

# BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC  
NORTHWEST

NOVEMBER, 2016  
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3



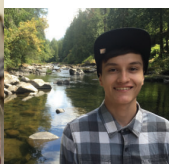
## Regional Events 2017

- Men's Retreat: TBA
- Women's Retreat: April 28-30
- Reunion: July 24-July 30
- Youth Camp: July 30-Aug. 5
- Priesthood Retreat: TBA

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*Blessed Be The Tie That  
Binds: memories from 2016*





## Fall Conference 2016

by Brother Gary Livingston

During the weekend of October 7-9, 2016, the saints in the Pacific Northwest gathered together in Vancouver, Washington for our regional conference. The entire weekend was spent bearing record of our Heavenly Father through the singing of praises, through classes and worship services, and through conducting our business during our regional business meeting.

The conference began Friday evening with a song service led by sister Kay Campbell which was then followed by an inspirational sermon delivered by Elder Gary Jones. The Spirit of the Lord filled us that evening and we found ourselves looking forward with much anticipation for the remaining part of the weekend.

We were greeted Saturday morning by a song service led by sister Cessaries Galusha which was followed by a prayer and testimony service with Elder Gary Livingston presiding. Afterwards Elder Wray Moreland led us in a worship experience in which we partook of the sacrament of the Lord's supper..

Our regional business meeting was held that afternoon and was led by our regional director, Elder Brian Herren. It is a wonderful experience to sit in on a business meeting where there is no contention and where business is conducted in such a way that it feels more like a worship service than it does a business meeting. Later that afternoon, sister Jan Esquivel led the women in a class which was beneficial to all who were in attendance.

Saturday evening began with sister Jan Esquivel leading us in song as we continued to praise our Heavenly Father. Priest Dustin Mason delivered the sermon that evening as God's word continued to be delivered with much power and authority. We were truly blessed.

Sunday morning started with our regional youth leading us in our morning worship which was directly followed by the Sunday school hour. As our youth attended their classes, Elder Gary Livingston taught the adult class. Elder Brian Herren delivered God's word during the 11:00 hour and we once again witnessed the power of God manifested through His spoken word. The message was inspirational and challenging as we felt the Holy Spirit touch our hearts as it bore record of God.

The entire weekend was truly a testimony of the Living Christ as we spent much time in praise, worship, learning, and hearing the spoken word. We also had time to visit and fellowship with one another as brothers and sisters. The deep and abiding love we have for each other is apparent as it is firmly rooted and grounded in the pure love of Jesus Christ. May God be glorified forever. Amen.

## Reflections on Fall Conference

by Brother Leonce LaRouche

My wife Gerie and I had a very rewarding experience at the Conference. The Spirit in the sermons was very strong and moving, Brother Gary Jones' sermon on Friday evening was really strong on the facts of liberty and what it means and stands for, as there are many places in the Three Books that talk about liberty, and the fact that this country has little of it left. Brother Brian Herren's Sunday's sermon was very good. He spoke about discipleship and the importance of it, mixed with a little humor along with plenty of Spirit and thought. The food was great, plenty of it and with many fine desserts to choose from. Thanks to the Ladies involved with cooking the meals and preparing them. My wife and I felt a real sense of a relaxed nature of the Conference, most evidently due to the Holy Spirit that was brought by all who attended. I am just sorry we couldn't stay for the evening service Saturday night. We'll be there again next year for sure!

## Unity

"What a blessed visit that was. We are left with the feeling that we need to return there soon. What a blessed group you have over in NW. Very different in many, many ways, and it was a privilege to come and be blessed with the love of our Heavenly Father. I want to return to Salem and Vancouver. I have spoken so much of the church there to my brethren here, and they are encouraged. I pray for the spirit of unity we met there to be found with the rest of the body in America. I pray the focus of building Zionic communities that we met there be found within the whole church. I want to come under that testimony again..."

- Brother Eric Odida, in a letter after his visit to the NW.

## Reunion 2016

by Brother Jeff Rew



In reflecting upon the Northwest Regional Reunion this year, I am reminded of scripture that describes, in small portion, the tender mercies of our Lord, and the preparations and attitudes of those who attended. We came together under the theme of “discipleship” in unity, harmony, and preparedness to meet the Lord. In a most loving and tender manner, in a way that comes only from a loving Father, He richly blessed us with the presence of His Holy Spirit. He provided for us: preaching and teaching from on high through guidance and direction, Zionite conditions, joy, peace, and His gracious charity.

Taken from the testimony of Christ given in 3 Nephi 8:3, Christ commanded the multitude saying,

***“Therefore, go ye unto your homes, and ponder upon the things which I have said, and ask of the Father, in my name, that ye may understand; and prepare your minds for the morrow, and I come unto you again.”***

As we gathered in anticipation of coming together before our Lord, it was apparent that the people of the congregations had prepared (through prayer, fasting, and study) their hearts and minds to receive Jesus Christ. Coming before our Father, seeking in Christ’s name, that He would guide our preparations and prepare us for His Spirit to be among us, for understanding, and for a Zionite condition to be present. We were richly blessed and rewarded for the preparations with coming together in one heart and one mind. So often, in times past, have I heard said of reunions, that the Spirit of the Lord and the closeness of the saints grew with each passing day. This year; however, we were given this precious gift from even the very first moment in which we gathered together. In mighty power was His Spirit freely given as we basked in His Holiness from the commencement of reunion!

From Doctrine and Covenants 140:5c:

***“The work of preparation and the perfection of my Saints go forward slowly, and Zionite conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of my people justifies;”***

As we have sampled the beauty of Zionite living, we can continue to reflect upon our spiritual condition pertaining to both self and as a people. Perhaps though, as the hour is nigh and time closer than we realize, we ought to move beyond reflection and envelop our lives in that same care of preparation daily. Trusting fully in our Heavenly Father, not only in faith, but as we have come to a knowledge through this reunion, that Zionite conditions will be made manifest, if we continually strive for and seek first the Kingdom of God. The Lord’s promises are sure and true, we must prepare our lives to receive them, pressing forward with His image engraven upon our countenance, and the characteristics of a disciple of Christ engrained in our hearts and the very fabric of our lives.

...concluded on page 4



## Reunion 2016

...continued from page 3

The daily themes of the 2016 NWRRC reunion involved the characteristics which Christ set forth by word and example for us as a standard within our own lives. We began with obedience to the commands and will of the Father as the theme for Tuesday. The week continued with themes including: merciful and just, meekness and lowliness of heart, charity and forgiveness, and faithfulness enduring. The week concluded centered on sacrifice. As we studied at reunion, and continue to study, the perfect characteristics of our Lord and Savior, let us remember that Christ commands us:

***"to be perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect."*** (Matt 5:50), and ***"the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men save He shall prepare a way for them, that they may accomplish the thing which He commandeth them."*** (1 Nephi 1:65)

Our hearts also united together during reunion in songs of praise unto the Lord. Our song services and campfire services were led by His spirit as we lifted our voices in praise. The words of those who brought testimonies after campfires bore record of the love which the Lord has for each of us. We were encouraged to continue to draw closer unto Him, to continually seek those things of His Kingdom, and rely on Him in all things. As with these services, there was harmony in preaching, teaching, prayer and testimony services, and our social time.

It was a harmony that no man could orchestrate under his own strength. We experienced a coming together in all aspects of reunion to learn and reinforce how to be a follower of the Master as a true disciple. The joy and love which abound cannot be sufficiently relayed through word or pen. Suffice it to say, our God was glorified and we were ministered unto our souls.

### Daily Themes

Tuesday	He is <i>Obedient</i>
Wednesday	He is <i>Merciful and Just</i>
Thursday	He is <i>Meek and Lowly in Heart</i>
Friday	He is <i>Charitable and Forgiving</i>
Saturday	He is <i>Faithful and Enduring</i>
Sunday	He is <i>Willing to Sacrifice</i>

The Lord bids unto each one, unto all souls, to come unto Him. In love and mercy He beckons us to come unto Him. May we continue to press forward with an eye single to His glory, feasting upon the words of Christ, that we may be partakers of Christ and the Kingdom of God. Let us set

behind us those corrupt things of

this world which wither and die, and seek to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness.

***"Therefore not leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God."*** (Hebrews 6:1)

All praise and glory be to God for the love that was given so freely at reunion and continues to be poured out upon us. I am so thankful for the innumerable blessings and tender mercies He has bestowed. May we continue to bear record of God through our lives at all times and in all places.





## Youth Camp 2016

by Brother Kevin Herren

The Northwest Regional Youth Camp 2016 has come and gone but the memories will not soon fade for those who were able to attend. I feel so very blessed to have been able to share a wonderfully blessed week with such terrific young men and women who truly personified what "discipleship" means. From the very first camp fire through the signing of camp logs I can personally testify that the Lord was with us.

This year brought us several changes from the recent past. Firstly, we were able to have a very diverse group of campers ranging in age from 6th grade all the way up to the recently graduated. It has been truly wonderful to see the regional youth grow and mature and to watch them grow to fine young men and women and now to see the next crop of youngsters beginning their journey. Because of the number of campers who are in middle school, as well as having a goodly number of senior high campers, we were able to separate into age appropriate classes so that each camper could be personally ministered to. Sister Monica Moreland led the junior high campers all week in their studies. There was no small excitement after each of her classes. Tales of dumping water on campers and bible accounts being played out were shouted out each afternoon to those who were too old to be in her class. I was privileged and honored to lead the senior high classes throughout the week. I felt very very blessed in so doing and I learned a great deal about the love of the Good Shepherd of which I will share in subsequent writing.

Another change was the camp being directly after reunion. I have never been part of something quite like it. To go directly from a spiritual high of reunion directly to youth camp without having to become immersed again into the world and all its follies was a blessing that will not soon be forgotten. Reunion was a tremendous experience in and of itself, but to piggyback right off of it made a difference that cannot be overstated. The first evening was a bit drizzly and dreary so during Brian's "evening with the pastor" time I stepped out to assess the likelihood of a campfire.

In my mind I thought it was damp and may be a good idea to forgo the actual fire and sing hymns indoors. As I stepped out on to the back porch, the Spirit beckoned me to come. I walked to the fire pit and listened quietly and felt an impress of the Spirit calling us outside to Him. During that first campfire we all entered in reverence, not as most first day campfires. From that moment the Spirit did not leave the grounds but was ever with us.

We had a solid turn out of 29 campers, several of whom made long journeys from out of state. We were joined by 3 from the Center Place and 2 young men from northern California! I have a good feeling we will see them again and I look forward to that day. Hailey Norman, Isaiah Wilton, Kelly O'Keef and Dustin and Daylyn Nelson joined camp and were assimilated in as though we had all grown up together and been together forever. The unity and brotherhood at camp was on a level which I don't recall ever being part of. Even the polar bears (and penguins) consisted of all but a very small handful. This was by far the biggest group of polar bears I have ever seen. Even those who did not polar bear, nearly every single person, still walked down and supported those who did. It was a beautiful ministry.

Each day as we joined together to begin our day we took time in prayer, first thing. We were greeted by beautiful sunrises and beautiful words shared from the scriptures. We sat quietly and offered our hearts to the Lord, then sat in beautiful silence and listened for God's response. He did not disappoint! What a perfect start to the day with my brothers and sisters. I looked forward each night to the time when I could be sleeping no longer so that I could join them again. Dustin Mason led us each morning with our all camp class where he had every camper engaged and asking to read and participate. We learned of love and of faith and brotherly kindness. Wonderful classes and wonderfully presented in a way which, I know, touched each of the campers and got them considering their place before God. One of the highlights of camp each year is the time in the afternoon to come together and sing hymns of praise together. This year was no disappointment.





## Youth Camp 2016

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Cessaries led us in old favorites which kept our hands clapping and voices ringing. We were also taught several new and beautiful camp hymns which touched our hearts. Not only did we learn the words but we got to look into the words and learn of God's ways. In the evenings we were able to learn from Brian during evenings with the pastor. This is a special time in which the camp pastor brings whatever the Lord places on his heart. It is a time when the Melchizedek gifts are utilized for the growth of the youth. This year we got to have a "non-class, learning session" where, since it was not a class we were invited to stay awake and pay attention and participate, because after all, it was not a class. I highly encourage readers to ask campers and staff alike about the evening with the pastor when we learned to stand together no matter what, that no matter what the world will throw at us, we can rely on each other and others must be able to rely on us to stay strong. After powerful pillow attacks and point blank sprinklers to the face, the entire camp was left blindfolded, soaking wet, circled together arm in arm singing. It was a powerful sight indeed!





## Youth Camp 2016



### Ask and Ye Shall Receive

...a testimony from Brother Kevin Herren

We are promised that if we seek, we shall find..if we ask, we will receive. The doctrine of Christ is not philosophy, but rather a very real and living truth. All of my life I have heard “ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find.” I bear this testimony to all who will hear: this promise is true. God will uphold the faithful and come to them in their hour of need. I have been a recipient of this promise before, but again at youth camp this year I was blessed by

the hand of the Lord in this promise.

Before camp I made usual preparation for classes that I would be leading. Through prayer and fasting and study I had prepared a series of classes which I felt blessed in, and felt would be an excellent course for the senior high campers. When we arrived at camp my prayers continued for the campers and staff. After dinner the first night, in response to my petition, I was made aware that what I had come to offer as classes would not be used. In a way that I cannot very well translate into words, my eyes were opened and I saw the needs of the campers and I knew I would be preparing a new class that night.

The Spirit of God was with us even in the early parts of the very first day, a Spirit which could be felt as we walked onto the grounds. I had offered myself as a servant to the Lord in any way that he might want to use me, without bounds. As I began preparing class the first night to teach the following day, I felt encouraged in the Spirit of the Lord. Before delivering the class I made it a matter of prayer that God be with me, and he responded. This became my daily practice. I found myself in constant prayer petitioning the Lord for help and seeking guidance. Every day he delivered to me that which he would have me to teach the following day. As the week progressed I found myself becoming very excited to see what the Lord had in store. It was as though I was a camper again coming before the teacher not knowing what the lesson would be. Day by day God was with me and leading me. Throughout the week, though blessed by the hand of God, I began to feel that there was nothing else that my simple mind could teach. I was at the end of me. I had nothing left to offer the campers and in that space I found the workings of the Spirit and His ministry. When I was no longer able to get in the way with my own understanding and my own plans I had to rely wholly upon Him. I found myself realizing that though my tank was completely empty in a way which I had not known before, I was being upheld and my Father was carrying me according to His will. I found a new faith this year at camp; not a faith taught by the mouth of men formulating a set of scriptures but a faith taught by the author of faith Himself, taught by the one I must learn to have faith in, the giver of all good gifts. I learned first hand that if we seek we WILL find, ask as we WILL receive.



## Summer Preaching Series

by Brother Jim Clark

In early June the third annual summer preaching series of the Northwest Region was held in Vancouver Washington, and Salem Oregon. Speaking this year was Elder David Gilmore who attends the Colbern Road Restoration Branch in Missouri. The Pacific Northwest was blessed with the ministry of Brother Gilmore along with the ministry of Priest Jordan Brennen who accompanied him. Also able to attend was Priest Brady Winegar who joined us from Santa Clarita, California. A tremendous blessing was poured out among all who were able to attend, as Brother Gilmore's gift of speaking captivated all in perfect attention, while the Spirit ministered through our brother unto the gathered saints.

With a message of commitment and courage, being steadfast in our faith, we were prompted to live our lives for our Heavenly Father in ways we would not even have imagined heretofore. His children were encouraged to stand forth and be accounted in whatever part of His vineyard they find themselves. The power and sincerity of this message was appreciated by many, giving all glory to our Heavenly Father who provides that which is most needful unto those who are faithful. While the first two services, Friday and Saturday nights were held at the Vancouver Branch Sanctuary, Sunday's service was held in Silver Falls Park near Salem, Oregon.

Convening amongst the beautiful creation of our Heavenly Father, Sunday's service was quite exceptional. The living tabernacle of green grass framed by tall timber, blue skies and sunshine demonstrated God's majesty.

We began in song with the talents of Brother Gary Livingston. Followed by an inspired message given by Brother Gilmore. Truly there could not have been a more beautiful setting, as we all basked in the Holy Spirit, giving forth praise and glory unto our Heavenly Father. Several of God's creation joined in as the deer, birds, butterflies, and even a few bats, listened unto our worship. While Brother Winegar had to depart early to make his way back to Santa Clarita, it was very evident that he had been ministered unto through this series, and we also had been ministered to from his love of this gospel and his Heavenly Father. Although separated by many miles, we knew we would see Brother Brady again.

Culminating with fellowship, a potluck, song, and hiking, a wonderful weekend came to an end. How special it had been to fellowship together, experiencing how close we are regardless of what part of the vineyard we serve within. We thank our Heavenly Father for our dear brothers, for their willingness to serve, for the message and ministry poured out through them, for the perfectness of His ways and His timing. Surely all were impressed upon even as we continue to walk in paths of righteousness looking unto the day when we shall glory together to depart from one another no more. While our prayers of thanksgiving and care for one another continue each and everyday until we meet once again.





## Priesthood Retreat 2016

by Brother Dustin Mason



Hello Saints and greetings. Its my pleasure to give my account of the Pacific NW Regional Priesthood Retreat. First off, I would like to share how wonderful it was to draw apart from the world. The opportunity we had to do this with the brotherhood was very special for me. I'm sure I can speak for my brothers also in saying it was a superb weekend. We all gathered on Friday evening for dinner and fellowship, which rolled seamlessly into a song service and a preaching service. The word of God was spoken with power and authority from God. It was the perfect way to start our weekend together. We were challenged, as Brother Mitch Arndt preached, to look inside ourselves and ask ourselves what kind of man are we going to be? We were fed well during this time. After service some of the men stayed up talking and shared about our families and other current events, while others

found their way to their places of rest.

For me, morning couldn't come fast enough. With the anticipation of classes and worship, I was so excited to rise. We had a great breakfast (of course). We are so spoiled by the women of the church. After breakfast we had a short morning worship which led into a class by Brother Brian Herren. He helped with explaining how the word of God needs to be the standard in our lives. Without exception. This class led straight into my second favorite thing, lunch. After lunch we dove right back into the word of God with Brother Gary Livingston leading a class. We discussed how the word of God was made flesh and how that affects our daily lives. After class, the men had the opportunity for some "free time" before dinner. The Spirit that was with us was beyond measure. And the brethren sensed something very special. We did break for a short while, but the Spirit brought us all back together in unity for an impromptu class by Brother Brian, an extra class, one that was not scheduled! The craziness that was afforded us was amazing. We went against the schedule and had an extra class, making 7 hours of class in all on that day! And all I could think was, "Praise The lord"! We were blessed mightily by the Spirit.

After dinner, we had an evening chat, which was led by Brother Jeff Rew. After the evening chats, something crazy happened again! We had an impromptu campfire service led by Brother Wray!!! Now, some of you might not realize, but we have never had a campfire during a priesthood retreat. At least not at one that I was able to go. So this was very special. Plus, it wasn't on the schedule! The madness, right? Haha. But in all seriousness, we were given the opportunity to have a prayer and testimony services outside under the stars. How glorious!!! An evening that will not soon be forgotten.

Sunday morning came too soon, but we were not left with any want. We were blessed with a lovely song service, which led to a communion service. After communion we were giving a parting charge by brother Brian Herren. He hit home to us that we are in charge of our own spirituality and that we need to be the men that we are created to be. The only one that will get in our way is ourselves, and that on the day of judgment our greatest fear shouldn't be how we might measure up to some other man, but how will we measure up to the best we could have been. God knows our potential, and that is what we must strive to achieve. That will be giving our best. And nothing else is acceptable to God. In summery, the brothers were blessed beyond measure in our fellowship and worship. It was with out a doubt a very special weekend. We were fed well in physical substance, but more importunately, we were fed by God and the bread of life. The Spirit was with us and I can testify that God is working and has great blessings for the saints. May God be with you and bless you and your family's abundantly.

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## Reflections on the Priesthood Retreat

by Brother Mike Esquivel

Many of the priesthood members of the Pacific Northwest met on September 8th for the annual Priesthood Retreat. I particularly enjoyed classes which were thought provoking and soul-searching taught by Elders Gary Livingston and Brian Herren. On Saturday evening we shared a prayer and testimony service around a campfire. It was a rather cool night, so I was hesitant to go outside. Brian said he had a thick blanket for me to wrap up in and came down with his sleeping bag. I was toasty warm!!! As we prayed and shared testimonies, the Spirit moved upon me to share mine. I shared my gratitude for the blessings I received from our Heavenly Father by becoming a part of a Christian family, and marrying such a strong and faithful woman. When I proposed to her, she accepted, but the wedding had to be in her church! ...continued on page 13



## Regional Fall Youth Retreat (Builders and Climbers)

Regional Youth Director: Kevin Herren



**When:** December 2-4, 2016

**Location:** Vancouver Branch

**Cost:** \$25 (Please make checks out to the Northwest Region of Restoration Congregations or simply NWRRC.) If you need assistance with this fee, please see your local youth leader or pastor.

**Emergency Cell Phone Numbers:** Brother Kevin Herren's cell: (503) 562-9384

**We would ask that all attending this retreat would come prepared to draw apart from the world and to seek to draw closer to the Lord with a desire to receive and honor His Spirit.**

*\*Please read the rules carefully before signing the registration form. Keep this sheet for reference as you are packing*

- Signed registration and medical forms are required.
- Campers are expected to participate in all activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. They must treat others with respect, courtesy, and kindness.
- Be respectful to your counselors and be willing to pitch in and help if asked.
- Be respectful of the grounds and the property of others.
- Dress code will be enforced. Dress code is as follows: no short-shorts, no short shirts (bare midriffs), tube tops, spaghetti straps, low-cut tops or see-through tops. No inappropriate language or logos on any clothing. Please dress in a modest fashion and bring a bathing suit that is modest and has good coverage. Otherwise, you may be asked to wear shorts or a shirt over the suit for swimming. If you are not sure whether an item of clothing fits the dress-code, ask a counselor for an opinion before entering the common areas wearing it.
- No foul language, sexual contact, innuendoes or derogatory remarks are permitted.
- All participants must stay within the boundaries of the campgrounds (to be defined at orientation), through the duration of camp and must remain in areas that are supervised by camp counselors.
- No CD players, cell phones, ipods, or electronic devices are allowed in camp. If brought, they will be taken away until the end of camp. (Counselors will make their cell phones available in an emergency.)
- Possession or use of weapons, tobacco products, alcohol or illegal drugs are not permitted. If probable cause exists, Camp Director will be allowed to search a person and personal property for illegal items.
- No gum, candy, pop or other junk food is to be brought to camp. Refreshments will be provided. There is no need to bring money to the camp. All snacks will be provided.
- All rules will be interpreted at the discretion of the Retreat Director and Staff.

**Please Complete the Registration Form on page 11 and mail it**

**Brother Kevin Herren at:**

**4313 Hayesville Dr. NE Salem OR 97305;**

**- or -**

**email the completed form to [pxkevinherren@gmail.com](mailto:pxkevinherren@gmail.com)**



## Regional Fall Youth Retreat (Builders and Climbers)

### Youth Camp Permission Form and Registration

NO CAMPER MAY ATTEND WITHOUT THIS SIGNED PERMISSION FORM ON RECORD

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in 2013-2014 school year \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (for the purpose of receiving information about retreats and camp in the future)

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact in case parent/guardian cannot be reached

Name/Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

#### **COST OF ANY MEDICAL TREATMENT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT /GUARDIAN**

Insurance Co. \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Last Tetanus shot \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby approve my child's participation at this retreat and give permission to the Retreat Administration to make decisions related to the physical well-being of my child. In case of an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician and /or hospital, selected by the Retreat Administration, to secure proper treatment for my child, as named above, and will assume liability for any resulting expenses not covered by my insurance. The Church or staff will not be held liable for any injury.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Camper Agreement: I have read the attached information and expectations and I will abide by and support it.

Camper's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

#### *What you should pack:*

- ◆ **your scriptures**
- ◆ a jacket or sweatshirt
- ◆ clothing and shoes appropriate for a variety of activities (tennis shoes, hiking clothes etc.)
- ◆ A sleeping bag and pillow

#### *Other items which are optional:*

- ◆ If you would like to swim bring a towel and appropriate swim suit
- ◆ Worship or devotional materials



## Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

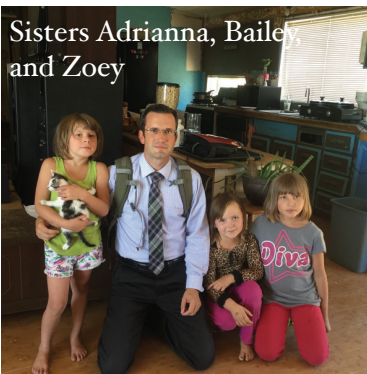
by Brother Brian Herren



Santa Clarita Mission (Los Angeles, CA)

Recent travels have continued to bear fruit in the fellowship of the Saints and the communion of the Holy Spirit, reminding us that our common bonds in Christ are strong. On October 22, Brothers Jeff Rew, Dustin Mason, and Brian Herren visited the mission in Santa Clarita for two days. Brother Brady serves as the presiding minister of the group, and was generous in hospitality. Considerable time was spent in scripture study, conversing upon gospel tenets and answering questions. On Sunday, Brother Brian taught a class on the Advocacy of Christ, Brother Dustin preached the communion sermon, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was provided for baptized members. After a short break, Brother Jeff preached a sermon in a special service for the blessing of 3 month old Quinn Michele Bird. After breaking bread for lunch and a time of fellowship, Brother Brian led a scripture study focused on the Kingdom of God. Sister Marcela and Brother Brady served tirelessly through the weekend to ensure that all were blessed, and the Holy Spirit added His portion in power. We are reminded of the dedication of the isolated Saints, whose faith is now tried, but ever growing. We feel compelled to salute those whose candle burns brightly in dark places, despite being few in number, who show the risen Christ is daily discipleship by virtue of their enduring and unquenchable faith. We report them to be fervent in spirit and earnest in covenant.

On August 25th, Brothers Brian and Benjamin Herren traveled to Christmas Valley to visit the Saints. Four classes were taught on Saturday, missionary slides and testimonies shared late into Saturday night, and Brother Brian preached a service on Sunday. Brother Clayton and Sister Tiffany Morehouse provided for every need and were instrumental in facilitating the classes. Sister Zoey ReAnne Tucker decided to be baptized, and was baptized at the convergence of the Roaring River and Crabtree creek outside of Salem, Oregon on September 18, 2016. Sisters Bailey and Adrianna were also a great blessing in fellowship, and Brother C.J. showed us much kindness. The Lord is so good, so tender in His mercies.



Sisters Adrianna, Bailey, and Zoey

## Blessed Be the Tie That Binds...



Brother CJ teaches Benjamin about the art and science of gopher trapping



## Reflections on the Priesthood Retreat

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Elder Mike Esquivel

Over the years there have been changes and turmoil in our church. From the Yakima congregation to Wasco, to Goldendale, to "home church" in Yakima (now in our home) - but always there have been retreats and reunion to provide stability and a connection to church family. How richly blessed I have been, particularly since I began attending the priesthood retreats where I made strong connections with my brothers and felt the deep love of Christ that resides in the hearts of my fellow brothers from Vancouver, Salem, and Puyallup. For this I thank God, my wife Jan, and the many brothers and sisters in Christ from the region and from Independence, and from Africa and Mexico that have provided a rich spiritual experience. What a privilege!

## Angelic Ministry

...a testimony from Brother Kevin Herren

Youth Camp 2016 was a very special camp. Brotherly love reigned, Zion prevailed, and the Spirit of God was abundant in every corner. I bear a short testimony of the providence of our Father. God provided for our every need and we lacked in nothing. During the week we basked in His goodness and the sense of the Holy Ghost grew stronger and stronger while we were lifted closer and closer to the heavenly veil. As authority has been given to the Aaronic priesthood to call upon the angels, so I did in preparation of camp and most earnestly upon the grounds day by day. One could not be on the grounds and be unaware of His holy presence and so I sought the Lord that we might be ever nearer and even come more completely into His presence.

As the week passed and the Spirit grew even stronger day by day, I continued in my petition for the ministering of angels. He did not disappoint. One night as we were outside for our evening with the pastor, I was filled with the Spirit as I listened to Brian. I felt as though anything were possible. Nothing of this world could cumber us, we were strengthened beyond human abilities in some way which I can hardly explain. God was no doubt with us. In the Spirit I looked up and beheld that we were not alone on the grounds but I saw the presence of angels. I will not say that I saw flowing wings and flaming swords but in a way that God has shown me once before I was made aware of His heavenly messengers encircling us about as the word was broken before us. My eyes were not permitted to view these heavenly bodies in their state, but my vision was opened beyond human sight. I cannot properly describe what I saw in a way which I am satisfied but I can only say that I was made aware and saw angels around us but could not behold their bodies. Being cautious of such spiritual gifts, I wondered in my mind if I was correct in my interpreting things correctly when the comforter came to me in a still and quiet manner, comforting my mind. My mind was taken to my previous experience with these celestial beings as I walked in the Sacred Grove. I was reminded that I was unsure then as I was unsure now; and as the Spirit bore witness then, so now did He come again to me. We were in the presence of God's heavenly servants. Arthur Oakman once said, somethings you think and somethings you KNOW. I know I had been in communion with those from above.

## Notice:

Regional Photographs are Available

*"For those who desire to see pictures from reunion and different church events, please log on to:*

*jeffreyphotography.smugmug.com*

*The site will open up to different galleries, click on "Church" then enter the password: Restoration (case sensitive). There you will find pictures from many of the activities over the past few years. It is not exhaustive. The site is updated with new pictures as events occur, so check back after any events. (Please give me time to process and upload the photos.)*

*Once you are into the different pages, photos can viewed in full frame by single clicking on any of the pictures. After opening the picture and for full screen, click the diagonal arrows in the upper right hand corner. A slideshow can be played using the arrow in the bottom left hand corner if you hover the mouse over the photo.*

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