



Pulse of the Congregation

June, 2015

Construction Costs

by Brother Brian Herren



Dear Saints, Brothers Bill, Gary and myself have been working with the architects at Studio 3 to generate preliminary plans for a new church building in Salem that respect the expressed will of the congregation. We received our first means analysis briefing (construction cost estimate) on June 4, and it was eye-opening. The cost of building the kind of structure we have been considering collectively is not within reason for our congregation. While some may have felt our preliminary thoughts and plans were too small, the reality suggests that the opposite is true. In fact, if we are to accomplish our goal, we will need to consider a much more humble house of worship. It is a good time for us to reflect upon what we really need. Perhaps some of those items we want have inadvertently been included in our list of needs. The Lord may be

well served in a church that is simple, clean, and humble: a sanctuary where we can worship in safety and simplicity; and a place for learning.

The exercise of drawing up the building as we have to date has been an important part of the process. Unless we had tried to reach as far as we could, we may have never had our questions so soundly answered in black and white as we did in the first construction estimate. Leaving the matter to conjecture, and speculation, may have left questions forever unanswered. Today we have gained a more sure knowledge. Having this knowledge now, we are faced with a sobering revelation, but we are not in any way discouraged or turned from the work. Let us reconvene at the end of summer, or early fall, with hearts prepared to rejoice in a more simple building that may allow for our assembly and worship in peace and humility.

Other options to consider include leaving things as they stand today, continuing to rent as we do now, though some have expressed concern at the tenuous nature of our rental agreement and our subjection to the building owners. I praise the Lord for the recent developments, recognizing that success is rarely the first outcome of any honest effort, but tribulation worth patience. Sometimes it is not even the second effort which claims the victory. Sometimes it is in the third and fourth thrust, for those who remain steadfast to the end, that all things prove possible in Christ. I find comfort in the words of our brother Nephi, who said "Therefore let us go up; let us be strong like unto Moses". He did not speak these words before setting his hand to the task before him, nor did he speak them after failing just once. Brother Nephi encouraged his brethren with these words after having failed not once, but twice, in their task. Nephi's resolve was rewarded in his repeated effort, and his account forever stands as a confirming witness to those willing to steady themselves in the face of their challenges.

Let us pray, not forgetting those testimonies of God's goodness in the present provision, and assemble again at the end of summer or beginning of fall to consider the will of the people. If we are still a people content with less, satisfied in that which is truly necessary and nothing more, I trust the Lord will provide that which is needful to fulfill our righteous desires.

Your brother and servant in Christ,
Brian

Upcoming Events:

- June 26-28: Summer Preaching Series
- July 10-12: Congregational Camping at D. Lake
- July 13-27: Brothers Brian Herren and Doug Smith mission to East Africa
- July 17-18: Garage Sale for Mesoamerica
- July 18: Builders Around the World Progressive Dinner
- July 24-26: Youth Retreat
- Aug. 2-8: NW Youth Camp
- Aug. 11: Lambs Judo Class
- Aug. 17-23: NW Reunion
- Aug. 30: Baptismal Service

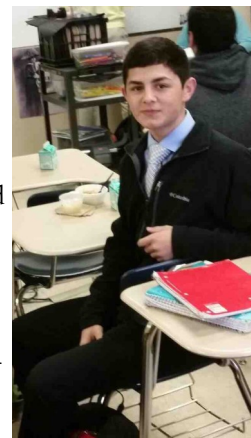


Congratulations Taylor!

by Sister Cessaries Galusha

Taylor Diaz-Lopez graduated McKay High School on June 5th, 2015 at the Pavilion in Salem, Oregon. We have been so blessed to have him join us in fellowship this year, and he has been an extraordinary member of the Builders and Climbers youth group. Always helpful and cheerful, he carries the strength of spirit that proves him to be dependable, hardworking, responsible, and true. He was blessed with honors at his graduation, as a member of the National Honors Society, and received an honors diploma. He was given the Scholar Athlete Award, as well as a full-ride scholarship to Chemeketa Community College for two years. Congratulations Taylor!

Taylor plans to take his prerequisite courses at Chemeketa, while beginning his studies as a dietician. After his sophomore year, he will transfer to Oregon State University to finish his degree. We are so happy for the way God has blessed this very fortunate young man in our midst! Taylor, we hope to keep you around as long as possible, and welcome to the Young Adult Group!



Remarkable Reunion

by Brother Ron Herren

February 24, 2015 was a truly special day for seven very remarkable people; Sheri Curtis, Jordan Lankaranifard and five firefighters and paramedics. As most of you know Jordan was injured in a nearly fatal accident in June of 2005 that changed his life forever.

On Tuesday, February 24th, Captain Don Fleck, Apparatus Operator Rand Breitbach, Firefighter/Paramedic Trevor Fosmark from the Salem Fire Department and Paramedics Bob Honyak and Bret Peterson from Marion County Fire District #1 got to meet Sheri, Jordan and Bill and Nancy Curtis for the first time since Jordan's accident.

Sheri expressed her gratitude to these firefighters for their service and the life-saving treatment they provided to her son Jordan. She also got a clearer picture of Jordan's conditions when the firefighters arrived on the scene, before he was transported to Salem Hospital.

Sheri relayed to the fire personnel a detailed account of the after care at the Salem Hospital and the inspiring story of Jordan's lengthy recovery in which Sheri gave all glory

to Almighty God. One thing that was very obvious to everyone there was Sheri's steadfast and unshakable faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. I feel truly blessed to have been part of this joyous occasion.



New Step for Jamie Leach

by Sister Nancy Curtis

In May of 2014 our granddaughter Jamie left the Air Force after serving for nine years so she could follow her dream of becoming a nurse. She was accepted into the Oregon Air Guard in Portland as their medical technician with the agreement that they would send her for training in that field. She has been serving in the Air Guard on Friday's for the past couple of

months and one weekend a month for the past year. In preparation for her nursing career, Jamie has been taking accelerated classes at Chemeketa Community College. On Wednesday, June 10th she took her last final and then left immediately for the Army base at Fort Sam Houston (a 2200 mile journey) in San Antonio Texas. On Monday, June 15th she reported for her first class at the large hospital on the base. While she is training, which will last about eight months, she will be fully employed by the Air Force. On June 20th, Evelyn joined her mom when her grandmother Sheri flew to Texas with her. When Jamie returns to Oregon, she will be applying to the OHSU Nursing Program. The nursing program accepts about one third of the applicants so she has worked very hard and spent most of her time in study so she can get straight A's. Once she is trained as a nurse, she plans to re-enter the Air Force as an officer. Jamie has dedicated herself and prepared for a career of service to others which has been her goal for many years.



Krispy Kreme Doughnut Fundraisers

by Brother Michael Livingston

The youth this year have been fundraising for upcoming youth camps this summer. One of the fundraisers that we have been doing was selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts. We have sold them at three different times during the year at two different locations. The first two times were at Bentley's Coffee Shop on Mission Street, and the last time was in the Rite Aid parking lot in South Salem.

Kevin Herren's high school friend Brandon is the owner of Bentley's. He was very nice to let us use his main store to sell our Krispy Kreme doughnuts. He had a little spot for us outside where the cars would drive up to get their coffee and we could ask them if they wanted any doughnuts. We also had sign holders down Mission Street to point where to go if anyone wanted doughnuts on their way to work in the morning.

Our third time selling was in the Rite Aid parking lot. Just like what we had at Bentley's, we had sign holders down Commercial Street to get people to come into the parking lot to buy some Krispy Kreme doughnuts. I remember that we had one customer come up to us at Rite Aid in his car yelling, "DOUGHNUTS!" This led Vitaliy and I to scream, "DOUGHNUTS!" to cars in order to get their attention.



Yard Work Service

by Brother Brian Herren



On Saturday, May 9th, the older youth (Builders and Climbers) were invited to help Sister Dianna Clark's mother, Susie, with some yard work at her home. It was truly a pleasure, as Susie worked hard at their side and joined in the fellowship. The youth spread bark dust and removed invasive honeysuckle that had gained the advantage of a fence at the rear of the property. Doughnuts and bottled water kept the group well fueled, but it was the Holy Spirit that fed them as they labored in the strength of their days for the welfare of another. Susie was wonderful, appreciative, and kind. In conclusion of the matter, she made a very generous donation to the youth group in order to help pay the youth camp fees of all those who assisted her. It was also encouraging to see several of the younger youth (Lambs of Zion) working hard alongside their elder brothers and sisters in Christ. The younger youth will not be attending camp, but they are learning now the joy of service, the value of hard work, and the fulfillment that comes to all those who are given to Sainly fellowship in the fields of labor and the sanctuaries of worship. God has truly blessed us. He is so good.

"Therefore, let your light so shine before this world, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 5:18



Lambs of Zion Book of Mormon Class and Breakfast

by Sister Trina Herren

For the third installment of the Lambs of Zion Book of Mormon class we came together to learn about the journey Nephi and his family took across the waters and into the promised land. Breakfast was served to 8 hungry lambs before starting our movie followed by a question and answer session. We learned about the faith we must have and steadfastness in Christ through Nephi's actions both on land, when his brothers rebelled, as well as at sea, when they tied him up for 3 days. Looking at this amazing journey shows us how exacting the Lord is in His commandments and forgiving when we fall to our knees and repent. Nephi teaches us patience as he labored with his brothers' unwilling hearts, and reminds me of how the Lord labors with me time and time again when I harden my heart against His will. As brothers and sisters in Christ, whether young or ripe in age, we must always hold fast to the rod of iron drawing apart from the world and focusing solely on the One who saves.



Mother's Appreciation Dinner

by Sister Carla Livingston

Mother's Day started early for some of us mothers. We were invited over to Brian and Melissa Herren's house for a dinner in honor of mothers on the Friday before Mother's Day.

Brian served chicken stuffed ravioli with a sun-dried tomato cream sauce, green salad, and parmesan focaccia. And lastly for dessert we were treated to an Oreo pie.

The mothers in attendance were Melissa, Sharon, Jean, Donna, Dianna, Susie and myself. We had a wonderful time visiting and telling all kinds of stories about family. Jean Trammell kept us all entertained with some of the funniest stories. There was such a warm spirit among us and we all agreed that we all have been blessed as mothers.

Brian made us all feel very appreciated as mothers. God as truly blessed us with our children and we are forever thankful to Him.



A mother's heart is a patchwork of
LOVE



New Addition to the Salem Congregation

by Sister Cessaries Galusha

The Salem Branch has recently been blessed with the addition of a new family joining our congregation from El Centro, California! Brother Tom and Sister Sandy Curtis moved to Eugene, Oregon in the fall of 2014 so they could be close to their son, TC, and we are blessed to have them here! Brother Tom is a High Priest in the Restored Church of Jesus Christ, and was the District President of Southern Oregon many years ago when they previously lived in Oregon. He was the Pastor at the Springfield, OR congregation for many years, and when he and his wife moved to El Centro, CA, he became the Pastor of that congregation.

Tom and Sandy were blessed with three children: TC, Mitch and Anita (deceased), five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. While they lived in El Centro, Brother Tom had a locksmith business as well as running an antique shop with his wife. We are grateful not only to have the fellowship of our brother and sister here in Salem, but we have also been blessed to receive of his ministry from the pulpit. The good word of the Lord truly fell from the lips of our Brother, and edified the congregation in great measure. I will not soon forget the sermon he preached unto us in May 2015, and I hope to have the privilege of sitting under his ministry for many years to come.

God is a Tremendous Father

by Brother Kevin Herren

God is a tremendous Father, much more so than we can really begin to comprehend. He is not only a great father because of all the things He gives unto us or because He helps us out of the predicaments we put ourselves in. The root of His greatness and perfect fatherhood runs so very deep. He is a perfect father because of His undying love not only for us but for all men, which He created in the first place because of His love. He is not obligated to give anyone anything yet we find in His infinite mercy and tenderness, His unsearchable love, all that we have asked of Him and so much more.

In December of 2006, when Emily and Kaitlin were just babies they moved out of state in very, very undesirable circumstances. It would be 9 years before I would be able to see them again face to face and communication during that time was sporadic at best. During those years I came to accept that I may never again see my children and I began to pray fervently that if I could not be a father to them, that God would. My daily prayer for 9 years has been that God may see fit that He would instill in my daughters (or rather His daughters) that God loves them. No matter what was happening, my greatest desire was that they know God. Secondly I prayed that He would instill in them a desire to draw near to Him and have a relationship with their Heavenly Father. Lastly, if God would see fit, that I might someday come face to face with them again, even just over one meal, it would settle my soul.

God is a living God and a God who hears the prayers of His children no matter the complexity of the prayers offered! It took 9 years of prayer and years of seeking God's will, but He granted last summer that I should get to go and see Emily and Kaitlin in Atlanta where they were living. I got to tell them that I love them and I got to hug them. I was over the moon, but even though my prayer was answered there would be more to the blessing. As it turns out, we had wonderful talks about baptism and repentance and authority and faith and prayer. How thrilling to my soul! As only God can, He continued the blessings when I was able to return only a few months later and have one of the most satisfying conversations of my life. I was able to express to them that I had never stopped loving them and they expressed that they loved me too.

The story does not even stop there, in subsequent visits I was awarded custody of "my little angel", and "my princess." They were moving to Oregon to live with us as was their hearts desire even after not knowing me for basically all of their lives. Why? God answers prayers even when we don't know. God has instilled in them that He loves them, they have a desire to know Jesus better, and they even knew that I loved them though I rarely got to tell them so.

If you think it can't get any better for a father...they have sought baptism into "the right church" and I look forward to this summer when they will be found at the waters to be born into the Kingdom. Glory to our great God! They have taken to Trina and loved her instantly; telling her so before the move even. Emily and Kaitlin met Gabriella and Elizabeth and became bonded in sisterly love in a moment, asking to camp out in the living room so they can all sleep together. Gabriella looks to them as any younger sister would to her older siblings for adventure and guidance. They have adjusted as though they were never gone. My cup runneth over and I praise my Father in Heaven! I have prayed a simple prayer and God delivered a magnificent blessing. I sought that my children would know their God and He delivered to them the living water. I petitioned that I might speak even once to my daughters and He delivered them into our home. My mind is incapable of praises high enough and my head will forever fail to bow sufficiently before our King.

