, Milee, made sure that we never went hungry while we stayed with them. We worshiped with the saints at the Colbern Road Branch on Sunday August 4th, and listened to a wonderful sermon delivered by Priest Jonathan Anderson. Later that evening, we traveled to the Waldo Restoration Branch to attend the Summer Preaching Series, where Brother Brian would begin his preaching. Brother Brian delivered a powerful sermon about joy in the gospel, and being a living body, to a full chapel of around 500 people. Afterwards, some mentioned that it was the most in attendance at the summer series in years, and that some felt it was one of the best sermons there in a long time. There was no doubt that the Spirit was there that evening and it was an amazing service to experience. Throughout our stay we had the opportunity to have several lunch dates with many well-known

men within the church, such as Elders Jack Hagenson, Aaron Smith, Lyle Smith, David Gilmore and John Larson. As we ate, we shared our testimonies and our love of Christ with one another. Monday evening we went to the Colbern Road Branch for the second night of the preaching series. Our Brother Brian spoke of zeal and asked what the saints in Independence were doing to prepare to receive us in Zion as we are preparing to come. Our Brother Brian was definitely filled with the Holy Spirit, as was the entire sanctuary that night. The sound of the saints singing *The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning* was more beautiful than I have ever heard it sung before. The Lord was definitely with us that evening. On Tuesday night the sanctuary was even more filled with people than the previous evening and the Lord clearly worked through our Brother Brian

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Revival Preaching Series in Independence, MO

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...as he gave another wonderful message. The Spirit again could be felt throughout the room as he spoke and I have no doubt that it touched every man, woman and child there. Wednesday night was the final night of the series and hosted more people than the two previous evenings had. Many Saints from different factions, groups, and perspectives filled the sanctuary, listening to our good Brother as he spoke of the hope that the saints should have within them. He hearkened his heart unto the Lord and delivered another rich sermon. The sound of the spirit-filled saints singing the hymns was like nothing I had ever heard before. The singing in that hall was so amazing I doubt it was our voices alone creating those glorious sounds. It was a marvelous thing to be a part of! We were so well received by the Saints of Independence and are very thankful for the many friendships that we made and the people that we met. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to take part in this event. It filled my soul with love and praise for my Heavenly Father and left me wishing that every evening could be like those four days. The joy and happiness of so many people in the service of the Lord was a beautiful sight to behold and left me yearning even more for Zion. It is not something that I will ever forget. Again, I am so thankful for the graciousness of Stu and Milee Gage, as well as for that of the rest of the Saints we met in the Center place, and for my Brother sharing this opportunity with me.



Brother Brian Herren

A Letter Sent to Brother Jim Clark

Written by Brother Stuart Gage, member of the evangelism coordinating council at Colbern Road Restoration Branch



Colbern Road Restoration Branch

Good Brother,

Please feel free to share the following with your branch:

On behalf of Colbern Road Restoration Branch and all of the Saints in the Independence area,

We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. This last week has been an enormous blessing to all of the saints who attended this preaching series. Brian brought heavenly inspired preaching ministry each and every night. Travis also brought a great deal of ministry from above, with the testimonies he shared, of God's goodness and love for His saints. I have already begun to hear many wonderful responses about this series and how the Lord was able to minister to many people through it. One sister said that this series had started a fire here in the Center Place, to which I responded, "It is now our responsibility to pour gasoline on that fire and spread it as far and wide as we can." Another brother responded that "this has been one of the highlights in the Restoration of the last 10 years". We have been truly blessed by the ministry that we received and we pray that Brian and Travis were also ministered to. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being willing to share these two fine soldiers in the army of Christ, with us. Milee and I were extremely blessed to have them stay in our home, and the wonderful time that we shared together will never be forgotten. We truly look forward to the day when we can all worship together. We love you all and are praying daily for the opportunity to arise that we may come to your part of the vineyard and share in the love of Jesus Christ with you all. May the glory of the Lord shine down upon you and set His protection to be around you, until we meet again. I thank the Lord daily for wonderful and faithful saints, such as you all are. Farewell brothers and sisters but only for now.

In the gospel bonds of our Savior, Jesus Christ,

Stu and Milee Gage



Waldo Restoration Branch

A Letter From Sister Jamie Leach

North Pole, Alaska

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers while I was in Korea and for Evelyn while we were apart. Your prayers were much needed as Korea was a lonely place for me during a difficult time in my life. However, I did have memorable experiences that showed me how kind-hearted some of the Korean people are, and was shown gratitude for being in their country. For instance, while I was shopping in Lotte Mart (our equivalent to Walmart), an older Korean lady came up to me and hugged me, she had a young child with her and told me thank you with a big smile. Another time, I was on a train to Seoul and an old lady insisted that I take her seat. My favorite memory was when I was on a bus to Gunsan.

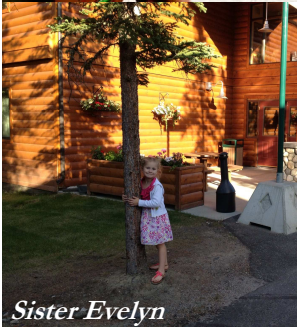
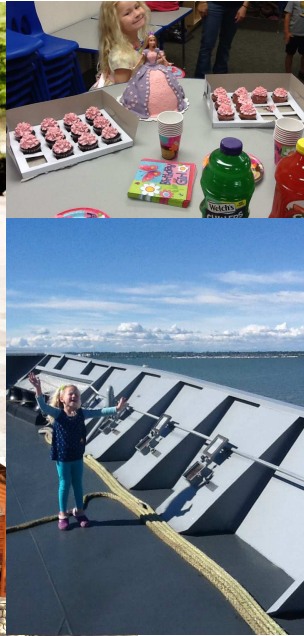
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A Letter From Sister Jamie Leach

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Sister Jamie



Sister Evelyn

There was a girl sitting in the back row of the bus, next to me. I was flipping through flashcards and I noticed that she was taking an interest in what I was learning about. I tried to talk to her in English, but she didn't know any. I only knew a few words in Korean, so we tried using hand gestures to communicate and eventually drew pictures back and forth. She drew pictures that lead me to believe that she was in college. I drew an American flag and a plane to describe that I was a soldier at Kunsan Air Base; however, she probably thought I was a pilot. After that, we worked on speaking Korean. She'd say a word, I'd write down how it sounded to me, and then she'd use body language to define it. After that, I did an English class for Korean children. We could read to them, play games and speak English to them, or whatever else the children wanted to do as long as we introduced the English language to them. I ended up coloring with a young girl and then making paper stars. The girl really liked them and kept taking them apart to recreate it, but was unsuccessful. So, I created step-by-step illustrations on how to make them with a few English words. I also went on quite a few tours, accomplished half of my goals that I had set before I left for Korea, and met some wonderful friends. It was a memorable year, but I never want to be away from my daughter that long again. Currently, Evelyn and I are settled in and comfortably living in, North Pole, Alaska. We live down the road from Santa's house (and have bumped into

him shopping at Safeway), have seen a lot of wildlife roaming around, and are preparing for a cold, long winter. I am so happy about how naturally Evelyn and I have synced back up again. Even with my absence on more than a few occasions, Evelyn is well adjusted, confident, and is an active, happy child, which I owe to my family and church family for taking

such good care of her, and to our Heavenly Father. I'm proud of the fact that even during a difficult time for Evelyn; she was able to experience the best parts of my childhood and came back to me well-rounded. Thank you with all my heart for your thoughts, prayers, and loving support.

Our Move to Oregon

By Sister Deanne Murnieks



The Murnieks family

We were richly blessed in our recent move from Colorado to Oregon. There were so many blessings, given in such diverse areas of our lives, that they are too numerous to elaborate upon here. But I would like to write about the particular testimony we received in association with selling our home in Colorado. Being a military family, we have moved many times. You tend to get so accustomed to moving that no place is ever really "home" but rather just a temporary dwelling until the next move. This time, however, because of unusual circumstances, we had lived in our home in Colorado for over 10 years. This is the home to which we brought Donovan as a baby and where he learned to walk. It was the only home Ginger remembered. It is where we shared many Christmases and Thanksgivings as a family, where Grams taught piano lessons to her grandkids, and where our children grew up alongside wonderful neighbor children with which to play. The house on Misty Creek Drive in Colorado had become more than just a place to live, it was our "Home". When we looked back on the 10+ years we had lived there we could remember many home improvement projects that added our own special touch to the home and made it our own. We felt a special bond with this house and ...concluded on page 11

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Ongoing Blessings at Simonka Place

By Brother Brian Herren

It has been nearly eight years now that the Saints have been volunteering at a shelter for homeless women and children: Simonka Place. It started with a

phone call to the Union Gospel Mission downtown. I asked if we might serve and they asked what we would like to do. "Whatever you need the most", I replied. They sent us to Simonka Place, where the Saints have been blessed ever since. On the second and fourth Saturday of each month, up to four of the Saints are invited to help serve dinner, enjoy a meal with the women and children, clean the dishes, pick up chairs, fold tables, sweep the floors, mop, and assist in other labors. Some of the ministry have even been asked to preach at the Saturday evening chapel service, and the youth group provides regular ministry during the chapel services. If you are interested in serving in the kitchen, be sure to call or text Brother Brian so that we can be sure our service is organized in an orderly way. Youth must be in sixth grade. No open toed shoes are permitted.



Some of the Saints and two amazing women from Simonka Place.

Our Move to Oregon

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The Murnieks family, in the entry of their new home.

...felt that we really wanted whomever would buy it to appreciate it and love it the way we had. We had received so many of God's rich and generous blessings while living in this home that we wanted the new owners to be as blessed as we had been and also to appreciate the house as much as we had. We began praying about these matters back in January, before listing the house on the internet in early March. Bob and Sarah were the fourth family to look at our home, and no one either before or after had the enthusiasm that they had about our home. They loved it! We felt from the beginning that Bob and Sarah, and their sweet children, were the answer to our prayers. However as time went on, we were confronted with many "bumps" in the road. Despite being pre-approved for financing, they were denied a loan by two different banks. The first time this happened the bank didn't let either one of us know that we weren't going to be able to close on the house until two days AFTER we were scheduled to close. We were both moved out of our homes; they were expecting to move into ours. We were scheduled to leave for Reunion in Iowa in less than 48 hours. We took the night to pray about our situation and in the end decided that we had an empty house, and they had four children with no place to live. So before leaving for Reunion we met with them at Starbucks at 8am, drafted a quick rental agreement, and gave them our keys, faithfully anticipating that the Lord would bless the situation and we would be able to close upon our return from Reunion. Our faith was tried when, in the following weeks, Bob and Sarah were turned down by a second bank. The world would have us to believe that we had done a foolish thing by letting them move into our house, and I would be lying if I were to tell you that we weren't second guessing our decision a little bit as well. We tried hard to listen to the Lord and be patient under the circumstances, but it sure wasn't easy. The Lord blessed us tremendously along the way, in many ways, despite our feeble efforts to put our trust in Him. The third bank was able to pro-

vide them with financing and we eventually closed on July 29th. (The offer was made on April 5th, and closed on July 29th.) Shortly after our closing, their Real Estate agent, who was also Sarah's uncle, sent us a touching email. He explained that his wife had been instrumental in encouraging Bob and Sarah to buy their first home, yet prior to our contract with them, Bob and Sarah had lost several bids to competing offers. He also shared that his wife had just passed away in the middle of March. Our home was the first that they had looked at after her passing, and so there was a lot of emotion attached to this deal reaching completion. He thanked us for our patience and attributed it to our being "bible students" which he said was evident by the things he noticed in our home. He even quoted scripture in his email to us and we were gladdened by the gratitude he openly shared. We couldn't understand why there was such difficulty with the deal, but the Lord has His own reasons of which we can't possibly know. I do know He has blessed us beyond what we deserved for the little extra patience that we were able to muster, and that we are humbled by His mercy and love. We questioned Him often about what we should do during the times when it didn't seem like the deal would ever go through, and He reassured us in different ways that we just needed to wait and continue to work with Bob and Sarah. Now that we know the rest of the story it only adds to our assurance that the Lord's hand was indeed in the process from the very beginning.

Waiting on the Lord

By Brother Kevin Herren



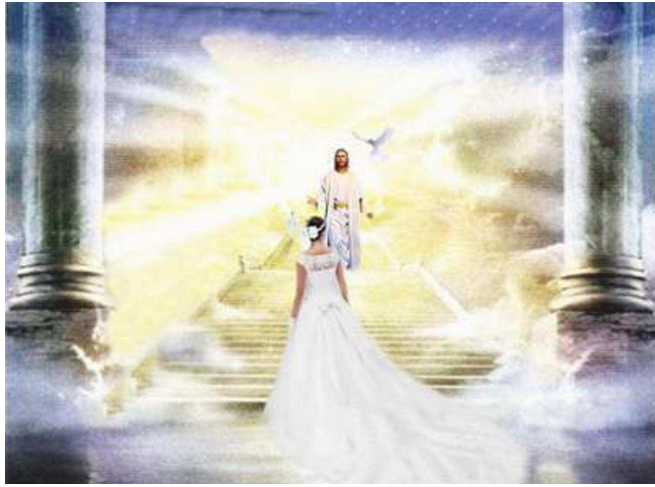
Have you ever heard the phrase "wait upon the Lord" and wondered what that means? For many years I did. I thought I had gained some understanding to its meaning until the voice of the Spirit broke forth new light not long ago. I was busy in the work of preparing a class for the youth for reunion, a class on steadfastness, when I kept thinking of "waiting on the Lord." I couldn't get that out of my thoughts. As I pondered it all, I thought to myself "I need to research this when I'm done with this class." The thought never left my mind, so I began to consider the way I had always thought of what it means to wait upon the Lord. My understanding of waiting on the Lord was to "not run before him." I thought it meant that when I needed understanding or direction

I should pray and wait for an answer. This is not the case, as we should always be engaged in a good work. If we live in the Spirit we will walk in the Spirit and be directed in all our ways. For instance, God has already called me to His priesthood. If I am asked to teach or preach, I need not inquire of God and wait to have confirmation before I do what he has called me to do. I have already been called to do so, therefore to continually inquire would prove to be slothful service. Jesus calls us friends rather than servants because the servant knoweth not the master's will, but he has made known all things that the Father has told him. As I sat in my chair my mind was all at once opened and a whole new understanding was given to me. The voice of the Spirit wrote upon my heart and bore witness to the truth of what was being planted in my mind. As the Spirit testified, my mind began to be instructed and filled with scripture that I have never connected in a way that makes perfect sense. With my feeble words, yet ecstatic heart, ...concluded on page 12

Waiting on the Lord

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...I will attempt to write what was taught to me that day. First, we must establish a few responsibilities in God's church. Jesus Christ is the bridegroom, or in other words the groom. It is He that is the leader of a relationship; such as a man is to be the leader of a home, the leader in a marriage. Section 65 speaks to this, as does Mathew 25:1-12. Second, we need to understand that if there is a bridegroom then there must be a bride. This bride is referred to in several places, but it was Revelation 21:2 and revelation 21:9,10 that I was directed to. These define the bride as the church of the first born or "the holy city, New Jerusalem." There are great depths in this, but sufficeth to say the bride is the church of God. Third, it is important that we know what "the church" is. God's church is not built with brick and mortar, but by lively stones, as Peter wrote. The church belongs to God and not man, therefore it has no address as a building of man would. Christ's church is made of men and women striving for that high mark of perfection. The church is the righteous, who are the sons and daughters of the Most High.



groom will return, she needs to be ready always; each day preparing her wedding garments incase today is the day she is beckoned by the call of her groom from outside, calling her to leave her place and come with him to the home that they will share for the rest of their lives together. Now imagine how much this groom loves his bride and how diligently he would work to prepare a place. In John 13:33 Jesus says "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me; and as I said unto the Jews, whither I go, ye cannot come..." John 13:36: "Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterward." John 14: 2-4: "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And when I go, I will prepare a place for you, and come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also." Remember the bride who waits for the groom to come get her? Consider their reunion if she had lost faith that he was coming again for her, or if she had been unfaithful to him, or waited idly by. Imagine if she had stopped remembering him and

thinking of him. Imagine if she didn't recognize his voice when he called to her. To wait upon the Lord is this; to remain faithful, steadfast in the keeping of the commandments. We need not wait to hear His voice in the thunder, but rather search His word diligently and keep the sayings we find therein. When we keep ourselves always prepared as a bride who knows not when the bridegroom cometh again, constant in labor, then will we be filled with the Holy Spirit. Then are we continually lifted. It is only by the Holy Ghost that we are made strong when our mortal bodies grow tired. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up on wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31

1) Bridegroom= Jesus Christ 2) Bride= The church (us)

The next thing that was brought to me was the marriage tradition of the Jews. When a man and woman were betrothed, or engaged, the man would leave his bride-to-be to prepare a place where they would live together. He would go to the house of his father and labor to build a new home where they would abide together. The house was prepared especially for her, yet was in, or connected to, his father's house. While the groom was away building their new home, the bride would stay where she was. She cannot go to her groom but must wait for him to return to get her. Since she does not know exactly when her

Congratulations on your summer catch!



"Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord" - Jeremiah 16:16