

BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

JANUARY, 2018
VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1



Regional Events 2018

- YAG Retreat: January 26-28
- Women's Retreat: April 20-22
- Men's Retreat: May 11-13
- Summer Preaching Series: June 22-24
- Congregational Camping: July 6-8
- Reunion: July 30-Aug. 5
- Youth Camp: Aug. 5-10
- Priesthood Retreat: Sept. 21-23
- Fall Conference: Oct. 5-7

Inside this Issue

- Regional theme for 2018
- Women's Retreat 2018
- Men's Retreat 2018
- Summer Preaching Series 2018
- YAG Retreat
- Salem Building Update
- 2018 Camp Out

Regional Theme 2018: Keep Your Eyes Upon Jesus

by Brother Brian Herren

Numerous volumes might be written about the consequences of sin, and the results of man's rebellion in the beginning. The scriptures record that the nature of man changed in that day. Mankind became "carnal, sensual and devilish". The cascade of evil that ensued seems too much to draw into a simple list. King Benjamin admitted, "And finally, I can not tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin: for there are divers ways and means, even so many, that I can not number them." Men of each subsequent generation seem to conclude the newest generation to be the most depraved to date, but history reveals the devastating reality that the problem of sin is not as convenient as generational decline, nor as predictable. Human history is peppered with civilizations so wicked they had to be entirely destroyed, as well as groups that were so righteous that they walked in the presence of God. Good and evil have been at war from the beginning, and our destiny is left to our choosing in each dispensation.

In sin, we have brought upon ourselves a myriad of problems and questions that challenge us personally, socially, politically, economically, and spiritually. Jesus reminded us of the personal nature of our transgression, when he said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies... These are things which defile a man." Socially, Paul acknowledged the calamities that sin has introduced into man's systems and governments: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

There are many problems which we now face, but there is still one solution: Jesus Christ. There are many questions which now trouble us, but there is still one answer: Jesus Christ. There are many ways to transgress the law and stumble in darkness, but there is still only one way by which men might be drawn from the pit of despair: Jesus Christ. The answer to sin is still the answer to our every need, and the answer is found in our Lord and Savior alone. Jesus truly said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life".

In the latter days, the children of God are being tempted toward distraction. We can hear it in our conversations and see it in our fears. If we are not focused upon the Lord, then we have lost sight of the light upon which we are wholly dependent. It does the tempest tossed sailer little good to lament the storm, curse the seas, or describe the clouds. His hope lies straight ahead, if he can but keep his eyes single to the lighthouse that marks safe harbor. So it is in Christ's Church.

Christ's Church was restored to the earth in 1830, and she is not moved, nor does she fail. Her strength never was in her men, but in the Christ they were willing to die for. In recent years our regional themes have been building. We have embraced Zion (2013) and worked together with God toward it's redemption (2014), pressing steadfastly forward in hope (2015), discipleship (2016), and preparation (2017). Today, we are called to steady the ranks, hold the line, and Keep Our Eyes Upon Jesus, while we endure every hardship and push through every storm. If all that we have is Christ and His Kingdom, then we have all that we need. Let us focus again.

Dear ones, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light if you look to the Savior, and life more abundant and free! Keep your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

2018 Pacific Northwest Women's Retreat

April 20-22, 2018 - Anderson Lodge

Regional Theme:

“Keep Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Friday, April 20

- 3:30 Arrival
- 6:30 Introduction to the Weekend
- 7:00 Dinner
- 8:00 Evening activity

Saturday, April 21

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Song Service
- 9:15 Classes
 - 1) Sister Judi Smith
 - 2) Sister Cara Smith
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Afternoon Chats (Testimonies & Sharing) - Sisters Judi and Cara
- 2:30 Free time, craft (\$7), recreation
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:00 Worship
- 6:30 - 8:00 Prayer and Testimony Service

Sunday, April 22

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Song service
- 9:15 - 11:00 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Dedication Service
- Goodbyes and Departure

Registration Information

**Please send \$125 (add \$7 for craft) to: Jim Clark
4577 Sunflower Way NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305**

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

Sisters Judi Smith and Cara Smith to Bring Ministry at Women's Retreat

...a few autobiographical words from Sisters Judi and Cara



I am originally from Northwest Missouri, where I grew up in the RLDS church. I had lots of opportunities for involvement in youth and camp activities, some of which led to experiences that would anchor my faith and

my commitment to Christ. I am married to Doug Smith, who caught my eye while teaching a class on what else but "the Kingdom Way" at the Liahona house in Columbia, Mo. when we were students at the university there. Through the years, our family has been blessed to minister in many places in and out of the U.S. Besides Missouri, we have lived in California, Alaska, Australia and Kenya. We have been richly encouraged and strengthened by the lives and testimonies of the saints we have met along these journeys. In our daily walk, we are thankful for the support of our local church family at the restoration branch in Lexington, Mo. We currently live in Odessa, Mo. Doug and I have 4 children, 3 of which live in or close to Independence and we have 5 grandchildren with a 6th expected in February! In my time aside from working as an RN, I care for my mom who has lives with us, and I enjoy volunteering at youth camps and retreats. I've also been thankful for opportunities to return to Kenya and Australia to share with the saints there, and I'm just as thankful and happy to return to the west coast! Apostle Paul best sums up my feelings about being with my Oregon/Washington sisters, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine, for the steadfastness of you all, making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:3-6)



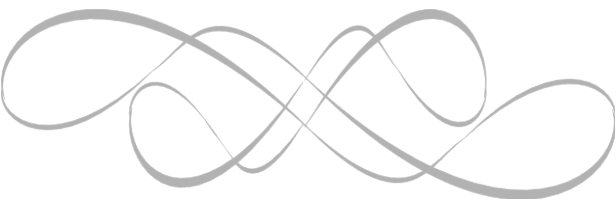
I spent the first 22 years of my life in southwest Iowa. I lived in the same house in Mt. Ayr, Iowa from the moment I came home from the hospital, until I left for college 20 minutes away at Graceland University.

Some of my fondest memories growing up center around the worship and fellowship I experienced within my church congregation. I learned from a very young age that my church was an integral part of my already large family unit. I am eternally grateful for the love and guidance they offered me through my early years, and continue to offer me today. My church family was integral in grounding my faith in Jesus Christ and His Gospel, and leading me to understand the great love He had for me, and required me to share with others.

After college, I left Iowa to attend the University of Missouri for graduate school, working toward a career as a Certified Child Life Specialist. I moved to Independence to complete an internship and, aside from a short move to Springfield, MO, have lived here ever since.

I currently work as a clinical instructor for Missouri State University, training students working toward a career in child life. The job allows me great flexibility to make time for my true desire in life, which is sharing God's love with his children around the world.

The Lord has blessed me with many opportunities to minister, working with youth in my local congregation, at church camps, and in various corners of the world. God has also begun opening doors for me to work with children in foster care, one my greatest loves. My heart is continually drawn toward the ministries of reconciliation and love. One of my favorite blessings is found in Isaiah 58, "and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in."



In recent years, many have expressed their feeling of a growing unity between the congregations of the Pacific Northwest. Moreover, bonds between those of the Northwest and other portions of the Lord's vineyard around the world are being strengthened and multiplied. Ministry is being sent and received as the Church works as one. This year, Sisters Judi Smith and Cara Smith have been invited to join us from the Center Place to teach classes at the Women's Retreat. If this ministry is important to you, please plan to support it. The most helpful support may come in one of two ways: (1) Attend the Retreat (2) If you are able to make an offering to help fund airfare, please send a check to Brother Jim, addressed to NWRRC, and write "airfare" or "Judi and Cara" in the memo line.

2018 Pacific Northwest Men's Retreat

May 11-13, 2018, Lewis River Campground

Regional Theme:

"Keep Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Friday, May 11

- 6:30 Dinner
- Introduction - Brother Brian Herren
- 7:30 Song Service - Brother Ron Trammell
- 8:00 Evening preaching - Brother Mike Terry

Saturday, May 12

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:45 - 9:15 Morning Worship: Brothers Ron Herren and Travis Clark
- 9:20 Class: Putting Christ First in Everything (Brother Jeff Rew)
- Class: Becoming A New Creature (Brother Kevin Herren)
- Afterward Lunch
- 1:30 Class: A Christian Perspective for Christian Believers (Brother Brian Herren)
- Afterward Free time
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:00 Evening Worship: Brothers Mitch Arndt and Derek Ethridge
- Prayer and Testimony Service: Brother Wray Moreland

Sunday, May 13

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:30 Song Service - Brother Gary Livingston
- 9:30 - 10:15 Communion Service - Brothers Brian Moreland and Jeff Rew
- Break
- 10:20 Parting Charge - Brother Gary Jones
- Afterward Light Lunch



Registration Information: 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 NWRRC

Summer Preaching Series 2018

by Brother Brian Herren



Brother Jack Hagensen

The Saints are encouraged to travel and attend each service:

Friday preaching service in Vancouver: 6:45 pm

Saturday preaching service in Vancouver: 6:45 pm

Sunday services at Silver Falls Park: 9:45 am

Dear Saints, please mark your calendars and plan to attend a summer preaching series to be held in the Pacific Northwest, June 22-24, 2018. Elder Jack Hagensen, of Independence, will preach Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. All are invited for a potluck picnic after Sunday morning services at Silver Falls State Park. This will mark the 5th annual Northwest Regional Summer Preaching Series. In 2014, Brother Eric Odida preached a three day series, followed by Brother Frank Shepard, Brother David Gilmore, and Brother Paul Gage. This year, Brother Hagensen will preach the series and all who attend are sure to be blessed. Brother Jack is a gifted preacher with a powerful testimony of Jesus Christ that glows through his patriarchal spirit. He is a valiant witness of the Lord, with a cheerful countenance, who carries the spirit of the fathers of our faith. Brother Jack's testimony of the Book of Mormon as a second witness of Christ underscores the strength that converts give to the Church. As each day of ministry and fellowship builds upon the previous, those who are able to attend the entire series will be especially glad that they made the effort. Please find a few brief autobiographical paragraphs below:

A Few Words from Brother Jack Hagensen

...autobiographical information and testimony

Because I have had so many experiences with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, it is hard to be brief.

I spent the first 42 years of my life living in the Vancouver, Camas and Washougal areas. I met Lois Schmidt while I was working at the Camas, Crown Zellerbach Paper Mill, working with her in the bag factory. During our first date, I asked her what church she belonged to. She said, "The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." I said, "what is that?" She shared some of her testimony with me. I was not too impressed. After we were married, and in the following year, in late May of 1958, our first baby, a boy who died during delivery because the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck. After that, our arguing turned to praying. I was home sick from work at the lab, and I was bored and asked her for something to read. She brought the book, "The Call at Evening", written by Jesse Ward. I read the book all the way through and it changed my life. Lois asked if I would like to have cottage meetings with Brother Paul Fishel. After about six months of study with Brother Fishel, he said, "Jack, I have taught you all that I know...you need to asked the Lord if these things are not true."

Everything seem to fit in place, but I knew I needed to respond to Brother Paul's request. I was lying in bed and I started to pray. I asked my Heavenly Father if what I had been taught was true. I don't care if my family or all my friends disown me...I have to know if these things are true. I felt as if I was lifted up and was going to the ceiling. The Lord spoke and said these words, "Your sins are forgiven you." I knew I was born again, truly forgiven. Then He said, "This work is true and I have a work for you to do."

I shared with Lois, then went to my mother and told her I was going to join this church. She said, "You are no longer my son." The rest of my family were very distraught and disappointed. But, I knew that I had found the truth in the Restored Gospel. I returned to my mother (on Mother's Day) two weeks later at the Lutheran church and put my arm around her and said, "Happy Mother's Day". She said, "Jack, I can't give up on you, but that terrible Book of Mormon has got a hold on you". She didn't understand, but before she passed away she was very happy with me.

I have traveled in many nations of the earth and across this great nation since that time, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. My testimony is still the same, that this church is all about Jesus Christ and the saving of souls to live with Him in His Kingdom, even Zion.

Brother Jack Hagensen will be preaching the Pacific Northwest Summer Preaching Series, June 22-24, 2018. Please plan to attend. Friday and Saturday evening services in Vancouver. Sunday morning services at Silver Falls Park near Salem.

Reflections on the Young Adults Group Retreat 2018

by Sister Ashley Smithline



Beginning the year with some quality time and learning is just what was needed and found in our adventures to get 'Fit for the Kingdom'. Between the classes taught by Elder Gary Livingston and Elder Brian Herren, the delicious food and the magnificent views, it was a wonderful way to begin to Strengthen our Mind, Body, Spirit and Souls for the year to come.

We joined together in a beautiful home in Lincoln City and enjoyed dinner Friday night before a song service led by Sister Cessaries Galusha. We shared scriptures that were brought to us by the Spirit that evening. A relaxing spiritual evening to kickstart our weekend's adventures.

A few of us elected to have a 'Fit for the Kingdom' session early Saturday morning, where we jumping jacked around and made sure everyone else knew it was morning time. We tried on some gloves and learned how to defend ourselves between jab, cross punches and a Bear Claw Gazelle Punch. We were all teaching and learning a bit! After breakfast we all sat down to learn from Elder Gary Livingston. Gary taught us how to become physically strong, but more importantly how to become spiritually strong. We discussed that being physically strong meant getting off the couch and staying away from junk food while being spiritually strong meant studying your scriptures, strengthening your heart, and surrounding yourself with a positive spiritual environment. We enjoyed some lunch following Gary's class before heading out for a hike along Drift Creek. We enjoyed a nice three mile hike in the Siuslaw National Forest, where we crossed many bridges, the scariest of which was the shaking suspended bridge over a beautiful waterfall. Sometimes you have to fight a little fear to see the beauty around you. Sometimes with God we must face our fears or go through some rough patches to find our way back to the true path.

We returned to our house, and Elder Brian Herren taught during the afternoon. We learned what it means to be strong and why we must be strong. I believe my favorite non-scriptural quote from the evening class would be from JFK – "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be Stronger Men." We learned that God strengthens our souls in Christ so that we may do God's work on the earth and continue to spread His Gospel. We must earn our strength by being humble and diligent. "I give unto

men weakness, that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak thing become strong unto them." Ether 5:28

We finished the evening with dinner before watching "End of the Spear", which helped illustrate what it means to be strong and to forgive when others do you wrong, and how to admit when you're wrong.

When we awoke Sunday morning we enjoyed some breakfast before the service, where we once again understood how we must dedicate ourselves to God and following the Holy Spirit, as well as strengthening our physical body so that we may do what is needed of us. We prayed for safe travels to our homes and departed with greater knowledge to start the year.



Reflections on the Young Adults Group Retreat 2018

by Brother Michael Livingston

The 2018 YAG retreat was a success! The theme for this weekend was “He has strengthened me”. We had an action packed weekend with exciting classes and fun activities. We all have a lot to be thankful for, for the Lord has surely blessed us with His Holy Spirit during this retreat.

We all arrived around 7:00 to 8:00 in the evening on Friday, January 26th. It was such a great blessing for all of us to be united once again. We had our first dinner together and then had a wonderful campfire service, lead by Cessaries. At the end of the service we had an opportunity to share our favorite Scriptures, the ones that have touched our lives, with each other. It was a blessing to hear our brothers and sisters read the Word of God that has meant so much to them.

The next morning, there was an opportunity for exercise before we began the day. We then had breakfast and then after, we had our first class taught by Gary Livingston. He taught a class on the parallels between physical strength and exercise, and spiritual strength and exercise. The class was a wonderful class with lots of insight and lots of participation.

After the class we had lunch and then went on a hike. The hike was a beautiful trail which led to a water fall on Drift Creek. There was a suspension bridge at the end of the hike which was amazing. The bridge was about 75 feet to the creek below and it can swing side to side, which some of us thought was fun and some of us did not think was fun!

When we got back we had a class that was taught by Brian Herren. He taught on the purpose of having strength from God. He went through the reasons why we should try to build up The Kingdom of God through the strength of God. This was also a very good class with lots of insight and lots of things to think about.

We then had dinner and after dinner we watched a movie called “End of The Spear”. It was about a tribe in the Amazon who was found by missionaries. The tribe was a tribe of warriors who killed other people for their own gain. The missionaries tried to teach them about God, but the missionaries were killed. The tribe was then visited by a second group of missionaries, who were the wives of the missionaries who had been killed by the tribe. This time the tribe was more accepting, and they were slowly converted. The missionaries taught the indigenous people in ways they could understand, telling them the God they already knew of had a Son, and that He was speared but He didn't spear back. The tribe became a very loving people. It was based on a real story.

The next day we had our final service which was led by Gary and Brian. We all had the opportunity to pray and rededicate our selves to God. After the service we all said our goodbyes and departed.

All in all, God has really blessed us in this retreat, and we all look forward to the next time we can be together again!



He
Has
Strengthened
Me

Salem Church Building Project

by Brother Herren



From time to time the Saints of various congregations and outposts inquire about the church building project undertaken in Salem. We hope to provide a brief update here. A plot of land has been purchased and paid in full with no debt. In 2016, an achievable building estimate and plan was endorsed by majority vote. In order to build the church using mostly cash, and minimizing any debt, an aggressive savings program was implemented. The branch decided to work hard to save all that we could for five years and revisit our position at that point. A lofty goal was set to raise \$60,000 per year. The first year of savings (2017) was recently completed, and by the end of the fundraising year, \$75,000 had been saved. The goal for 2018 is to raise \$60,000. By the end of January, 2018, one half of the yearly goal has been raised. Over \$30,000 of the \$60,000 we hope to raise this year has been added to the Building Fund at the writing of this article. Of course there is no guarantee that we will succeed, but some have already noticed the spiritual growth we have enjoyed as we have had to revisit our stewardship, labor through difficult processes together, and surrender our pride in realizing the worth of other people's opinions. Perhaps the greatest fruit will not be the building itself, but the building of a people and the proving of the Saints. We cannot yet guarantee our success, but

we wish to attribute every advancement of the work to a God who finds no obstacle too great. What has already come to pass is far more than any humble band might hope to achieve by the strength of their own economy. We praise the living God for all things great and small, and hope to serve Him well. He has answered our every need. As we continue to sacrifice and save, no oblation requests have been refused for lack of funds and no other church work has been compromised by financial insufficiency. The missions continue to grow, domestic outreach has kept pace, and the Sunday evening class responded to the lessons they were learning in the Doctrine and Covenants by giving freely to relieve the credit card debt of others in the class. Should we fill this page with praise for our Heavenly Father, we could not sufficiently exalt His name. Whatever becomes of us, we can be sure that God will not forsake His children. Whether in riches or poverty, we are sustained. May the glory be His forever. Little by little, the project moves forward. Thank you for your prayers and support. We pray against apathy, complacency, and mischief. Nothing brings complacency like a little success, but we are reminded that the challenge before us is great, and will require daily sacrifice for years to come. The Lord is blessing us, but we do not count it as faith to leave to God that which He has left to us. We press on, and implore the like-minded to aid the work so far as their cares permit.

Congregational Camp Out 2018

by Brother Herren

We were able to reserve the group camp grounds at Sunnyside Campground at Foster Lake for our congregational camping trip this year: July 6-8, 2018. The group camping area is separate from the rest of the campground and will accommodate trailers, motor homes, truck campers and tents. The separate camping area includes exclusive use of a covered picnic shelter, which can be used for meals and worship services. Each of the RV sites has hook-ups and is a 60' paved pull-through site surrounded by grass and trees. The group camping area is within walking distance of the lake, where two moorage sites were reserved so that Ron and Dorothy, as well as the Trammells, can dock their boats. There is a boat launch at the campground. The group campsites are also adjacent to ponds that are stocked annually with bass and trout for fishing. The ponds are equipped with a dock for convenient fishing for every level.



If you have not yet contacted me, and would like me to save a spot for your family, please contact me now. If you would like to make payment for your campsite, you may give a check or cash to Brother Jim and tell him that the payment is to be applied to the congregational camping. Please make checks out to Restored Church of Christ:

- Tent site: \$40
- RV site: \$50

This fee includes both Friday and Saturday nights. If you would like to camp with the Saints, July 6-8, 2018, but don't know if you will be able to pay for a site, please don't worry. Just contact me with a text, email, or phone call and we will work something out. Nobody should miss out on this fellowship for financial reasons.

Fellowship in Taiwan

by Sister Monica Moreland



Over Christmas break, I had the privilege of going back to my “second home” of Taiwan to visit the saints at the Keelung Mission. There is only one church group in Taiwan, and it is still just considered a mission. There are no priesthood members there and no full-time missionaries.

The group consists of very diligent saints that carry on without much support. To become a member in Taiwan, it is necessary to break from many of the customs and traditions of their culture because those customs and traditions

are rooted in the Buddhist beliefs. Those who have made that covenant through baptism have truly sacrificed a lot to become a member of the church, and they are very firm in their desire to worship.

I was able to meet up with the saints on Friday night for a Christmas party. We played some games, ate some snacks, and had a lovely worship together through songs and prayers. It was great to see many old friends who have not been able to come to church for many years. The regular saints are a very inviting group, and they encouraged these old friends to start coming regularly. They are great at inviting people in.

On Saturday, I went out for a walk to find something for dinner, and I heard music playing down at the harbor. As I approached the scene, I saw that it was a Christian group. It brought me great joy. Christians are such a small minority of the population in Taiwan, and many of the Christian groups support each other because there is a lot of work to do to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The band was singing and dancing up front, and there were thousands of people milling around. There was a Christmas tree made out of water bottles, and they had a nativity scene nearby. On water jugs, they posted the story of Christ's birth in order down the walkway of the harbor so people would understand the scene. It was amazing! I'm so thankful the message was getting out there!

On Sunday we had a nice worship and potluck. We worked together to translate the lesson so that everyone could understand. It is always nice to worship with the saints in Taiwan. They are a friendly bunch and eager to learn. I spent Christmas day going out to eat with some of the saints as well. It was truly a lovely trip. I was glad that I had the opportunity to lift up and encourage the saints to keep going, and I'm glad to see that those that came to visit me have started coming to church again. May God bless that amazing group of diligent saints!



Ministry Going Forth From the Pacific Northwest

It is important that we pray deliberately and often for all of the ministry going forth from our home congregations. Please pray for the following missions and ministry:

- Gary and Michael Livingston serving in Eastern Canada
- Melissa Clark traveling on a service mission to Nicaragua
- Brian Herren and Doug Smith serving in India
- Service oriented mission to East Africa leaving Salem

