

Brother's Keeper:

The Comings and Goings of the Pacific Northwest

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Regional Dates:

- Women's Retreat:
April 12-14
- Men's Retreat:
June 7-9
- Youth Camp:
July 14-19
- Reunion:
August 12-18
- Priesthood Retreat:
September 13-15
- Fall Conference:
October 4-6

Regional Update for 2013

Dear Saints,

Please pray for the following men and women who were elected into regional offices at the Regional Fall Conference on October 6, 2012:

Regional Director: Elder Brian Herren, Pastor

Counselors to Regional Director: Elder Glenn Vaughn, Pastor

Elder Gary Jones, Pastor

Regional Youth Director: Priest Jim Clark

Regional Women's Director: Sister Sue Herren

Regional Treasurer: Priest Jim Clark

Regional Secretary: Sister Joanne Vaughn

Regional Activities Director: Priest Jeff Rew

Regional Music Director: Sister Cessaries Galusha

Regional Church School Director: Elder Gary Livingston

Please also support Priest Jeff Rew, who has accepted an appointment to serve as the regional auditor. The regional theme for 2013 is taken from I Nephi 3:187: "Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion". I look forward to the way that the Lord will bless us with greater understanding of His plan for Zion as we continue to study, pray, and fast in search of greater enlightenment and a renewed dedication to His purpose in us. As we continue, let us remember that Zion was first a people, before it was ever a city (Genesis 7:23-25). When we ponder her earliest manifestation, long before the days of Jews or Gentiles, and look for the day of her redemption, let us consider how it is that we might please the Lord and be the people that He has called us to be. The pastors of the Vancouver and Puyallup Restoration branches have been asked to write a few words to encourage our congregations and challenge us in our present pursuit of righteousness. Their words are printed here for our consideration.

Your brother and servant in Christ, Brian Herren.

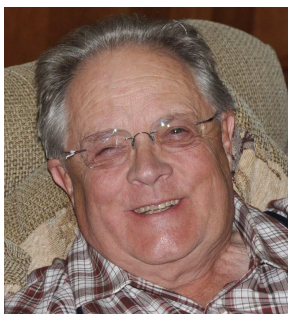


*Brother Gary
Jones*

A Few Words from Brother Gary Jones, pastor Puyallup

Brothers and Sisters, We see our nation going down the path of old, where we forget about our Lord and Savior as a nation. We forget He has set this nation a part for his purpose and that His purpose will not be frustrated. Our founding fathers warned us of this, as do our scriptures. Yet we see our nation dwindling in unbelief right before our eyes. It brings the question, "what can we do"? The answer is simple, yet difficult at times. We must subdue the natural man and become the spiritual man that God has created us to be, and to seek to bring forth his Zion. We are told not to put our trust in men, but to trust the Lord. I would like to leave you an invitation to come up higher than you ever have, that you truly live your life by the celestial law, that you love God with all your heart, might, and strength, and your neighbor likewise. Regardless of what lies ahead, Fear not but Believe.

A Few Words from Brother Glenn Vaughn, pastor Vancouver



Brother Glenn Vaughn

My Blue Hubbard Squash

Each spring, I head North of Battleground, Washington, to Carla's Greenhouse to buy vegetable "starts" for my garden. I have been doing this for the past four years. I trust her to provide healthy, disease-free plants. My desire is to purchase heirloom plants from which I can harvest the meat of the squash as well as the seeds. Heirloom seeds allow fruit of it's own kind to be brought forward..."Blue Hubbard" heirloom squash seeds reproduce themselves in true fashion and do not "morph" into something less recognizable or desirable. This year, I planted six squash plants, having brought these "jewels" home with anticipation. I did everything that I was supposed to do...I fertilized, watered, weeded...I prayed over my plants...and they grew! And they grew, and they grew!! Not quite like "Jack and the beanstalk", but close! By harvest time in October, there was a beautiful squash jungle that took up over one quarter of my garden space. It was quite a sizeable area! And the plants produced more squash than I could ever eat without help. Many weighed more than twenty pounds...and all were dense and richly colored, both inside and out. Harvesting one squash and making it ready to eat required the additional use of a cleaver and a hammer in order to crack it open. It was easy to see that I would be able to share the fruits of my labor. I was richly blessed with both the squash and the seeds...a gift from my Heavenly Father...and now I would lovingly share it with others that I knew! I am mindful that this experience is a type and shadow of one's spiritual life. If we prepare ourselves with "pure" intent by holding true to the gospel we can be as heirloom seeds. If we study, pray, and fast (plant, fertilize, water, and weed), our seeds will prosper and multiply. Harvesting allows us to share of his bounty with others...and they, in turn, can nurture new life from their own heirloom seeds! If six plants produce more than 300 pounds of squash, and the seed of one squash produces more than 300 seeds, there is no limit to the bounty...unless there is no work, no desire to share! The beauty of the squash is in the seed it produces. Let us be a body of fertile heirloom squash seeds...and let us ask God to bless us and watch over our growth while we provide the labor. Sowing our seed should be our service and delight until all are safely gathered in.

Priesthood Retreat 2012

By Brother Mitch Arndt



The Priesthood was especially blessed this year with a good turnout from most areas within the region including High Priests Bill Curtis and John Henderson. Classes were given by Elder Gary Jones, Elder Wray Moreland, H.P. John Henderson, and H.P. Bill

Curtis. The Vancouver and Salem branches contributed to daily worship services, and the leadership from Puyallup led us in worship on Sunday morning. It was a powerful opportunity to come together and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All good things must come to an end: this was the last event at Kiwanda as the availability for these resources have been cancelled. Next year's Men's Retreat will be at the Lewis River Campgrounds Sites for the Priesthood Retreat are being evaluated. Special thanks to April Jones, Heide Lang and Jan Esquivel for preparing the delicious meals and desserts during the weekend.

Reunion 2013

By Brother Brian Herren

The Northwest Regional Reunion is scheduled to begin on the evening of Monday, August 12, 2013 and continue through Sunday morning, August 18, 2013. This will effectively extend reunion by one full day, allowing for an additional evening preaching service and day of classes. The change was discussed with the pastors of the local branches, who provided unanimous support. We agreed that the addition would benefit those with a mind to increase the opportunities the Saints have to worship collectively and fellowship. Those who prefer to begin their time at reunion on Tuesday are still able to do so. Historically, reunions within the Church originated in Iowa in 1883, and were 8 days long. Today, many celebrated reunions continue for one full week. In a time when men often give less, expect less, and receive less, this may represent an opportunity to grow. Your prayers and preparation for reunion are truly appreciated, as we come together in unity.

2013 Northwest Regional Men's Retreat

June 7-9, 2013, Lewis River Campgrounds

Regional Theme:

"...Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion..."

— 1 Nephi 3:187

Friday

- 6:00 Arrival and Dinner
7:30 Introduction to Weekend – *Brother Brian Herren*
8:00 Song Service and Words of Counsel – *Brother Bill Curtis*

Saturday

- 8:00 Breakfast
8:45 Song Service – *Brother Jim Clark*
9:00 Classes
- 1) Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion...
as righteous fathers and husbands - *Brother Mike Terry*
 - 2) Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion...
as good stewards - *Brother Jeff Rew*
- Lunch
- 1:30 Class
- 3) Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion...
as one body - *Brother Gary Jones*
- 3:00 Croquet challenge
5:00 Dinner
6:00 Music to Glorify God - *Brothers Gary Livingston, Michael Livingston, and Kevin Herren*

Sunday

- 8:00 Breakfast
8:45 Prayer Service – *Brothers Mike Esquivel and Mitch Arndt*
Communion Service – *Brothers Glenn Vaughn and Gary Jones*
Final Words and Counsel – *Brothers Bill Curtis and John Henderson*

REGISTRATION

Please send \$85 to: Jim Clark – 4577 Sunflower Way NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305
Checks should be made out to: NW Region of Restoration Congregations or NWRRRC

"The cause of God is one common cause, in which the Saints are alike all interested; we are all members of the one common body, and all partake of the same spirit, and are baptized into one baptism and possess alike the same glorious hope. The advancement of the cause of God and the building up of Zion is as much one man's business as another's."

– Joseph Smith Jr.

2013 Northwest Regional Women's Retreat

April 12-14, 2013, Menucha Retreat & Conference Center

Regional Theme:

"...Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion..."

— 1 Nephi 3:187

Friday

- 5:30 Registration
- 6:30 Welcome and Announcements (prayer for dinner)
- 7:00 Dinner
- 7:45 Song service
- 8:00 Future Citizens of Zion
- 8:45 Campfire
- 10:00 Lights out

Saturday

- 7:45 Song service (prayer for breakfast)
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:45 Worship (Vancouver branch)
- 9:15 "A Mother's Counsel" "Through wisdom is a house builded; and by understanding it is established" Proverbs 24:3
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Class
- 11:45 Prayer for lunch
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Song service
- 1:15 Class
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Free Choice: Craft with Sister Dianna Clark
/ Recreation Walk / Sharing
- 5:45 Prayer for dinner
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:00 Song Service
- 7:15 Worship (Puyallup branch)
- 7:45 Talent and Sharing: "Gifts for the Lord"
- 10:00 Lights out

Sunday

- 7:45 Song service (prayer for breakfast)
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Worship (Salem Branch)
- 9:30 Prayer Service
- 11:00 Communion Service

REGISTRATION

Please send \$125 (\$132 if joining in the craft)
to Jim Clark for full registration –
4577 Sunflower Way NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305
Checks should be made out to: NW Region of
Restoration Congregations or NWRRC
(Commuter Rate / Single Day is \$25 and
includes lunch)

Greeting Good Sisters,

As we welcome another year, I am pleased to provide this information to you about the Women's Retreat. Last year at the end of our Retreat we decided to meet in 2013 at Menucha Retreat & Conference Center in Corbett, OR and a deposit was made.

New this year is a "Special Gift" for everyone that has their money and registration in by 3/10/13. Menucha has imposed a deadline for registering to attend: 3/19/13. We need to be able to turn all the information into Menucha at this time and will be charged accordingly. Register quickly! (see the blue box above)

At Fall Conference, it was decided that we would talk about our options and choose the location for our 2014 retreat. Time has been set aside to do this at retreat. I will pass along all the information I have been able to gather. If you have any information or concerns you would like included please e-mail it to me at suzyherren@gmail.com or mail it to me at Suzy Herren, 4923 49th Ave NE Salem, OR 97305.

If you are willing to share a photo of you as a little girl along with your favorite scripture that would be wonderful. All photo's will be returned at the retreat. I will be contacting your branches to make arrangements to collect them, and use them in a neat project to be enjoyed at the retreat. Please dig them up! I am very excited this year about the time we have to spend together in fellowship and with Our Heavenly Father. I look forward to visiting with each and everyone of you. May God continue to Bless and keep you, Suzy



Sister Sue Herren

Fall Youth Retreat, 2012-Winter Retreat and Youth Camp 2013

By Brother Jim Clark



Brother Jim Clark

Eleven of the regions youth came together in the spirit of our Lord and Savior to praise and glorify His Holy name at the Vancouver church. A rousing game of biblical Jeopardy came down to the final question, during which they called upon their knowledge of the scriptures, and learned some as well. Who was ordained at the age of ten? Our youth also planted over three hundred trees and shrubs during a community service project coordinated by Solv.

Fellowship and friendship were self evident, they communicated well with one another. This was demonstrated by the decibel level during "hall time". Their willingness to serve and help each other in any way shines forth as an example of His love. Sister Dianna kept all fed and watered, while Sister Cessaries shared her gift of music, both of whom were greatly appreciated! Classes taught by Brother Brian and Brother Jeff provided instruction on how we can overcome adversity and show forth an example worthy of the Kingdom of God. The youth participated in these classes and enjoyed the opportunity to learn together. How are all of you doing with your preparation commitment? Finally a visit to Wings and Waves gave all time to run, laugh, and splash with each other. The Winter Retreat is coming soon, I look forward to our retreat at the coast. Let us once more be united under our Heavenly Father to learn and joy and love one another, as we strive to grow in and shine forth His gospel! All to ready ourselves for Zion and His eternal kingdom. If you plan to attend the Winter Retreat let me know (jimbones67@centurylink.net) as

soon as possible so I can plan transportation. We will leave from and return to the Vancouver church, so notification will be extremely necessary. Please call or email. I look forward to seeing and sharing with all of you again! Also, please begin to prepare for youth camp, July 14-19, 2013 at Lewis River Campgrounds. This has been a special place to the Saints for many years, and some of the older Saints will remember going to youth camps there when they were younger. There are many, many things to look forward to at camp, and one of them is the ministry of Elder Doug Smith, who has been invited to serve as camp pastor. Brother Doug is highly sought after and ordinarily serves as camp pastor at Mammoth Camp in Independence (some from the Northwest have attended) during the same week as our camp. After prayerfully considering our request, Brother Doug felt that the Lord was prompting him to serve here this year. He plays the guitar, shares a lot of testimonies, and has a wonderful reputation as camp pastor. Brother Doug has organized and pastored youth camps in many different states and countries, but remains a humble and kind servant. We look forward to his ministry very much, along with many local leaders who will serve as counselors.



Some of the Youth at the Fall Retreat, 2012

Elder Doug Smith

By Brother Ron Smith (Lamoni, Iowa)



Brother Doug Smith

his family have been on missionary trips to Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC (Congo), and the Philippines.

Doug Smith was born in Hilo Hawaii, where his parents, Seventy Delbert and Mildred Smith, were assigned at the time. As the son of a missionary, he had many homes, including Lamoni, Iowa, Westlaco, Texas, Independence, Missouri, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. While in Canada, he became incapacitated with rheumatoid arthritis, but experienced a remarkable healing. He attended Graceland College (now University) in Lamoni, Iowa for his undergraduate degree. For two summers, he traveled with a singing group, the Graceland Ramblers. He also spent one semester at Tel Aviv University in Israel. He earned a Master Degree in Nutrition from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and was accepted to medical school at Washington University in St. Louis where he obtained his MD. He joined the navy to help pay for his medical school, and served as a Navy Doctor in Adak, Alaska, and Barstow, California. He married Judi Gaucher, of Maysville, Missouri. They have four children, Brett, Lauren, Natalie, and Brian, and one granddaughter, Sydney. Doug and Judi and their family have participated in many missionary endeavors across the globe. They lived in Australia for a year and a half, and in Nairobi, Kenya for nine months. In addition, Doug and various members of

Men Do Not Often Stumble Into the Presence of the Lord

By Brother Brian Herren



Brother Brian Herren

Men do not often stumble into the presence of the Lord, nor is He most easily discerned by those distracted by self-interest and pride. No, more often the Lord is revealed to those who have been liberated from themselves through a disciplined obedience to His counsel. It may seem paradoxical, that those who bind themselves more strictly to His will find themselves more free in the end, but when one is motivated by love, sacrificial offerings find a greater meaning in opportunity than they once did in obedience to the law. It is better to obey than to sacrifice, but both works are fulfilled in the heart of one disinterested in one's own welfare for the vision he has caught of His Father's Kingdom. Men are often moved by way of comfort. The decisions we make are made to make us comfortable, to entertain us, to make us impressive to others, to win favor, or make us happy. A better way finds one governed by principle, and there are no finer principles whereby the government of men might be executed than by those illuminated in the will of God. Men do not often stumble into the presence of God. It is a revelation most often reserved for the disciplined, both in body and spirit. In body, that we liberate ourselves from self-interest; and in spirit, that we might rightfully sanctify the temple of the Lord. Perhaps many enjoy a true desire to experience the power of the Lord, but how many engage in those preparatory measures whereby it is invoked. It is easier to settle for less. Rather than purge our lives of distractions, untoward allegiances, uncomely conduct, lazy worship, idle moments, unproductive business, excess laughter, hours of leisure in television and movies, etc., we may choose to settle for less. Perhaps, rather than the power of the Lord's presence, we might settle for an occasional priesthood visit or a timely sermon. Instead of the humbling and overwhelming experience of the Holy Spirit wherein every element of one's soul is filled with light and shaken with glory, we might settle for the spirit of brotherly love and emotional sharing in our time together. Instead of preaching, one might settle for storytelling. At best, those who settle do so willingly. At worst, they have settled for so long that they no longer can rightly divide the two. For those who would not settle, particular demand is placed upon every moment, that each day might find itself redeemed in the purchase of God's will at the expense of our own.

For too long, men have sought to carry both in one hand. We can choose our master, but we can only choose one. To choose two is to choose one, and suffer the mediocrity that cankers the Church to some degree in every generation. Be hot or be cold, but be something. And if something, then something worthy of God's indwelling. We will not stumble into the presence of the Lord. He will be found by those who exert themselves in every effort to liberate themselves from the captivity of ignoble principalities. If one is governed by money, he has his governor. If another is governed by self-aggrandizement, he has his governor. Another is governed by time, another by food, another by sleep. Each has their governor and an allegiance divided. The scriptures record the lives of some who successfully overthrew these governments so that they might pledge themselves to a different kind of kingdom. But the overthrow of the natural government, those worldly influences men accept as a guide (money, time, honor, leisure, etc.), has never been dressed in the countenance of ease and pleasure. This overthrow is necessarily arduous. Moses sojourned 40 days at the top of a mountain to meet with the Lord. We may find it difficult to make time for Wednesday and Sunday services. Elijah traveled on foot 40 days and nights to commune with the Lord at Horeb. We might find it hard to drive 70 miles to reunion. We read of Christ: "in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed". Some may find it difficult to roll out of bed in time to study the scriptures before work. Brother Enos disciplined himself in mighty prayer all day long and into the night. Men may find it hard to make time for focused, uninterrupted prayer. Under the leadership of Alma, the Church gathered often to pray together. We may find prayer services inconvenient. The Lord fasted 40 days in communion, and the Saints once gathered together often to fast collectively. This may seem unnecessary to some today. The early missionaries of the Restoration walked hundreds of miles, they walked in the snow, they slept on the ground with their coats for pillows, and they left their families for months to preach, teach, and deliver the Book of Mormon. Brother J.J. Cornish threw his swing up into the branches of the tree in his front yard on Saturday evening, lest any young one decide to play on Sunday. Card games, gambling, alcohol, and dancing were forbidden. Some may think these men had no fun at all. Perhaps they didn't (I believe they did), but what they did have...

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Men Do Not Often Stumble Into the Presence of the Lord

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...were unparalleled spiritual blessings, revelations, visions, tongues and interpretation, miracles, healings, and an undeniable presence of the Holy Spirit. It would be a great disservice, and one offensive to the truth, to disassociate the daily discipline of our fathers and the rich spiritual blessings they received. Is there some better way today? If so, then one would expect the bearer of such a plan to also be the recipient of such immeasurable spiritual outcomes. In the absence of such, it seems reasonable to honor the former. Remember, when our brother Isaac desired water, he dug wells in the earth. He could have chosen to dig his wells anywhere in the land, but he chose to return again to the wells which his father had once dug. Isaac dug the same wells as his father Abraham, and behold, he too found the same water that had sustained those that had come before him (Genesis 26:18). Read Jeremiah 6:16 also.



The Lord is Good. He is Wonderful. God loves us with an abiding affection that will not tarnish with time or extinguish upon our wrongdoing. I believe that it is His desire to bless us, and I believe that it is our desire to be blessed. Zion will be redeemed, the Saints clothed with light, the fullness of the Kingdom manifest and the enemies of God's children subdued. The faithful will be redeemed and crowned at the right hand of God. The glory of God will shine radiantly forever. Every tear will be wiped away and His Majesty will liberate the captives. The day of peace will come, and the sons of men will rest. But, we will not stumble into the presence of our Lord by chance in that day, nor will we find a fuller revelation of His Son today in the throws of apathy. He will be found today in the same place He has always been found, and I suspect, by the same disciplined means. Should the question arise, "why not these gifts today, in power, as in the days of old?" or "why do we not receive as our fathers once did?", let us closely examine the rudimentary discipline of those which the Spirit did honor, and discover the surrender of their will for the reception of His. He is as willing today to bless His sons and daughters as He has been in any dispensation. The Spirit is willing, but perhaps the flesh is weak. We would do well to remember the scriptural admonition, that "it is by grace that we are saved, **after** all we can do" (II Nephi 11:44). It might be well to ask ourselves if we have truly done "all we can do". In the closing words of the Book of Mormon, Moroni reiterates that His grace is sufficient for us...**if** we deny ourselves of ALL ungodliness, and love God with ALL our might, mind, and strength (Moroni 10:29). This is the measure of love that inspired the obedience of those we discover in the scriptures, and ultimately invoked the charitable display of power and glory that the Church still needs today. But, we will not stumble into the presence of the Lord. It will be a dedicated and disciplined people who are awarded this great privilege. I pray that we might be numbered among that people.