



Brother's Keeper:

The Comings and Goings of the Pacific Northwest

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2014 Regional Theme

By Brother Brian Herren

"For we are laborers together with God..." - I Corinthians 3:9

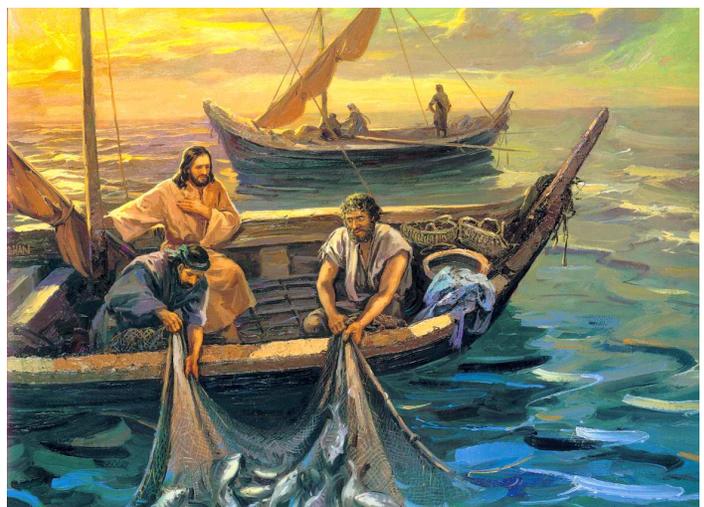
This theme builds upon last year's theme. Last year, the definition and principles of Zion were given thorough treatment in many classes and sermons, identifying the term with God's people (Genesis 7:23; D/C 94:5c). Now, our pursuit in understanding Zion may be blessed by the simultaneous outreach of our best faculties in daily life. Not leaving those principles expounded upon in good form last year, one can hardly ignore that these principles demand the just and equal response of every honest man. Understanding a principle makes one accountable for his reaction to such an understanding, which is the underpinning of justice. To be gathered as one and understand the nature of God revealed in the physical expression of His kingdom is not the end of His creation in us, but rather the foundation upon which our continued labor might one day return it's fruit. To build upon the foundation of Christ will require more than an understanding of His doctrine, it will require a dedicated response to that understanding. To our collective mind and righteous desire, we must offer the best of our labor. Those who wait for the kingdom of God will not bear the fruit that is familiar to those who labor daily as though they were already citizens.

Men are called to be fellow laborers with God, and once freed from the bondage of selfishness, they find their most complete satisfaction in the fulfillment of this commission. It is tempting to the man of God, one who wholly recognizes God's omnipotence and majesty, to defer all sense of obligation upon this earth to the One who ultimately has power over it. Such temptations must be dismissed in the acknowledgment of our present mission. Men were not created to receive the uncertain ends of a passive existence. They were placed upon this earth in the very likeness of God (Genesis 1:27), whose works are without end (D/C 22:23), to improve their estate daily through submission and obedience to the God who is at all times disposed toward the best interests of His creatures.

Regional Dates:

- Women's Retreat:
March 14-16
- Men's Retreat:
May 16-18
- Youth Camp:
June 28-July 3
- Reunion:
August 11-17
- Priesthood Retreat:
September 19-21
- Fall Conference:
October 3-5

Any system of thought that ultimately concludes that man is a passive creature to be acted upon by the forces of the heavens alone, is a system of thought that will leave her adherents complacent, fearful, and superstitious. It is not heretical to suppose that man should labor at the side of God. In fact, it is the perfect acknowledgement of the nature of our creation and the purpose for which we are given any power of Him. If not to labor at



His side, to what end are men endowed with any portion of His power? Not only is it acceptable to acknowledge man's call to reform his nature to match the will of God through discipline, it is a partial denial of God's work and glory to suggest an alternative purpose behind the power invested in us. If the work and glory of God is to bring about the eternal life and salvation of men, it should also be the work and glory of all men who align their purposes with the purposes of God. ...continued on page 2

2014 Regional Theme

...continued from page 1

One might begin this great labor in faith and repentance, turning unto Christ in Whom our only mode of atonement is realized with a brightness of hope, and continue it thereafter by the careful and compassionate observance of His principal mission toward mankind. We might consider whether we wait for God to command or compel us before we bring about those works we already know to be good, or whether we exercise them of our own free will, being anxiously engaged in the matter, Doctrine and Covenants 58:6c-f:

"...behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things, for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward. Verily I say, Men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; for the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good, they shall in nowise lose their reward. But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned."



This year, let our understandings of Zion now yield renewed interest and fervency in those works entrusted to our hands. Let us labor at God's side, along with His angels and the Holy Spirit, by Whom our access to the Divine is administered peaceably and without cost. The spirit of revival will fill the breasts of those willing to embrace this theme, and find them the rightful heirs to the urgency by which godly men have set their hands to the plow in every generation before us. Should the matters of this world foment resistance to the good will of our present intent, we might remember the following admonition from Luke 14:15-24 :

"And when one of them who sat at meat with him, heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper and bade many; And sent his servants at supper time, to say to them who were bidden, Come, for all things are now ready. And they all, with one consent, began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it; I pray thee have me excused.

And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, therefore I cannot come.

So that servant came and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servants, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring hither the poor, and the maimed, the halt and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. The Lord said unto his servant, Go out into the highways, and hedges, and compel men to come in, that my house may be filled; For I say unto you, That none of those men who were bidden, shall taste of my supper."

Let this year be a year without excuse, a year of sound labor, bringing our bodies into harmony with our understandings...for we are fellow laborers with God. It seems fitting that we remember that when Christ invited us to learn of Him and find rest, He showed us that to do so is not to remove the yoke of labor, but actually to "take my yoke upon you" (Matthew 11:30). We are to be fellow laborers with God.

This year, we have an opportunity to consider how it is that we might serve as a fellow laborer with God in a more focused way: as men, as women, as the younger, as the older, as the head of our homes, as the married, as the unmarried, as those in the priesthood and those not ordained. Every person will find their calling made sure in the labor to which God invites us, and upon which mankind depends. We might also consider those qualities of character that would make us more acceptable as a yoke fellow to Christ: broken hearted and contrite in spirit, steadfast, immovable, fearless, joyful, peaceable, exercising temperance, faithful, hopeful, charitable, meek, tender, resilient, gentle, good, wise, knowledgeable, submissive, enduring, long-suffering, patient, anxiously engaged, forgiving, insightful, surrendering, overcoming, valiant in testimony, uncompromising in truth, bold in the gospel, unashamed of the work, kind, showing good stewardship, of a sound mind, fit in body, uncorrupted, innocent, honest, just, merciful, bridled in tongue, restrained in heart, passionate for the kingdom, giving, without complaint or murmur, sacrificial, compliant, righteous, judging rightly, dependent on God, trusting, pure, dependable, present in need, absent in gossip, lowly of heart, principled, prone to hard work, permissive of all good works, **...concluded on page 3**

2014 Regional Theme

...continued from page 2

intolerant of sin, self-examining, motivated, poor in spirit, encouraging, disciplined, prayerful, given to fasting, studious, and resolved. To these we might add many others, but in these we might find a year's worth of study, preaching, and growth. The soul so inclined will find his best efforts in reformation to be the first fruits of that yoke which is sure to make our labor delightful, the honest provision of our foremost covenant, and the rest promised of Christ in the work without end. May God be honored in the year of our Lord, two-thousand and fourteen.

Reunion 2013

By Brother Gary Livingston



Our 2013 Pacific Northwest Reunion was held in Vancouver, Washington from August 12–18. As the saints gathered together in fellowship and worship, the Spirit of God dwelt amongst us in great measure. Our 2013 Regional Theme is: "...Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion..." as recorded in I Nephi 3:157. As this was the foundation of our theme for the full reunion, we were given daily themes as follows:

Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion ...
...as a people (Tuesday)
...in repentance and forgiveness (Wednesday)
...through discipline and steadfastness (Thurs.)
...in good order (Friday)
...in humility (Saturday)

It was wonderful to see how each day our daily themes expanded and built upon the foundation of our yearly theme. We definitely felt a divine "direction" as we moved through the week. The preparatory ministry of the Aaronic priesthood was both powerful and evident as they led the Saints each day in worship before the morning prayer services as well as the evening preaching services. This preparatory ministry allowed for a greater manifestation of the Spirit through the Melchisedec priesthood as our worship services

were conducted in the proper order as designed by God. It was a real joy to witness both the Aaronic and Melchisedec priesthoods function in harmony as they fulfilled and magnified their calling. One of the many highlights of this reunion was our senior high youth. Each morning they would join together before prayer service and enter the sanctuary together, in unity, sitting in the very front pew. Each morning they would be the first to stand, taking turns to pray, as they poured out their hearts to their God. The youth in our region are truly a blessing to us all.

We were also blessed with guest ministry from the Center Place. High Priest Marlin Guin and Elder Dale Godfrey joined the Saints in the Pacific Northwest for our week of worship and praise to our Heavenly Father. The ministry these two men brought to us was inspirational as each afternoon they led us in class and discussion through presentations from the Book of Mormon Foundation. The classes were informative, educational, and filled with the Spirit these men carried with them. We were truly blessed through their humble ministry. Our 2013 Pacific Northwest Reunion was a wonderful experience. It is our hope and prayer that more saints from around the country and other parts of the world might join us next year for our 2014 reunion. May God continue to bless each of you as you strive to surrender your lives and your will to Him!



Fall Conference 2013

By Brother Jeff Rew



Brother Jeff Rew

Brothers and Sisters, as we near the close of another year I have witnessed a progression and exponential growth, collectively and personally, among the Saints within the branches of Christ's church

within the NW region. This closeness and coming together is reflected in our walk with God among His branches as a whole and also within our personal relationship one with another. It has truly brought joy to my heart to witness the outreach and strides in love which have come to pass. This year's fall conference deepened and strengthened the bonds of brotherly love through coming together in fellowship, preaching, teaching, prayer and testimonies, and singing praises unto our Father. Conference began on Friday evening with a message given through Elder Brian Moreland in which he spoke of how close our forefathers came to attaining Zion and the Zion conditions that were present during their time, speaking of those in the Book of Mormon, and those of the early church in the 1800's. Brian also spoke on conditions within our lives which must be met in order to obtain Zion conditions and prepare for Zion to be established. Saturday morning began with raising our voices in praise through song led by Brother Robert and Brother Michael, followed by communion service led by Elder Wray Moreland. It was a pleasure to witness the joy and love on my brother's face, Brian Herren, as he looked upon his young son, Benjamin, partake of the communion. It reminded me and caused reflection of the love and joy our heavenly Father has for each one of His children and the desire for each to draw closer unto Him and share in all He has to offer. Our business meeting Saturday afternoon ushered us into the leadership that would take place for the following year, as well as a coming together to set up a fund for missionary efforts. A missionary fund has been approved by the region in order to financially help where needed to spread God's word. This fund will be supplied by specifically earmarking offerings to said fund. Along with this stipulation, within the passing of the proposal, there will be a representative from Puyallup, Vancouver, and Salem who will form a missionary board to vote on petitions brought before them for the issuance of monies, provided there are monies available within the fund itself.

This creates a new office within each separate branch and each member of the missionary board will be voted in by the respective branch. Any request for funding a missionary effort will then be voted on by the three elected representatives.

Officers for the region for the upcoming year were voted in as follows:

Regional Director:	Elder Brian Herren
Activities Director:	Priest Jeff Rew
Church School Director:	Elder Gary Livingston
Youth Director:	Teacher Kevin Herren
Women's Director:	Sister Sue Herren
Music Director:	Sister Cessaries Galusha
Treasurer:	Priest Jim Clark
Secretary:	Sister Melissa Herren

Brother Brian appointed the elected Pastors of Vancouver and Puyallup to serve as his counselors. He appointed Brother Jeff Rew to serve as regional auditor.

Saturday evening continued with another song service followed by a message given through Elder Gary Livingston. Gary spoke on God's love, not conforming to the way the world would act and react, but acting and reacting to those things in our lives as God would have us do and in a manner pleasing to Him. Brother Gary spoke on those things within our lives that relate to "pop" quizzes, where we find ourselves in situations where for most people, a negative reaction is acceptable, but is not acceptable to our Lord. Sunday began with the youth in charge of a wonderful morning worship service and then class by Elder Glen Vaughn on the parable of the olive tree. Preaching was given by Elder Mike Terry in which he spoke, in harmony with all preaching this weekend, and in harmony with this year's theme taken from, 1 Nephi 3: 187, "...Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion..." Mike spoke to the passion we should all have in our lives for the gospel and the cause that we should have to bring forth Zion, and to walk in faith.

I wish to extend special thanks for the efforts by those who labored diligently to prepare for this weekend, those who came to partake of His word, and those through whom we were spiritually and physically fed. Each one who attended, served, or who were unable to do either, yet prayed for this weekend was a blessing. We have been truly blessed with His Spirit and have shared love for one another and given encouragement to seek to bring forth His Zion. Til' we meet again, may God be with you and the Lord's blessings be poured out upon you.

Missionary Efforts Receive Support at Fall Conference

The following was considered and approved by regional vote at Fall Conference, 2013

This motion is made in response to those in the region who have expressed a desire to collectively support missionary efforts. If this is the heart of the Saints, as a region, this particular motion is intended to add direction and support to their righteous desires. It is put forth in an effort to provide means that can be applied justly to each case, minimize the power and authority centralized in the office of regional director, and preserve representative oversight by the regional membership.

Background

Presently and historically, a number of Saints of the Northwest Region have expressed an interest in financially contributing to missionary efforts beyond the Northwest. At this point, those monies collected by way of offerings at regional events have been expressly collected and reserved to address the expenses of regional events. If surplus monies are collected at any particular regional event, they are applied to deficits which may be realized at other regional events. Any net surplus at the end of the year is kept in reserve against potential future regional needs.

It is imperative that monies collected at regional events be used exactly as described above because such a protocol has been clearly expressed to each regional congregation and every offering heretofore collected has been collected under these auspices. The regional director, or other regional officer, should not have authority to otherwise redirect the use of these monies. His authority in the disbursement of these funds extends only to the point that he exercises the collective will of the regional body expressed or implied in the support of regional events.

The monies in the general fund of the regional accounts should not be diverted for any purpose except by way of formal authorization granted by the regional membership at a public meeting that has been announced sufficiently in advance. At this point, the regional membership gathers one time per year, when regional business is regularly conducted.

It might also be acknowledged that diversion of regional monies from the general fund may result in a compromised ability for the region to meet those needs routinely realized in conducting the variously approved regional events. Furthermore, there may be members of the region who wish to make offerings without concern that their offerings may be redirected to works outside of the intent originally expressed in the formation of the regional treasury.

Therefore, in order to honor those expressed desires for a regional mechanism to be used in assisting missionary efforts, while maintaining the general funds necessary to supply the standard operating costs of those regional events, it may be wise to form a dedicated missionary fund separate from the general fund. Such a provision would provide a means for those wishing to contribute to missionary efforts to make offerings directly into a fund dedicated to that end. Conversely, those who wish their contributions to be used locally can continue to give without reservation.

It may be impractical to convene a regional conference each time a missionary request is to be considered, yet it remains imperative that the regional membership maintain some form of oversight of the regional treasury. Use of the general funds has been clearly defined and authority to use those funds in the described manner has been granted to the regional director. Use of the missionary funds should be subject to oversight that respects the will of each organized branch within the region. To this end, a missionary board might be established, consisting of one elected representative from each branch, elected by the individual branch, to serve on a three member missionary board. Disbursement of money from the regional missionary fund would only be made after a 2/3 affirmative vote by the missionary board.

If acted upon, this proposal would do the following:

- 1) *maintain the general funds of the regional treasury without direct compromise and without authoring the regional director to additional discretionary disbursements*
- 2) *establish a separate missionary fund to be overseen by a missionary board that is directly representative of the three organized branches of the region*

Missionary Efforts Receive Support at Fall Conference

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Considerations

- 1) Each member elected to the missionary board could arrive at his or her decision as it pertains to disbursement according to the direction of the Holy Spirit. This process might include asking the congregation which he or she represents for their voice in the matter before submitting his or her final vote.
- 2) The missionary board should consider a policy of asking those who may petition for missionary support to make such a petition in writing, with the needs for support clearly defined on paper. If the funding is offered, receipts might be kept with the original request. These files should be available for any member of the region to view upon request, and should be a part of the regional treasurer's report at each Fall Conference. Missionary endeavors are not subject to confidentiality.
- 3) When the regional body assembles at Fall Conference, motions passed by majority action could move monies between the general fund and the missionary fund by way of regular conference action.
- 4) Checks given directly for deposit into the missionary fund should be sent to the regional treasurer, and clearly marked "missionary fund". Branches, as well as individuals, may choose to contribute. Cash should not be mailed, but if passed in person to a regional officer, should be passed in an envelope clearly marked "missionary fund". If not marked, deposits will be made into the general fund.

Resolution

I move that a regional missionary fund be established, to be governed by a missionary board comprised of one elected member of each of the organized branches of the region. Disbursement of any monies from the missionary fund would require a 2/3 affirmative vote by the missionary board. Scattered Saints shall be considered a part of the nearest organized branch for the purpose of this resolution.

Don't Give Up On Us

By Brother Robert Ellison



Brother Robert Ellison

Dear Saints, In recent years I have witnessed the church grow. This growth has not just been in the number of bodies, but also in the hearts of the saints. The desire to serve the Lord has been increasing in our hearts and minds. I know that the youth have been growing closer to God and as a group also. During the 2013 youth camp the youth's friendship grew tremendously. We became of one heart and mind and strived to strengthen each other in our relationship with God. I am excited to be a part of the youth at this time in the church. I have heard in years past people saying that the youth are the future of the church and at that time I thought that was true. I now realize and I think other people have begun to realize that the youth are a part of the church now. I have felt a great desire in the youth to serve the Lord and do the best we can to serve the body of Christ. This past year we have begun to show this desire more in our actions as well. During reunion the youth as a whole would stand up and pray during prayer and testimony services. We would also do our best to serve in any way we could. This is something that I am excited to be a part of. I pray that these desires continue to grow in the youth and also in the hearts of all the saints. The youth will continue to grow stronger and I believe that good works will continue to come forth in the upcoming years. I know that this desire for me to serve the Lord came when I was able to travel to a Missouri youth camp. At that camp I dedicated myself to serving the Lord more by the way of serving my brothers and sisters. I am thankful for the many opportunities that I have been given since then. I believe the whole youth has felt this and are excited to be serving the Lord. The youth are dedicated and wanting to do our best to serve in this part of the vineyard.

Dear Saints, In recent years I have witnessed the church grow. This growth has not just been in the number of bodies, but also in the hearts of the saints. The desire to serve the Lord has been increasing in our hearts and minds. I know that the youth have been growing closer to God and as a group also. During the 2013 youth camp the youth's friendship grew tremendously. We became of one heart and mind and strived to strengthen each other in our relationship with God. I am excited to be a part of the youth at this time in the church. I have heard in years past people saying that the youth are the future of the church and at that time I thought that was true. I now realize and I think other people have begun to realize that the youth are a part of the church now. I have felt a great desire in the youth to serve the Lord and do the best we can to serve the



The youth group provides worship at Fall Conference



Priesthood Retreat 2013

By Brother Mike Terry

Despite torrential rain and stormy weather, the Spirit and the men's enthusiasm wasn't dampened at the 2013 Priesthood Retreat. The retreat was held at the Community of Christ's Lewis River Campgrounds during the weekend of September 27th thru 29th. The theme for the weekend was familiar to all and came from I Nephi 3: 187 "...Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion..." Elder Gary Livingston led the men in a song service that set the tone for the weekend with its power and Spirit.

Participation and attendance was high again this year and included High Priest Bill Curtis, High Priest John Henderson, Elder Brian Herren, Elder Gary Livingston, Elder Glenn Vaughn, Elder Wray Moreland, Elder Mark Goff, Elder Mike Terry, Priest Ed Mason, Priest Derek Henderson, Priest Jim Clark, Teacher Kevin Herren, Teacher Dave Wenholz and Deacon Dustin Mason.

Saturday began with a worship by the Salem branch that cultivated the Spirit which stayed with us throughout the day. High Priest Bill Curtis lead us through a discussion regarding the administration of the ordinances and sacraments while Elder Wray Moreland shared with us God's plan for both the Aaronic and Melchisedec Priesthood. Both classes had lively discussions and enthusiastic participation.

Sunday began with a break in the weather and a glimpse of a family of deer before the morning services. An inspired song service was led by Elder Gary Livingston that invoked the Spirit to be with us for the serving of the sacrament. The weekend concluded with words of counsel and encouragement from High Priest John Henderson. The retreat wouldn't be complete without the nourishment and sustenance provided by sisters Suzy and Melissa Herren. All who attended were blessed.

Words of our Fathers

Times and Season, volume 3, page 579. 1842.

“Not that we are personally or individually benefited in a pecuniary point of view, but when the brethren as in this instance show a unity of purpose and design, and all put their shoulder to the wheel, our care, labor, toil, and anxiety is materially diminished; ‘our yoke is made easy, and our burden is light.’ The cause of God is one common cause, in which all the saints are alike interested.”

Young Adult Group (YAG) Retreat

By Brother Dustin Mason



On the weekend of October 18-20, 2013, the young adult group (YAG) came together and shared in a wonderful couple of days together. Brothers Dustin Mason, Glenn Vaughn Jr., Clayton Morehouse, Travis Clark, Ryan Ornelia, Brian Herren, Kevin Herren and Sisters Priscilla Mason, Cessaries Galusha, Lisa Livingston, Tiffany Morehouse, Melissa Herren, Trina Herren, and Maddy Turner attended. The retreat was held at a beautiful and very large home in Sun River, Oregon. The house looked over a very peaceful nature reserve that had a pond with walking trails around it. It was truly a blessing for all that attended. The YAG arrived at the house around 7:00 pm and we settled in. Friday night we had dinner and then had

prayers for the weekend around a fire in the very spacious living room. The Holy Spirit was there from the moment we arrived. Most of us hit the hay around 11 o'clock or so. Before we went to bed, we all agreed on getting up to see the sun rise, and that's exactly what we did. We were blessed with a perfect morning. Just a little chilly. We were asked to be silent so we could meditate in the stillness of the morning as the sun was cresting over the horizon. Before we retreated back into the warm house, we sang "As The Deer". It was a great way to get the morning started. We then had a good breakfast and started class. Kevin Herren was the teacher. The class was mainly about our theme for the weekend, taken from John 4-16: But whosoever drinketh of the water which I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. We had good discussion during the class about the living waters and what the verse meant to everyone. After class we ate lunch and got ready for our hike up Black Butte. We were all blessed with a sense of accomplishment as we reached the top of this daunting task. The views were truly amazing, and I couldn't help but ponder God and all of His amazing creation. It really put into perspective how small we really are. We stayed at the top of this mountain for a short while, prayed, and then began our descent. We returned to the house just in time for dinner. It was about 8 o'clock. After dinner we proceeded with Brian Herren's class. Brian's class really helped us get a feel for Israel at the time Jesus walked the earth. He showed us that ...concluded on page 9



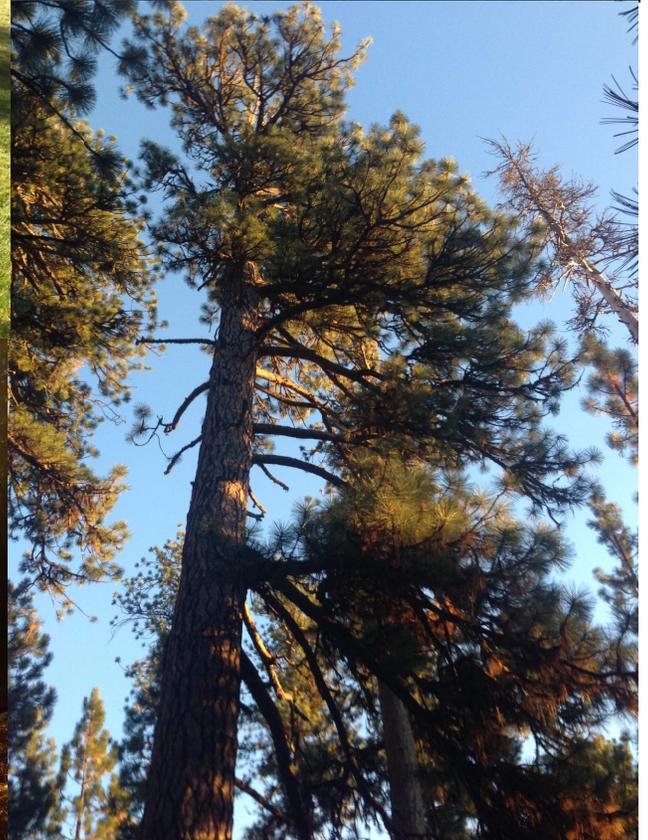
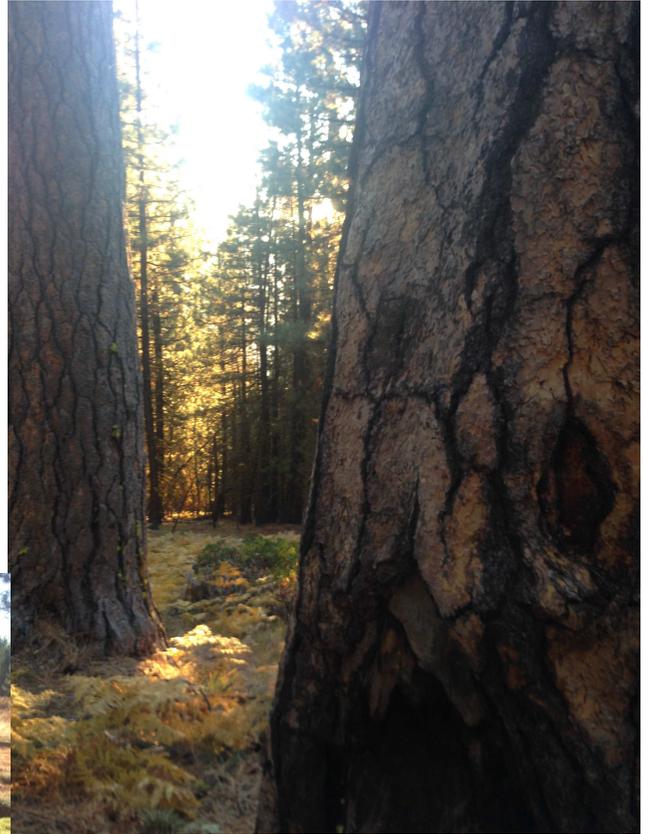
Not pictured: Brothers Brian and Clayton, Sisters Trina, Melissa, and Tiffany



Young Adult Group (YAG) Retreat

...continued from page 8

...Jesus took a path not ordinarily taken by the Jews traveling north, because he knew that he would minister to a lowly woman in Samaria and teach her of the living waters. In doing this, Jesus taught us so many life lessons. From loving our neighbors to not judging people. The class went very well, as did Kevin's. I feel the YAG were fed with spiritual fruit during both classes. After class we had a short campfire and prayers then we retreated to bed. It was a wonderful day. As we arose in the morning I could feel the presence of the Lord there with us. We ate breakfast and began our last service together. Brian shared a few words with us and then led us into a prayer service. Along with praying for others, we made bare our souls to the Lord so that we might become more humble and experience a change in our hearts. It was a perfect way to end the weekend. After the service we all pitched in where we could in order to clean the house before any of us left. I love seeing the Saints work together with smiling faces. It keeps me yearning for the day when we will all be brought together to live in Zion.



“As the deer
panteth for the
water, So my soul
longeth after
Thee. You alone
are my heart's
desire, And I long
to worship Thee.”



Northwest Regional Men's Retreat

May 16-18, 2014

Regional Theme:

"For we are laborers together with God..." - I Corinthians 3:9

Friday

- 6:00 Arrival and Dinner
7:30 Song Service – *Brother Bill Curtis*
8:00 Prayers for the Weekend – *Brother Brian Moreland*

Saturday

- 8:00 Breakfast
8:45 - 9:15 Worship - *Brothers Gary Jones, Mitch Arndt, Derek Ethbridge*
9:20 Class: For we are laborers together with God...taking up our crosses
- *Brother Gary Livingston*
Class: For we are laborers together with God...anxiously engaged
- *Brother Mike Terry*
Lunch
1:30 Class: For we are laborers together with God...a strength to His flock
- *Brother Brian Herren*
3:00 Croquet challenge
5:00 Dinner
6:30 Seven ways we might become better laborers with God by the year's end
- *Suggestions from Brothers Jim Clark and Jeff Ren, with discussion*
7:15 Music to Glorify God - *Brothers Gary Livingston, Michael Livingston, and Kevin Herren*

Sunday

- 8:00 Breakfast
8:45 Prayer Service – *Brothers Gary Jones and Ed Mason*
Communion Service – *Brothers Glenn Vaughn and Wray Moreland*
Break
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**

Northwest Regional Women's Retreat

March 14-16, 2014

Regional Theme:

"For we are laborers together with God..." - I Corinthians 3:9

Friday

- 5:30 Arrival and Sign in
- 6:30 Welcome and Announcements
- 7:00 Dinner
- 8:00 To me, laboring together with God means...
- Afterward Prayers for the weekend

Saturday

- 7:45 Song service
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:45 Worship - Puyallup
 - Class
 - Seven ways we might become better laborers with God by the year's end
- suggestions, with discussion, led by fellow sisters

- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Song Service
- 1:15 Class
- 3:00 Craft
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:00 Worship - Vancouver
- 7:30 Gifts and Talents to Glorify God

Sunday

- 7:45 Song Service
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:45 Worship - Salem
- 9:15 Prayer Service and Communion

REGISTRATION

Please send \$133 (\$125 without craft) to:

Jim Clark - 4577 Sunflower Way NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305

Checks should be made out to: NW Region of Restoration Congregations or
NWRRC



Sister Suzy Herren

Women's Retreat Note (March 14-16, 2014) : Dear Sisters, if you are planning on attending the 2014 Women's retreat, please take a moment and send me an email about what it means to you to "labor together with God": suzylherren@gmail.com. Your ideas will be presented on Friday evening of the retreat and will help us begin a weekend of discussion and learning. Also, please remember that early registration is very important at Menucha. There will be a special gift again this year for every woman who registers before February 14, 2014 (See previous page for registration information or visit www.restoredchurchofchrist.com). All registrations must be in by February 20th. Lastly, please take note of the following directives issued by Menucha Place (these are not my ideas - they are from the Menucha staff):

- ◆ Arrival before 5:00 pm is not permitted - the allotted weekend begins at 5:00 pm
- ◆ Commuter rate pays for 1 day of attendance and 1 meal (lunch): \$25. Commuter rate with lunch and dinner: \$39.50.
- ◆ Special dietary needs / alternate meal requests are provided at \$6 per day & must be reported by February 22.

Thank you for your kind support and fellowship

Change for Kenya

By Brother Kevin Herren

The Lambs of Zion (younger youth group in Salem) gathered together one Sunday afternoon and made boxes with slots in the top for the purpose of gathering and collecting money to send to the churches in Kenya, Africa. On the outside of the boxes are pictures of Saints that were taken when Brian and Travis traveled there for their missionary efforts. It has been such an uplifting experience to see the kids so active and involved in wanting to help those who have nothing. We use the term "poor" here so often that we may have a slightly skewed definition. The Saints in Africa truly are poor and have absolutely nothing. Many become ill and pass from this life simply because there is no food. Many pass in their thirties due to the inability to fight disease. The children often sleep in filth and forage for their meals in garbage piles alongside sickly goats and other animals. When the children in Salem heard this their hearts were stirred. They collected money on their own. Some taking money from their own piggy bank, some went door to door, some kept all the change they could find on the ground (and their parent's nightstand). When some of the boxes began to be heavy with change and filled, the Lambs of Zion came together to count what they had collected and pool their resources. With the help of the high school youth (the Builders and Climbers), they pooled all their change according to denomination. A mountain of pennies, a pile of nickels, a plethora of dimes and an ocean of quarters were separated and counted. Brian presented a slideshow for the children to show what it is like in Kenya. The kids sat in awe of the conditions and the nothingness in which they lived. A sense of deep thankfulness was

expressed by the Lambs for all that we enjoy here by the blessings of God. Brian was able to explain how much difference would be made in the lives of our Brothers and Sisters afar off. The total collected was **\$441.71!!** This is the equivalent of **38,264.49** Kenyan Shillings. It is estimated that



The youth count and present their offering

this would be several years of salary for many Kenyans! \$442 is a "pretty good" fundraiser here, but is most certainly life changing to the brethren in Kenya. The money can be used to buy medicine, clothes, and school supplies. I am so well pleased with the righteous desires of the young ones here in Salem. It is no wonder that Jesus Christ compared the kingdom of God to one of these. If one wonders why we must become as a child, here is your answer. When our children saw a brother hungry they fed him. When a sister was naked these children could not withhold; and clothed her. The Lambs of Zion continue to keep their "Change for Kenya" containers and continue to gather what they can in an effort to further the

work in Kenya. If any have pesky pennies or nickel nuisances that they would like to get rid of, feel free to allow a Lamb to take them off your hands for you. A special thank you to the Lambs of Zion youth group should be offered. Unfortunately, Sister Jenny McKee is not pictured at the center, but she started collecting for Kenya and even sent an offering before help was formally organized. Thank you Jenny. We thank the Lord for each of the youth, from the deepest part of our hearts. Thank our Almighty Heavenly Father for the hearts of... Benjamin Herren, Daniel Herren, Jenny McKee, Samantha Livingston, Donovan Murnieks and Gabriella Herren.

Brothers and Sister, Patriarch Vernon Darling has been invited to bring ministry at the 2014 Pacific Northwest Reunion. He accepted the invitation with thanksgiving and is looking forward to being with the Saints of the northwest again. I asked that he send something to help prepare our hearts in advance of his arrival. He sent a letter that is published in this newsletter. The ministry of the patriarchs is deep and the breadth thereof blankets the Church in charity and wisdom. I appreciate the words of Brother Darling here. Though his ministry will extend far beyond the offering of blessings, we might prayerfully consider the value and timing of our patriarchal blessings. Please feel free to call Brother Darling and speak with him, ask him questions, and search his counsel in the matter. If you feel to schedule a time to receive your patriarchal blessing at reunion, it would be helpful if you would inform Brother Brian Herren of your wishes in advance: drbrianherren@gmail.com or (503) 949-2484.

The Patriarchal Blessing

By Brother Vernon Darling



Sister Margie and Brother Vernon Darling

The Patriarch-Evangelist. The Church of Jesus Christ has many specialized ministries. D&C 125 tells us the specific ministries of the Patriarch-Evangelist. As an evangelist he is to bring revival and missionary ministry. As a Patriarch he is a father to the church. He is to be with the people and bring them comfort and counsel. He is to be near to God and near to the people and bring them together. He is a teacher, preacher, counselor and an encourager. With all these ministries he is also to confer spiritual blessings upon those who request them. He is not to have any administrative responsibilities. He is to be free to go where the Spirit may send or lead him.

What is a patriarchal blessing? When you feel that you want a closer relationship with God and you need help discovering his will for you, the patriarch lays his hands on your head, and gives you the words given him by the power of God's Spirit. These words could be called your individual Scripture. It may be expected to set forth the counsels through which the person may experience the happiness or blessedness that can come to saints who manage their total living in accordance with God's law. God provides guidance and inspiration to assist people to plan and live their lives as they make decisions. As you can see in the Scripture the patriarchal blessing was given as counsel to each person according to his nature and his needs.

The most common question asked is how old must you be? This is a difficult question to answer. It depends on you, but you should be 16. Mostly you must be mature enough to understand what the blessing is about. As you talk with the patriarch he will advise you about your preparation. There may be things that stand in the way of you receiving your blessing that have nothing to do with your age. There is no need for you to be apprehensive about what you are told in your blessing. You will not be embarrassed by the revealing of any shortcomings or failings. You know what they are as well as the Lord does. It is not a fortune telling and it does not save you from making decisions. If the Patriarch is so led he will tell you you're lineage through your blessing. If lineage is an important for you, let the patriarch know this. If you are concerned about who you should ask to give you a blessing, you should choose the Patriarch with whom you feel the most comfortable. You should not be concerned about how well he knows you. Fathers gave their sons blessings in the Old Testament and Book of Mormon. Do not be fearful to discuss your questions with the Patriarch.

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The Patriarchal Blessing

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How do you prepare for a blessing? By deciding to receive your blessing you are likely responding to God, because He is leading you to pursue the blessing experience. The candidate should approach the blessing with the expectation that this would be one of the most important spiritual experiences of your life. This means you will come prepared to listen and follow the counsel that is given you. You are asked to begin to see things from God's point of view. It is impossible to say what the blessing may say to you as an individual. There is a benedictory prayer for your life. The Patriarch will record the blessing and give you a copy. If you lose your copy, contact the Patriarch and he will give you another copy.

It is common for people to never feel quite prepared to come to God for their blessing. Remember it is God who is seeking you, because He wants you to know Him. (Read Jesus' prayer in John 17) You and the Patriarch will work together to realize your blessing. He will give you advice about how to prepare and he will need your prayers and support. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. It is important to have all your relationships right. At least make a concerted effort to make them right. It is important for you to know that your most significant response to God is to surrender your will to Him. I believe Jesus died to show how much each person means to Him. We search for those things that give us purpose and significance. These motivate our quest for meaning and love, a quest for our own identity, our secret name promised by God, (Rev 2:17), for the peace of Christ which the world cannot give. We seek an authentic understanding of God's presence in the world and his intentions for men. We are called to be mature enough to live without constant emotional support and to use this freedom to exercise love for others. We know in the long run we are not called to do this or that job but to be a person of God. We aim at cultivating a certain quality of life, a level of awareness, a depth of consciousness, which is greater than the average level of life. If we are capable of seeking a quality of life and are not concerned with the senseless search for quantity we will find what we are searching for. We are called to be separate from the world, but we must live in and for the world. We must aim at a certain quality of wholeness. We seek the experience of union with God; we understand the deep desire of God that draws a person to seek a totally new way of being in the world.



There is nothing that impacts your life more than your image of God. [Gal 5:22] the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law. The dynamic core of the **Church of Jesus Christ** is the person of Jesus. We cannot afford to lose contact with the Lord Jesus. The intent of Jesus is that each one of us will come to know Him so the impact of His personality will change us as persons who truly want to belong to Him. Through spirituality members grow in wholeness and union with each other and God. Spirituality is always communion with Jesus Christ and His

Father in the Holy Spirit and in communion with others. God is righteous and requires righteousness of those who come to him. Righteousness has to do with the spiritual character of a person. This means more than keeping rules. A person needs both a capacity for spiritual communion and sensitivity to spiritual forces. These increase as a person develops spiritually. We are not looking for escape from the busyness of living. We are looking for that which equips a person to function more effectively in every day life. People of high spiritual quality further the spiritual development of others. Spirituality is far more than

your attitudes about religion. It has to do with your beliefs about why the world is as it is. Do you find your religion fulfilling and enriching? Spiritual people are aware that it is a gift from God and has little to do with achievement. It means surrendering control. It is oneness with God and a natural way of life. Everyone wants a deeper understanding, a greater freedom to the challenge that summons us to make sense out of our life. Not just to accept the answers of someone else, but to discover by personal experience and to verify meaning and value of his life. Paul tells us about the training of athletes and the demands of discipline. One trains and disciplines his faculties and his whole being in order to deepen and expand his capacity for experience, for awareness, for understanding, for a higher kind of life, a deeper and more authentic life "in Christ" and "in the Spirit". We need to think of humility in terms that make it real to people who are open to the hidden will of God. That which eliminates a superficial kind of experience and opens us to a freedom of a life that is not dominated by egoism, vanity, willfulness, passion, aggressiveness, jealousy, greed.

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Discipline means solitude of some sort, not in selfish withdrawal but in the sense of emptiness that no longer cherishes the comfort of our idols and constant need for approval of others. This gives us a new emphasis to the command to come to Christ with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. We are always in a state of growing no matter how old we get. You should be familiar with the Sermon on the Mount, Matt. Chap. 5, 6, 7, this is a portrait of Jesus' life. Also read Ephesians and Colossians. B of M, III Nephi. These Scriptures should give you a good idea of how Jesus lived and how He calls us to live.

Self discipline means, 1. Accepting responsibility for yourself. 2. Telling the truth and being dedicated to reality. 3. Being able to delay gratification. 4. Setting aside your ego for spiritual growth. Below, are some of the spiritual disciplines. There are many and if you are interested you can discover what they are. Discovering the meaning and purpose of your life is mostly up to you. It is a life-long endeavor, but the endeavor is worth the effort. I see the patriarchal blessing as an aid to help you in this effort.

Spiritual Disciplines

Prayer. Fasting, Study, Meditation, Simplicity, Solitude, Service, Sacrifice, Fellowship, Confession, Worship.

If anyone cares to talk to me, they can call me or email me if they have questions or would just like to discuss the details of the blessing experience. I would love to talk to anyone and I am especially looking forward to coming to your reunion. Vernon.

Vernon F. Darling,
2501 SE Owings,
Oak Grove, Mo. 64075
Tele. 816 690 3814,
e-mail v.mdarling@yahoo.com

2014 Regional Youth Winter Retreat

By Brother Kevin Herren

Calling all builders and climbers!!! To both those who are experienced in the ways of youth retreathood, and those who will be attending for the first time this year, the time is nearly here for the 2014 regional youth retreat! We will again be in the church building in Vancouver. **We will meet together Friday February 14th at 5:30pm to check in and fellowship over a light dinner before beginning our activities for the weekend.** Parents and guardians can pick up their children in the afternoon time on Monday February 17th. I am very excited to get to partake for the first time. I have very big shoes to fill as those who have proceeded me in planning the retreats have been excellent in their ability, nevertheless, I am looking forward to the exciting endeavor of putting together a weekend which will bring us closer to our Almighty Father and closer together as brothers and sisters. The registration fee will be \$35, but if there be anyone who feels unable to meet this, please talk to your local pastor about an alternative. I would like to see all who are desirous to come and would be troubled if the cost were the reason one decided it is better to stay home. This year I would really really like to see how many people we can get to the retreats. If any have friends who would like to come hear the truth and learn of their Savior and Zion please talk with them about joining us. All are welcome who are in the 6th grade, up to those who will be graduating this year from high school. This year let us reach out to all of our brothers and

sisters no matter how far away they live or how long it's been since we have seen them. All things are possible when Jesus Christ is our guide. There are a few things that should be considered in preparing for the retreat. First and foremost the sooner we begin to pray about the weekend the better. We should consider those who will have responsibilities of teaching, cooking, and preparing the grounds.

What to Bring

Scriptures
Note pad and pen
Sleeping bag/ pillow
Church clothes for Sunday
Clothes to wear in poor weather (rain and cold proof)
A desire to learn
A good attitude & singing voice

What not to bring

ANY electronic device
Tobacco of any type
A poor attitude
low cut shirts/spaghetti straps
"Bro tanks" (Men's open sided shirts)
Firearms / knives

Again, I am so excited to be with all of you soon and look forward with great joy to serving you in whatsoever way I can. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to email me at Pxkevinherren@gmail.com or call me at 503-562-9384. The staff will ensure that all physical needs are met and we will rely upon the Lord to deliver those things which should come from above. May the love of God, joy of the Spirit and peace of the Savior be with you all.

A Mission to Nepal and India

By Brother Brian Herren



Please pray for Brothers Brian and Travis as they prepare to serve a mission in Nepal and India. They hope to leave during the last week of March, 2014. The Lord provided a strong testimony of this work and calling, and is moving in the region. The people of the region are impoverished, with an unemployment rate around 50%. Those who work earn \$800-\$1,000 (US) per year on average. Recently, a village of 200 has requested to hear the Restored Gospel, and many exciting events are unfolding. Noble and faithful missionaries have labored honorably in this particular field and their labors have yielded eternal fruit in the Spirit. We wish to thank God for their many works before us, and pray that He might be able to use us for good. Our labors will be small in comparison

to those righteous men who have served in this field, but we feel grateful to be able to help in any way possible. Nepal is bordered to the north by China and to the south by India. Eight of the world's ten tallest mountain peaks are in Nepal, with 240 peaks above 20,000 feet in elevation. We hope to begin in Kathmandu, and will be traveling with High Priest Francis Harper, who we hold in highest regards and admiration.



Brother Smith

Announcement: Elder Lyle Smith's visit has been rescheduled for February 22-23, 2014. Classes will be presented at 10:30 am, and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Keizer Heritage Center: 980 Chemawa Rd. NE, Keizer, OR 97303. A fellowship lunch will be provided by the Ladies Relief Society between classes. Brother Lyle will preach Sunday morning, and will explain four potential itineraries for a 2015 trip to Mesoamerica, beginning at 4:00 pm on Sunday afternoon at the Trammell's. A question and answer session will follow, and a vote to select an itinerary. Dinner will be

provided on Sunday, and Brother Lyle will teach the Sunday evening Book of Mormon class after supper. There is no cost to attend any of the meetings. If you would like to help cover airfare or facility costs, see Brother Brian. The Keizer Heritage Center is being used as a less expensive alternative to the Church building. There will be no cost to the branch treasury.

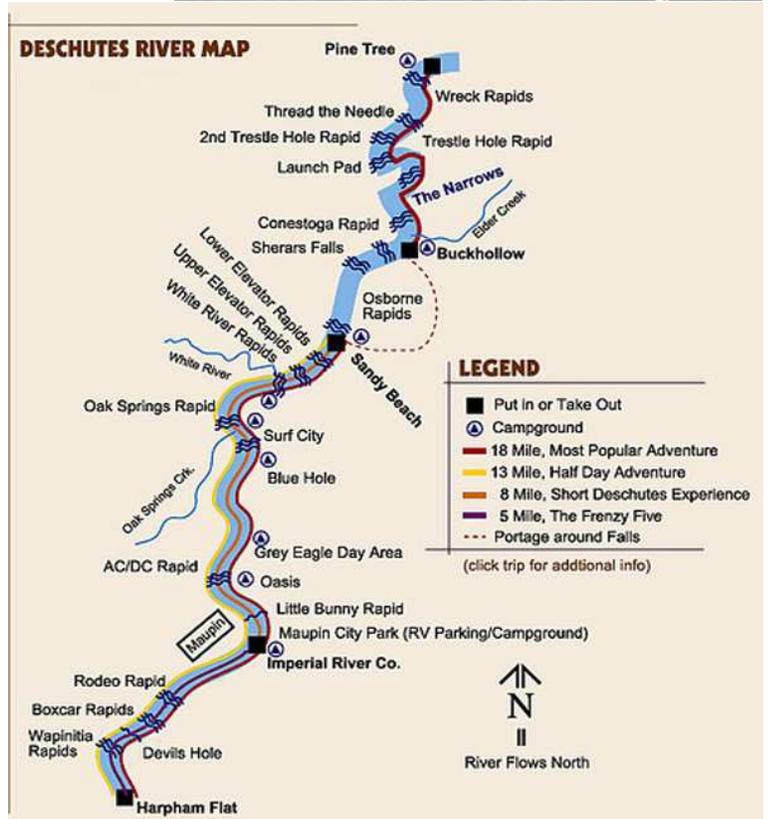
Editor's note: Go to restoredchurchofchrist.com and click on the "NW Region" tab on the left. Full schedules and registration forms are available for review and printing, anytime.

Congregational Camping AND White Water Rafting

By Brother Brian Herren



The Salem Restoration Branch will be combining their annual congregational camping trip with an opportunity for the Saints to enjoy white water rafting on the Deschutes River near Maupin, Oregon, July 11-13, 2014. Everyone in the region is invited. A large group camping area has been reserved and there will be no charge for camping, and no cost to the region or branch treasury. All are invited to camp, whether they are interested in rafting or not. Come and enjoy the fellowship! Offerings will be accepted, but not petitioned, to pay for the camp site. The group area is primitive, a grassy knoll, where the Saints can circle the wagons (RV's, trailers, campers, etc.) and set up tents as they please, right on the banks of the Deschutes River. Potable water and an outhouse are available. Evening song services and a Sunday morning church service will unite the Saints in worship, and we will share meals as a group. Polar bears will be led by Chuck "Cobra Command" Murnieks. There is no limit to the number of campers that can be accommodated. The group rate for rafting is \$80/person. **We are limited to the first 20 rafters to sign up: call or email Brian ASAP if you are interested:** (503) 949-2484, drbrianherren@gmail.com. The following description of the rafting trip is provided by Sage Canyon River Company: "Begin this action-packed adventure at Harpham Flats on the Deschutes River. Tackle a series of Class III and IV rapids, including the infamous Box Car, before stopping at Maupin City Park for a delicious BBQ steak and chicken lunch. Then feel your adrenaline peak again as we ride Oak Springs and (if you're feeling adventurous) bodysurf the elevator rapids, before we portage around Sherar's Falls. The final, five-mile stretch includes both the challenging Wreck Rapids and calmer waters with spectacular views of high-desert rock formations and wildlife. Our day trip is the longest and the best value on the Deschutes – you won't be disappointed!" The rafting trip includes a guide in each raft, along a 6-hour, 18 mile voyage. All equipment is provided and no experience is necessary. Children should be able to swim.



A Few Words from Brother Glenn Vaughn, pastor Vancouver



I have noticed that occasionally there's a level of frustration that stems from within regarding where we are in the Restoration. I think that it may be understandable, but we are still here and there is growth, even if it is slow - here. There is great growth in Africa and the Philippines. We have the tools, the books and the buildings – they

have the growth – what should we change? We do much right. I think the path is clear and simple. My thought is that we need to kick it up a notch in prayer effectiveness. We may think that we have strength, but we do not, we are small in number and must be mighty in prayer. I Chronicles 16:11 says “seek the Lord in his strength and seek his face continually”. The path for us, I think, is clear: “humble yourselves and continue in prayers unto him, cry unto him when you are in your fields; yea, over all of your flocks, cry unto him in your houses, yea over all your household yea morning, mid-day and evening...But this is not all; ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and in your secret places and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare and also the welfare of all those who are around you” (Alma 16:219, 221, 222). The Lord wants us to do that which has the highest and greatest value to one another and the spiritual wellbeing of the region. Our prayer life can be directed to great power. An example would be Jacob's sword and bow in Genesis 48:28: “Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow”. The bible tells us that Simon and Levi captured the city with the sword and bow, referring to his prayer and supplication before God – anything done in the physical level has a spiritual component. Simon and Levi had the physical component – Jacobs prayers led to the spiritual component that reveals the power of prayer. The term “sword and bow” teaches us the most effective way of prayer. The sharp edge of the sword and arrow are effective when focused and defined, relating to our prayers effectiveness and powerful force in use. Doctrine and Covenants 100:7: “All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence, faithfulness and prayers of faith”. As a region we should start now to pray for the spring retreats, reunion, and youth camp. I believe what we hold up in prayer will be blessed by our Heavenly Father. Jeremiah 29:13: “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”



A Few Words from Brother Gary Jones, pastor Puyallup



Warmest regards to the saints of the northwest. We find ourselves at the end of another year, yet there remains a question we must ask ourselves: In the past 365 days, how much time did I spend getting closer to my lord? Did I allow time to study, to fast and pray or did the world get most of my time? If the years go by, and we do little to get closer to our Lord, we will have failed the measure of our creation. We all have a purpose to seek and follow Him to

put off the natural man and be the spiritual man He created us to be...that we make His words become flesh in our lives, a living thing that abide in us that we take on the bonds of charity, that we have no malice toward our fellow man. Remember where you can hang all the law: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Yes, you can love yourself. If not, how can you love others? Love yourself for who God made you to be...a great creation in His sight, and do what He asks. Keep my commandments and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. We have the promise. Zion shall be, so let it be us and let it be now. May you be blessed in the new year and your walk a closer one.

Happy 100th Birthday, Brother Arnold Rhoads!

Happy Birthday to Brother Arnold Rhoads, who turned 100 years old on December 5th!!! A faithful man, Brother Rhoads has served many years as an elder in the Church, presently residing in Yakima, Washington. He has been blessed with 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Happy birthday good and blessed brother.

