



Pulse of the Congregation

June, 2018

Nepal and India Report 2018

by Brother Brian Herren



Recent missionary efforts have included a trip to Nepal and India, where Brother Doug Smith, Brother Andrew Smith, and I served from April 6 through April 22. We were blessed with the warm hospitality and generosity of the Saints as we visited as many homes as possible within the mission field. Our travels into Sikkim, Darjeeling, and West Bengal in India also presented opportunities to share with many non-believers and non-members as the field enlarges in India. Traveling between 300 feet and 8,000 feet in elevation, the team moved from dense bamboo jungles in steamy, lush forests, to mountain passes in the shadows of the Himalayan peaks. In the jungle climates, we enjoyed eating ferns, yams, and the leaves of stinging nettles.

Convenient to Naxalbari, we were able to share with a group of tea workers gathered into a hut of stripped bamboo. Our sharing required a hike through the tea plants, into tribal lands, where we saw groups of monkeys running about, and endless rows of carefully cultivated tea plants giving way and merging seamlessly with lush jungle foliage and flowers. I could smell incense burning as we passed by some of the village huts, and watched as a people laden with their daily labors gathered into a humble shelter at twilight. The night before we arrived, five elephants had entered the village and caused some trouble, and the people were concerned for our welfare as the gospel message carried us beyond sunset. At last, we left the village in the dark, as our friends warned about the elephants. I couldn't feel any fear though, only the lingering of the Holy Spirit as it covered us as a cloak. We moved freely, easily, back along the way by which we had walked in. Peace seemed a shield impenetrable by worry during our travels in Nepal and India.

We visited with one family new to the faith in southeast Nepal. They lived in small quarters with a newborn baby, where newspaper scraps made up the better part of the wall and wind passed through without much interference. When they were asked what we might pray for, the family did not ask that we pray for the betterment of their present condition, or the means whereby they might enjoy some small comfort. Instead, they asked only that we pray for their parents who had not yet received Christ, knowing that nothing earthly afforded would compare to the heavenly gift in Christ revealed.

continued on page 2...



Service Mission to Nicaragua

by Sister Melissa Clark

I was blessed to be able to go on a service-learning trip through my school over spring break 2018 to Nicaragua. It was something that I knew I wanted to do from the moment I heard, even though it meant traveling with people I did not know, to a place very different than I was accustomed to. Chemeketa partners with an NGO based in Nicaragua named AMOS. They are a Christian organization that primarily focuses on water filtration. While there, my group and I were to hike 4-10 miles each day through the jungle into homes of many who received us so graciously. While in the homes we checked the water filters and asked the homeowners questions about their water filters. Each afternoon my group and I would put on health classes for the children as well. It was during these classes that God really showed me that I am on the right path to become an educator. I had been unsure going into the trip, but I came away with a fire in my heart for obtaining my education degree. We were in the community of San Jose De La Mula, which was the primary battle ground of the war between the Contras and the Sandinistas. This community was the most rural that I have ever been. There is no running water and no electricity. I found while we were there that Nicaraguans take great care in their cleanliness, both physically and spiritually, which was such a beautiful example unto me. Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the Americas, yet the people there are so gracious and strive to be their best versions at all times. I came away from this trip in awe of the blessings that we take so lightly here in America: blessings of paved roads, blessings of clean, accessible water, blessings of having indoor homes where the rain and bugs stay out, and blessings of healthcare. Most importantly, I became aware of the blessing we have of freedom. War has never been something I have had to see in my own country, yet it is so prevalent in other parts of the world and many die each day for terrible reasons. Nicaragua will always hold a special place in my heart and I hope one day to return again. I'm thankful to God for opening this opportunity up to me and allowing me to meet such a beautiful people.



Nepal and India Report 2018

...continued from page 1

We experienced miracles along the way. Men were brought into our path by extraordinary circumstance. The Spirit filled our mouths as the three of us shared in succession so that the message was delivered complete and in harmony. The hearts of men were changed. A failed flashlight gave light only when needed to share scripture and at no other time of need. One early morning Brother Doug prayed silently for the message to be delivered that day. Two messages were presented to his mind before he was led to personally speak on the third message presented to him. Later that morning, knowing nothing of Doug's experience, Brother Andrew stood and delivered the first message, and I stood and delivered the second. Lastly, Brother Doug stood and delivered the third of the three. He later bore witness of God's working by the Spirit.

When all that we have is the Lord, we realize that He is all that we will ever need. God is marshaling His army, revealing His Son, calling His servants, and sending forth His gospel. The Saints can rejoice in these latter days, knowing that the small afflictions which sour the day cannot turn back the unyielding forces of heaven that herald the coming Kingdom.

Ministry in Ontario, Canada

by Brother Michael Livingston



At the end of March my dad, Gary Livingston, and I went to visit a family who lives in Ontario, Canada. We were very blessed by our visit there. We stayed with Crystal and Todd Lavigne and their children, Michael, Alicia, Dylan, Matthew, and Joshua. The ages of the children are, Michael 18, Alicia 17, Dylan 10, Matthew 8, and Joshua 5.

When we flew in and met the family, we could already feel the Spirit that they carried with them. We didn't feel like strangers at all, and we felt very much a part of their family. In fact, that was the number one rule they had for us while we were there: to make ourselves at home, and we did just that! They were very, very good to us.

My dad taught classes to the younger boys during the day and taught classes to the whole family at night. The younger boys were very eager to learn and they all wanted to pray before every class, so my dad let each one of them pray. They didn't ever want the classes to end. Even during the evening classes, with the whole family, the classes would last for a couple hours, but they still wanted it to keep going. We felt very blessed by those boys. I was especially blessed by Michael and Alicia because they were my age. I was able to spend a lot of time with them and to get to know them both better.

They wanted to take my dad and I to a lot different places. We first went to Dundurn Castle which was during our second day there. We also went to a couple waterfalls because Hamilton, the city where we were staying, is well-known for their many waterfalls. We also went to Niagara Falls at the end of our stay there. Niagara Falls is the most amazing thing I have ever seen. It was absolutely beautiful. And of course being in Canada we had to get poutine at the famous Harvey's. As many of you know of my liking for potatoes, poutine is now my favorite way to have them!

All in all God very much blessed us on the trip. We now have a new family in Canada. It's just so amazing to me how we had never met this family before, but yet we felt so at home with them. God is so amazing and powerful in all of His ways. I will never forget this trip and I don't think my dad will ever forget it either. We were very blessed.



Mother's Day Dinner

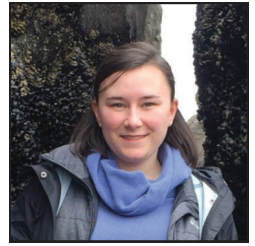
by Sister Sharon Trammell

May 18, 2018 was the annual Mother's dinner. We gathered this year at the new home of Brian and Melissa Herren and were served a delicious dinner. The meal was prepared and served by Brian and Benjamin Herren. On the menu was: chicken and mozzarella raviolis with sun-dried tomato cream sauce, roasted asparagus and homemade focaccia bread. Everything was beautifully presented and the fellowship between all the women who attended was very joyous. Again, I was doubly blessed to not only be able to attend, but to be joined by my mother-in-law at this wonderful event. I believe that all who attended were blessed by the Spirit that prevailed.



Horse Riding Adventures!

by Sister Maddy Clark



This year, the Youth Commission decided that we would adopt an annual theme with the goal of implementing that theme in as many of the activities involving the Builders and Climbers as we could. The Youth Commission determined stewardship is one of the most important things that we could try to impart to the youth.

On Saturday, May 26th, two of the Builders and Climbers had the opportunity to go out to my parents' house and ride horses. Emily and Ben had a wonderful time riding Misha and Pippin and playing with my parents' dogs Neenah and Keshena. However, with animals, as much as there is fun, there is also work to be done.

Riding is always the best part of horses, but before that can happen there are other more menial tasks that need to be completed. The most important of these were lessons on safety! Where can a horse see you? Where can't they see you? How do you turn a horse while standing on the ground and minimize the risk of being stepped on? Why is it a bad idea to yell or be loud and run or make sudden movements around horses?

The next lesson was all about getting a horse ready to ride. Emily and Ben willingly took to these chores with gusto, learning how to use different types of brushes, where to brush a horse so the saddle sits comfortably, and how to clean their feet to remove rocks. They then carried heavy saddles by themselves and, with some assistance, got the saddles on!

We spent a little while learning how to stop a horse, how to ask them to walk and how to turn. Then we moved on to fun things! We played Simon Says on horseback ("Simon says, touch your horse's ear"), learned a game called "around the world" (in which the rider has to turn 360 degrees in the saddle as fast as they can-- Ben won this one, although his saddle was easier to move around in), and rode backwards. The kids then wanted to go say hi to the cow and throw balls for the dogs, so Lisa and Cessaries took the chance to get on the horses as well.

Horses are so much fun and I truly believe that they are an example of the wonderful work that God does. How easily horses trust humans and how willing they are to take care of us! Misha was feeling a little bit frisky before Emily got on her, but the second she did, Misha settled down and went to work. She knows when she has a kid on her back (and actually loves it).

The service in this activity came when the time for riding was done. My dad had foot surgery a couple months ago and it has been harder for him to clean the horse stalls than usual. So, once we took the saddles off the horses and made sure they were comfortable, the kids and the adults went to work cleaning the stalls. It's messy and smelly work and there were more than one "ewws" exclaimed, but the chore completed the circle of care required to own a horse.

This day provided an opportunity for the youth to see the responsibilities required when you own an animal and how much more work needs to go into them besides feeding and exercising. Horses in particular require extra care and lots of love. Emily brought apples for the horses, and my parents provided some carrots, which the horses really enjoyed!

We were blessed to have good weather, good food, and good company. God is great! I cannot wait to do another horseback riding adventure; next time hopefully all the youth will be able to join us.





Fellowship in Painting

by Sister Cessaries Galusha

Maddy Clark blessed both the Builders and Lambs, and the Ladies Relief Society with teaching them a very fun and experimental craft. All were a bit timid on their first try, not wanting to mess up the seemingly complicated process, but after learning how, the process turned out to be quite simple. The complexity came in the reactions of the materials themselves! She called it Acrylic Pouring, and everyone chose three colors they liked best, or colors that would match something for decoration. Beyond that, it was like painting with blinders on! You never knew what would happen and what the painting would look like in the end. It was a marvel to watch the colors mixing and moving, with cells forming up from the midst. It was a very messy process, with paint all over one's hands, the table, and possibly clothes, not only the canvas itself!

This was an activity both the children and adults could enjoy, and even if one used the exact same colors and proportions, the paintings would look entirely different and unique from each other. What a wonderful way to make gifts for friends and family! Thank you so much, Maddy, for sharing with us your gifts of art, skills, home and supplies! Everyone was blessed in learning and in fellowshiping with each other.



Scripture Game Show!

by Sister Lisa Dukes

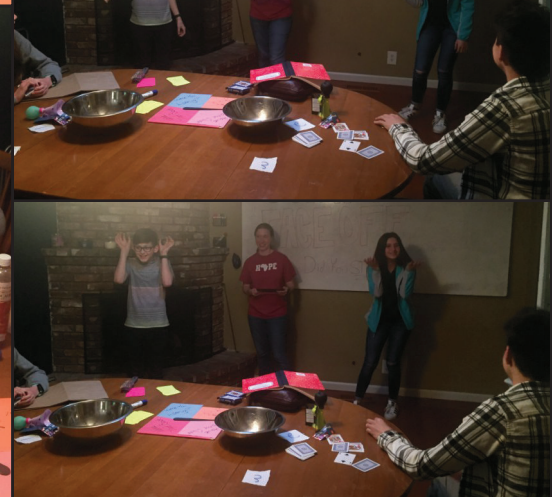
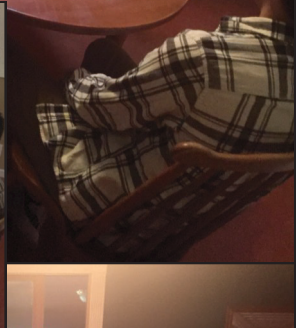


On March 17, 2018 the builders and climbers gathered together to test their knowledge of the scriptures in a game show style competition. Two groups went against each other to compete in "Scripture Faceoff!" They were tested on questions ranging from Sunday School, to recent sermons, as well as some random challenges that were activity based. There was even a category where a completely random section of scriptures were read and the children would see if they knew what book I was reading from. As it turned out, Cessaries always got the answer right, even when it was a very difficult section (though the kids got many of the sections correct themselves).

To discourage random guessing, penalties were given to incorrect answers. One such penalty was a team had to have their arms behind their back which made the random challenge that had come up very difficult as they had to make an artistic representation of "the lion and the lamb" using colored geometric shapes. They had to use their noses to move the pieces around. They did a pretty good job all things considering.

The final challenge was a charades activity where the children were given access to the scriptures and they had to perform a parable for the youth commissioners, who would judge based on how well we understood which parable they were representing, and how well it was performed. It was close, but one team prevailed.

Our youth really knew their scriptures and the material they have been studying in class.



Youth Serve the Parents!

by Sister Cessaries Galusha

All of the youth came together in a wonderful activity of fun, fellowship and service on May 20th. The Youth Commission have inquired after the youth on a few occasions to know what kind of activities they would enjoy, and Brother Daniel Herren very excitedly requested that they be able to cook a meal and serve it. We decided on the parents of the youth to be the recipients of this shared meal, as a thank you from the youth for all the tireless service they give.



When the youth first heard about the activity a week before, they immediately began suggesting dishes they could make, and they all were breakfast dishes. The Youth Commission were a little taken back, since we were not serving breakfast, but lunch! Each person had a dish they were excited to help with, so it was concluded that we would have an afternoon breakfast for the parents!



Immediately following church services, both the Builders and the Lambs walked over to Lisa and Aaron Dukes' home to begin preparations. It was a simple task for the youth to team up and prepare their dishes they were already excited about. Daniel and Gabriella cooked the bacon, Ben and Kaitlin made scrambled eggs, Ginger and Donovan made pancakes to perfection, and Caleb chose to be the master of table settings. Emily came in a bit later and took care of the sausage for us as well as helping where needed. It was amazing to see them work so well together, without complaints and asking for what they could do when their job was done. Washing dishes and cleaning up garbage was the least favorite chore, but when all was finished, they had a wonderful feast prepared!

The youth were able to serve their parents, and sit down with them to enjoy the feast. It was nice to see the parents relaxing and visiting so comfortably without needing to worry about any of the work. The youth finished eating and cleaned up everything, taking dishes and even putting a table and chairs away while the parents continued to visit. What a blessing to find the youth so willing to serve in this way, happy to give back to their parents a small token of thanks for all they do for them!



Builders Day at the Beach

March 10, 2018

