

# BROTHER'S KEEPER

## THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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### Pacific Northwest Regional Fall Conference

by Brother Brian Herren

The 2017 theme for the Pacific Northwest Region has been: "Make Ready a People Prepared for the Lord". We have considered this call in spiritual and physical preparation, and have worked toward becoming the people God is working to develop in us.

The Saints of the Northwest have been consistently supportive of regional activities all year. We were blessed in our attendance at the women's retreat, men's retreat, summer preaching series, reunion, youth camp, priesthood retreat, youth retreats, and fall conference. Many have commented on the sense that we are growing closer together as a people, and experiencing greater harmony and unity as we submit ourselves to the Lord and hold fast to His Word. Every regional activity was Spirit-filled and financially self-sufficient, without deficit. The Saints decided by conference action to

apply the surplus monies toward the cost of next year's youth camp.

The following officers were elected at fall conference, October 6-8, 2017, and will serve the region in 2018:

Regional Director:	Elder Brian Herren
Counselors to Regional Director:	Elder Brian Moreland (pastor of Vancouver Branch) Elder Gary Jones (pastor of Puyallup Branch)
Regional Youth Director:	Teacher Kevin Herren
Regional Women's Director:	Sister Suzy Herren
Regional Treasurer:	Priest Jim Clark
Regional Secretary:	Sister Melissa Herren
Regional Activities Director:	Elder Jeff Rew
Regional Music Director:	Sister Cessaries Galusha
Regional Church School Director:	Sister Deanne Murnieks

Each organized branch within the region also elects a representative to serve on the regional missionary board. This board is comprised of three elected officers, one from each branch, who oversee the regional missionary fund. The fund has been used to assist in the printing of the Book of Mormon in Nepali, send scriptures and Restoration books around the world, and send missionaries from the Pacific Northwest overseas to spread the gospel.



**But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ...**

- I Corinthians 11:3

**Christ is the head of the church; and he is the Savior of the body...**

- Ephesians 5:23

## Men's Retreat 2017

by Brother Jim Clark

Sixteen of the region's men were united in fellowship and praise of our Heavenly Father during the men's retreat of 2017. Surly we were blessed, and it was said by many to be one of the best men's retreats in memory. As we strive to serve our Heavenly Father in any capacity we invoke the Holy Spirit, and oh how the whole is blessed and edified.

Brother Ron Trammell led an inspired opening song service which set the tone for the retreat, bringing forth a spirit of unity, brotherhood, and love for one another. This was immediately followed by an evening service with an excellent sermon brought forth by Brother Mitch Arndt. The classes Saturday continued in the spirit of preparation, togetherness, unity, and accountability. Brother Jeff Rew taught on preparing our homes, Brother Brian Herren on preparing our hearts, and Brother Gary Livingston on our lives as a time of probation.

With a parting charge Brother Gary Jones spoke on Sunday, concluding a profitable and gratifying blessing unto those who were able to draw apart for this weekend. Along with the wonderful food prepared by Sue Herren and Carla Livingston, we were able to not only feast temporally, but even more so spiritually as well.

I thank our Heavenly Father for His inspiration and blessings as we fellowshiped, worshiped, and learned together under His guidance and direction. I am thankful for the dedication and brotherhood we share in the Pacific Northwest. I look forward to more opportunities such as this weekend, and extend my thankfulness for all those who attended. Those who attended gave unto their Heavenly Father in various ways, and ministered unto each of us present as well, through His Holy Spirit.



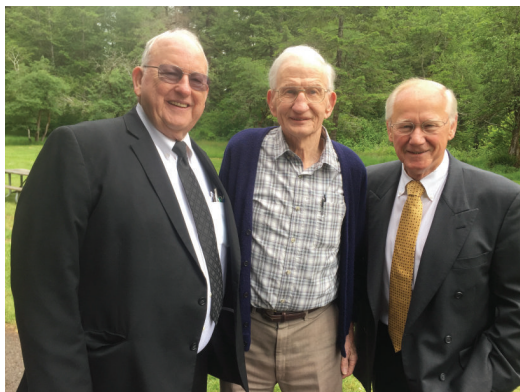
*"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.  
O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."*

Psalms 84:11-12



## Summer Preaching Series 2017

by Brother Mike Terry



The saints of the Northwest were richly blessed in June of this year when High Priest Paul Gage visited to share his ministry the weekend of June 2nd through 4th. In his compassionate delivery, Brother Paul delivered a warm sermon Friday evening to remind us that the Lord is in charge and that He will not forsake us. As a people, we need to be prepared and prepare for Zion. Throughout the weekend, he brought our attention to the Lord's ministry in these latter days and assured us that the Lord's word is true. In the peaceful setting of Silver Falls Park, Brother Paul delivered a Sunday message of hope and love. As we sometimes ponder when the Lord will return or what plan He has for the Restoration, Paul spoke with authority and conviction to assure the Saints that God has a plan and He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and that His church is in His hands. He shared this message as he was flanked in the service by High Priest John Henderson, High Priest Bill

Curtis and Elder Brian Herren of Salem, Oregon. Brothers Paul, John and Bill represented a high percentage of the high priests serving in the Restoration. The blessings and memories still resonate from Paul's ministry, and are a reminder that the Lord is in charge, He has a plan, and we need to be faithful and diligent in keeping the commandments as His plan is revealed.





## Reflections on the Pacific Northwest Reunion 2017

by Brother Aaron Smith

The experiences granted us at the reunion this summer were simply amazing. Just to get there, there were several key things that had to occur which would conquer our time and distance obstacles. First, the reunion had always been a week later in the summer, and our schools in Missouri always started a week earlier. And this year, both were pushed back a week in opposite directions, thus granting the window of time necessary for us to be able to attend. Second, God provided us the funds to be able to transport our family there and back; and third, God provided the theme, "Make Ready a People Prepared for the Lord" - one which had been near and dear to my heart for the previous year. All of these things allowed us to be able to feel the hand of the Lord providing the way - opening the river so we could walk over on dry ground to the Promised Land.



And we enjoyed the blessings of that Promised Land for a week. Not the physical land - but the spiritual principles which provide the foundation of said land: the principles of worship, of brotherly kindness, prayer, unity and love. These principles formed the backbone of the week. It was a week in which, upon the conclusion, one of our children wept for hours as we drove down the road, knowing that they were being pulled away from a place where they had truly found friends and felt loved. They had been touched by the Spirit of God - maybe not so much in the way that we would normally think, but in the daily worship of eating together, of playing together and of the common fellowship. They did not want the worship services to end. These things, the things of everyday life, had been transformed to the point of ministry, a ministry which freed us from a sin which keeps us separated and we were able to see His presence in the hands of others.

We will not soon forget the daily ministry that our sister and brother brought through music. That was a most cherished time for me personally. The purpose and meaning of our theme song resonated deeply in my soul - so much that there wasn't once the entire week I could sing the whole thing without considering the immensity of joy that would be present upon that day - the day of our Lord's return to the earth to reign in might and power and wisdom and glory. His return and our preparation for that return is the most pleasing topic that we can be focusing on right now as a people.

We will not soon forget the testimonies from our dear friends from Iowa, as they recounted the hand of the Lord all through their lives. Nor will we forget the still small voice that spoke to our brother from MO regarding the reason he wasn't allowed to play in the NFL, thus God providing both comfort, insight and love through one answer. Nor will we forget the daily Aaronic messages or campfires or sharing of the 4 showers. We were touched by immense generosity from the saints there, from the place to stay, to the towels needed, to the warmth of reception we received.

We tasted of the heavenly gift of charity as we worked side-by-side, laboring in the vineyard of the Lord. We labored for each other and with each other. Sacrifices were made. And those sacrifices were acceptable in the sight of the Lord. He honored those who served him in righteousness to the end. This piece of the Promised Land is now inside of us. No matter where we go, we have a record, a record of this love. It might be buried under a mass of sin at some point, but it is still there, never to be taken away. And God can and will call it forth in the moment upon which he needs to raise it back from under that burden. He will forever have his imprint upon our heart from the love of the saints that week. May the Lord God Jehovah reign in your hearts today and everyday. And may He come, riding on the clouds, at the trumpet's call. And may we lift our voice in the year of Jubilee, for out of Zion's hill, salvation comes.



## Reflections on the Pacific Northwest Reunion 2017

by Sister Jan Esquivel

The summer reunion of 2017 (theme: Prepare a people ready to meet the Lord) was a refreshing and uplifting walk with the spirit of our Lord and Savior, but it really began a year earlier when we heard the admonition "continue to prepare, to fast, and continue to be the type of people you so profess to be unto me." Many prepared much! The priesthood provided leadership in prayer services, lifted our spirits with daily sermons to direct our way, encouraged us with Aaronic messages, taught lessons on spiritual preparation, and bore testimonies of God's touch in their lives at campfires. Throughout each day the music united us with joyful song and lifted our spirits with praise to God, giving him glory for His bountiful gifts. This abundance of spiritual food was paralleled with physical food prepared by our cooks. Thanks to each person for all the dedicated preparation and service. It is this type of charitable service that prepares us to qualify for Zion-building.

We fondly remember the week, but it is the moments we cherish and apply to our continued walk with the Lord when we return home. Each of us have some of those special memories from reunion that impacted our view of life. Here are some special moments to remember or images to strengthen your efforts to meet the Lord: We learned that we are like a football team, each with a special role to play on the team. The coach gives each player specific instructions to better accomplish his role--and no role is unimportant. God is the coach. The team needs each of us to listen to the coach and be obedient.

We heard a parable about an Indian boy riding his pony who stopped to see why a snake died half in and half out of an animal's hole. On inspection he discovered the snake had died because it refused to let go of its prey, thus dying there. We also will die if we refuse to let go of the habits and sins that keep us bound and buried in Babylon's worldly chains. The personal testimony of the Creston experience helped us realize that Zion conditions promise tremendous blessings.

Saturday night slides encouraged us to see the joy people share when the gospel touches the hearts around the world and bring us together in love.

Afternoon classes reminded us that the bridegroom is coming and we are to be preparing the wedding garments because we are the bride. Will we still embrace our filthy rags or be adorned in robes of righteousness? We learned the difference between the five wise and five foolish virgins--half came unprepared. The wise were first wise (singularly focused on the goal), received the truth, were not deceived, and took the Holy spirit as their guide. We sang about the days of Elijah, and the days of Noah. We learned that the people in Noah's day were not prepared for the flood and ignored 125 years of Noah's warning. Zion will be our ark, if we adhere to the warnings and obey. Sacrifice is at the heart of worship. The sacrifice the Lord wants is our contrite spirit and broken heart. Any hard, stony heart needs to be broken. The seed grows in fertile soil, nurtured, and tended. Pray your heart will receive and nurture the gospel seed. Many memories! Many more! May this reunion glow and grow in your heart till we meet again. What a blessed experience! Glorify God for his love and grace!



*Some of the priesthood who served at reunion*



## Summer Youth Camp 2017

by Sister Monica Moreland



Trials, temptations, and testimonies. These are just a few of the topics that we covered this last summer for youth camp. We had a great group of kids join us from Washington, Oregon, and Missouri, and the week focused on the regional theme of “Make ready a people prepared for the Lord”. The staff members for the week included: Cessaries, Kevin, Dustin, Michael, Brian, and Monica.

During the daily classes, the kids learned about the signs of Christ’s coming and the trials that will take place the closer we get to that point. There were activities to help them understand how Satan tempts them, how they should respond to temptations, and how to help others around them who are facing temptations. The kids enjoyed making oil lamps, painting rocks, and making other types of lamps for going on a walk. We definitely focused on who is our source of strength and light, and the kids understood the significance of having the Holy Spirit present with them at all times to guide them.

Many of the kids prayed for a personal testimony to strengthen their faith because they can no longer rely on their parents’ testimonies to get them through life. It is important to have their own personal testimony and to know how much their Heavenly Father loves and knows each of them on a personal basis.

For the evening with the pastor activities with Brother Brian, the kids enjoyed the many challenges that they had to face. They learned that they needed to focus on the Shepherd’s voice. His sheep know his voice and follow him. Several members of the staff took the opportunity to tempt them to listen to other voices, and some kids were easier to tempt away than others. However, they all survived the walk and returned into the presence of the Good Shepherd. Another evening focused on holding tight to the Rod of Iron. You must know your scriptures and not let anything drag you away (spiritually or in the case of this activity physically) from heading down the path that leads to eternal life in the presence of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

There was a good spirit with us all week through the classes and activities, as well as in the polar bear swims and other fun times. It was good to see the kids bonding with each other and growing in their spiritual walk.



## Reflections on the Pacific Northwest Summer Youth Camp 2017

by Sister Ginger Murnieks

Finally, on July 30, 2017 a long awaited and much anticipated time arrived. This day marked the commencement of the 2017 regional youth camp. After a year of fund raising, months of prayer and excited expectancy, and a whole week at reunion, communing with God and our beloved brothers and sisters, twenty-four elated youth were finally able to join together at Lewis River Camp Ground for seven days of scripture study, worship, and fun. It was such a blessing to be a part of this camp for the Lord surely smiled upon His children as we came together to seek out His ways.

The theme for the camp was congruent with the regional theme for the year, "Make ready a people for the Lord," Luke 1:17. Nevertheless, we had different themes for each day which challenged us to delve deeper, and come to new understandings, about the regional theme. On Sunday, the theme was "Make ready a people to come out of the world". Brother Brian had an activity to aid us in conceptualizing this idea. When we arrived at camp, we each had to write our names on cement bricks and while we were eating dinner the counselors scattered these stones in a big field, symbolizing the world. We were then asked to go and gather ourselves, the stones, out of the world and bring them to the campfire pit where we discussed the importance of coming out of the world and not tolerating the things typically found in the world at youth camp. Monday began with an air of vigor as we probed the theme "Make Ready a People Prepared," for all the treasure contained therein. The end times were discussed and even though they seem to be naturally associated with fear, we came to understand that if we are prepared for the Lord's coming we don't have anything of which to be afraid. Furthermore, we can anticipate these times with joy knowing that our Lord's coming is nigh. We also talked about the importance of knowing our Shepherd's voice so that we can be prepared to follow Him when He calls and not be deceived.

On Tuesday, we returned to the basics with the theme, "Make Ready a People with Faith and Hope". There were many wonderful classes throughout the day but the peak for me came during evening chats that night. Brother Brian used the fundamental story of David and Goliath to help us understand the great importance of faith and hope, and also brought understanding to our minds by showing how this story witnesses of Jesus Christ in countless ways. My mind was blown as I got a small glimpse of my Lord's awesome timing and marvelous foresight, but also His desire to work through a young shepherd boy to kill a giant and His continued longing to use each one of us in similar ways.

Though exhaustion was starting to knock on our doors by Wednesday, zeal quickly turned it away as we enthusiastically advanced with the theme, "Make Ready a People with Charity." In one of our classes we had the opportunity to make clay pots as we learned about how God

is the potter who desires to mold us so that we can truly possess the love of Christ. In the evening, we did an activity that simulated what went on in Lehi's dream. Each camper had to fight through flying pillows, blasting sprinklers, and many determined counselors in order to keep a hold of the "rope" of iron and make it to the tree of life. All of my brothers and sisters showed great tenacity and achieved their goal, but now a much greater challenge awaits as we attempt to show the same courage and perseverance in the struggle to obtain the pure love of Christ.



Thursday arrived before we knew it with the theme, "Make Ready a People with Unity." Two wonderful classes were taught in the morning. The first discussed the power of the tongue and the importance of using it to further the Kingdom of God and not break down our brothers and sisters. The second focused specifically on unity and made use of many activities to demonstrate the significance of working together to build God's Kingdom.

During evening chats that night we were challenged to use the rocks with our names on them, which we had brought out of the world, to build something which would glorify Jesus and point others to Him. It is not simply enough to come out of the world, but once we have come out we must work together to be a unit that points others to Christ and bears record of Him in all we do. We chose to use our rocks to build a cross. Friday began with apprehension, because we understood that we must soon leave our haven and return into the world. Nonetheless, we quickly plunged into our last full day with the theme, "Make Ready a People with Endurance." We had many classes throughout the day that focused on endurance and we even got to "fire" our lamps by leaving them out in the sun, symbolizing our own lives being fired by the holy spirit so that we can be enabled to endure to the end. In the afternoon, we played field games outside when it was 98 degrees so that we could learn endurance through practice. The day ended with a slideshow which drove home the truths we had been learning all week and invigorated us to go forth and be the light of the world.

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## Reflections on the Pacific Northwest Summer Youth Camp 2017

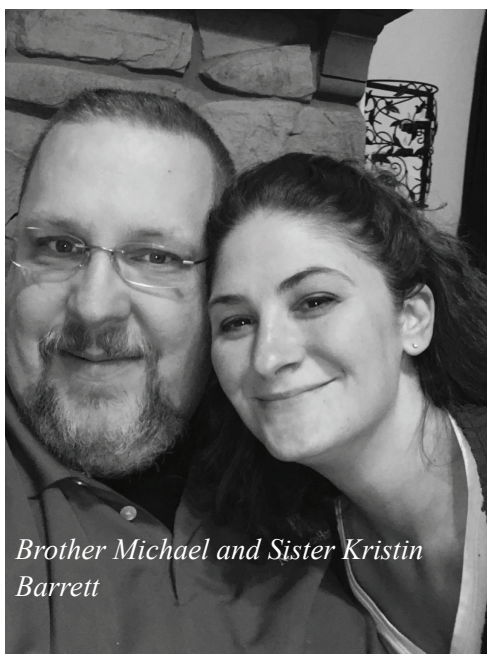
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While the saying, "Time flies when you're having fun," might be a cliché there is certainly a lot of truth to it. But at youth camp we had more than fun, we got to experience our Heavenly Father in ways we had not heretofore. Before we had time to blink, Saturday was upon us. Fittingly, the theme for the last day of camp was "Make ready a people with commitment." We had a final prayer service where we were able to dedicate ourselves to the Kingdom and invoke the help of our loving Heavenly Father. In addition to this we had to take our rocks back out into the field representing the world, but this time we did not scatter them but rather rebuilt them into a cross that would be able to point others to Jesus.

I cannot begin to explain all of the wonderful experiences, memories, and lifelong friendships which I gained at youth camp. From early morning polar bearing to late night campfires, from fellowship enjoyed during meal time to solemn morning worships, from fun games to enlightening bedtime devotions, I am so grateful for each and every moment I was able to spend at youth camp. I love each of my brothers and sisters so much and it brought so much joy to my heart to be able to watch them grow over the course of the week. May God continue to add His blessings to our lives as we strive to hold tight to the rod of iron and press forward towards the tree of life.

### A Special Evening of Music and Worship

by Sister Cessaries Galusha



*Brother Michael and Sister Kristin Barrett*

When Brother Michael and Sister Kristen Barrett came to visit the Northwest for their anniversary, it was a great blessing for all of the Saints here. They shared with us in services and fellowship, and it was so good to get to know and become closer with friends in the church we may not have had opportunity with before.

Even with their many travel plans to sightsee the area, the Barretts made a special effort to bring ministry while they were here. Brother Michael joined with Brother Gary Livingston in a service devoted to music and praise. Each has many gifts of music and of songwriting. Throughout the evening on September 30th they shared with the Saints the worship music they have written, and shared testimonies of how these songs came to be. The congregation listening was able to join in the singing, as well as listen, and pray, and discern the Spirit as He was with us during this time of worship.

The music was very inspiring to all who heard, and filled our hearts with joy and praise. To see how the Lord inspired their minds with creativity and love was a great joy to behold. We see the diversity of gifts in each soul God creates, but all good things come from the same Lord. I rejoice in the gifts that He gives to us, and I rejoice in our brothers as they have shared for the edification of the body. Thank you, Brothers, for your ministry to the Saints.

Thank you Brother and Sister Barrett for coming to this portion of the Lord's vineyard and bringing your love and ministry. I thank the Lord for His goodness and pouring out these most precious gifts that we may worship and praise Him in joy and blessing.

To learn more about the music of Brother Michael Barrett, order CDs, or to view the lyrics of his songs, please visit:

[www.mightytohave.com](http://www.mightytohave.com). The money received

for CDs is used to cover the cost of producing them, and any surplus is dedicated especially to further musical projects to glorify the Lord.

To learn more about the music of Brother Gary Livingston, download free songs, or view lyrics, please visit: [www.livingfaithmusic.com](http://www.livingfaithmusic.com). A link on the website also allows visitors access to several music videos.



*Brother Gary Livingston*



## Pacific Northwest Priesthood Retreat 2017

by Brother Jeff Rew

*And now come, saith the Lord, by the Spirit, unto the elders of his church, and let us reason together; that ye may understand: let us reason even as a man reasoneth one with another face to face: (Section 50:4a)*

There is great joy to have the opportunity to come together with the Priesthood from the region! This year brought again that joy in a common theme throughout our time together. The classes and discussions encouraged the magnifying of the calling we have within our Priesthood offices. Encouragement and admonishment was given to look closer at how our callings are currently being fulfilled, and where we should actually be, individually and collectively.

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; (Ephesians 4:11&12)*

A goodly amount of time was spent in discussion. Topics and questions raised were responded to in a particularly open dialogue and trusting manner. It is wonderful to witness a trust that comes through our love for Jesus Christ and one another! Among the topics that were discussed were issues that we felt were keeping us from more fully acting within our duties, how we can be more edifying to the body, how to become better witnesses for Christ, how we can re-engage those who have fallen away, as well as other various topics. Many testimonies were shared and ideas discussed which I pray will fortify and unite the ministry going forth from the Priesthood.

Frederick M. Smith stated:

"The function of the priest or members of the priesthood is to present the people to God, to lift them up towards Him, and hence he must know the needs of the people... (Priesthood Journal, Vol 1, number 2, page 16)

As we gathered in one accord, the theme for the year from Luke 1:7 *'Make ready a people prepared for the Lord'* was written upon our hearts with a desire to lift up toward, and assist in preparing a people for, the Lord. I believe each man came away from this retreat better prepared to assist the Lord in this work.

In length we discussed charity; charity for the law, charity for the work which the Lord requires, and charity for all mankind. As we read from 1 Corinthians 13: 1-3 (paraphrased), though I do good works, it profiteth nothing without Charity. It is simply not enough that we perform good deeds, feed the poor, or busy ourselves within the church. All things must be done with charity, which is the pure love of Christ our Saviour.

There are such great blessings in the hymns of the church. Our song services were uplifting, and such a blessing. Although I was out of breath before ending both services, it was marvelous to hear the praises and feel the Spirit through the singing of inspired hymns!

We were fed spiritually during the retreat by His Spirit, and physically by our wonderful cooks. Praise God for both. He is so good to us!





## Nepal and India Mission

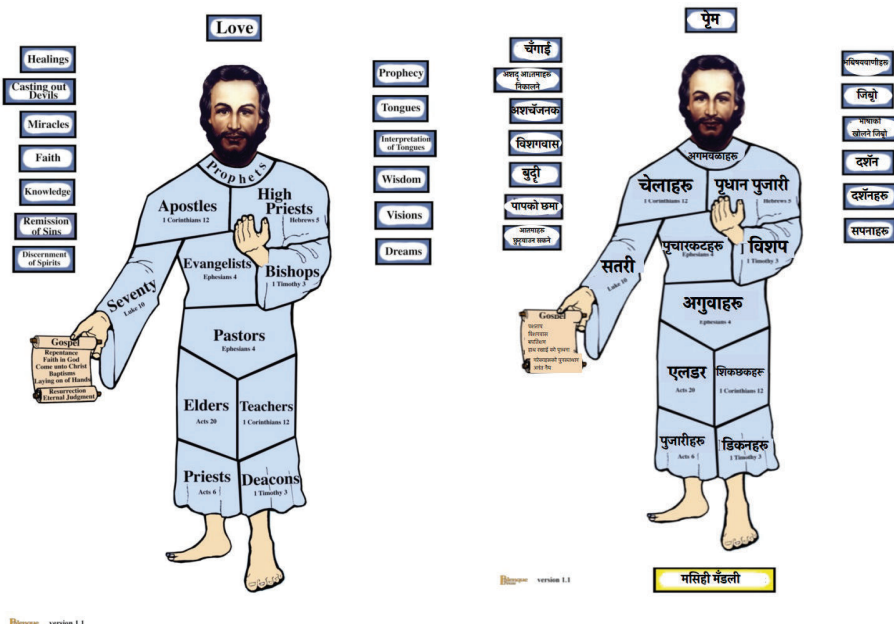
by Brother Brian Herren



Between August 26, 2017 and September 11, 2017, I was blessed to travel with Brothers Lyle Smith and Doug Smith on a mission to Nepal and India. Beginning in Kathmandu, we served at a Priesthood Retreat in the mountains near Tibet. Finding that we had access to power, we prepared Keynote presentations on our phones and, using Brother Lyle's small portable projector, we were able to share classes most of each day. By asking for help with translation we were able to get the transliterated forms of each slide. Then, using a free Nepali keyboard available on the iPad, we were able to use slides with Nepali script (see the examples below). Even when the building lost power, the Lord blessed us. On one such occasion, we continued with our classes using the projector after the building had lost power! Before leaving Kathmandu, we were able to visit with an older woman named Dahn, who had been illiterate from her youth. To this day, she is unable to read any text in her native tongue. However, several years ago, when presented with the Bible and Book of Mormon in Nepali, she took up the books and read them instantly from cover to cover. At present, she remains unable to read any text except for verses from the Bible and Book of Mormon, which she reads without the slightest difficulty. Brother Lyle stayed behind in southern Nepal, offering a much needed pastoral ministry, while Brother Doug and I traveled through the mountains of northeast India. We stayed in the homes of those given to hospitality and shared the gospel wherever given opportunity. Again and again I was reminded of the promises of God, that His work will not be frustrated:

*The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God, cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught, for God doth not walk in crooked paths; Remember, remember, that it is not the work of God that is frustrated... (Doctrine and Covenants 2:1a, 2a)*

When you feel like giving up, stand up and shake off the coals. Just when things seem most difficult and all seems lost, remember the cause. Keep your eyes upon the glory of God. Even now, God is moving in powerful ways. Don't give up!



मलकीदेशक

हारुन

prophets अगमवकाहरू

priests पुजारीहरू

apostles चेलाहरू

teachers शिकछकहरू

high priests पूधान पुजारी

deacons डिकनहरू

bishops विशप

seventy सतरी

evangelists पचारकहरू

elders एलडर



Brothers Dil Gurung and Brian Herren