

BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

NOVEMBER, 2018
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Regional Events 2019

- Women's Retreat: April 26-28
- Men's Retreat: May 17-19
- Summer Preaching Series: June
- Reunion: July 29-Aug. 4
- Youth Camp: Aug. 4-9
- Priesthood Retreat: September
- Fall Conference: Oct. 4-6

Inside this Issue

- Reunion 2018
- Youth Camp 2018
- Priesthood Retreat 2018
- Missions: Sister Moreland
- 2019 Regional Officers

The Best Reunion

by Brother Michael Livingston

"Keep Your Eyes on Jesus" was the theme for the 2018 Northwest Reunion, and what a blessing for us all to hear the worships, classes, and sermons on this topic. The Holy Ghost was truly with us throughout the week for we have gained so many testimonies. We were blessed to have people from all around to come and join us in worship to our heavenly Father and to bring our focus on Him. I gained a lot of wonderful testimonies during this week and I hope to share some of them with you all.

I unfortunately wasn't able to be there the first couple of days, but I was able to come on Wednesday morning and stay for the rest of the week. I came in on the morning message that was being brought by Dustin Mason. As I went in and sat down I immediately felt the Spirit. The theme for that day was "Undistracted". Dustin was giving his testimonies of how he was distracted when he was younger and then he came back and started to focus on God more. He spoke of things like music which had distracted him and how he placed his music in the offering plate at church one day to show that he was giving that up to the Lord. That brought me to think about the things I was distracted with, the things I worry about and how I shouldn't focus on those things.

The next day's theme was "Leaving Pride and Self". During the morning message, Adam Brendel was speaking and he gave us a self pride test that we were able to take and see how we scored. Getting a high score wasn't good because the higher the score the more prideful you were. On that test there were things that I've never thought of as being prideful, but the more I thought about it the more I realized how true it was.

There were so many places in my life that I had pride and I didn't even know it. It opened my eyes to be more mindful in my life with pride and how I should be more humble. Pride is not a good thing as it was the very thing that made Satan fall from heaven. I need to rid my life of pride.

For the adult class, the teacher this year was Tom Mitchell. He is an absolutely great teacher. I really did enjoy his classes as I know many of us did. We were really blessed for him to come here from Missouri to teach the classes for the week. We had many great discussions and insights that I personally haven't thought about before.

Throughout the week I've felt the Spirit from the time I woke up to the time I went to bed. Usually during Reunions I start to feel the Spirit at the end of the week but this Reunion was so much different, I felt it just as strong in the beginning. The last sermon for the week was given by Tom Mitchell. I felt the Spirit so strong during that service, more than I have had before that week. At the end of Tom's sermon he sang a song with his guitar. He sang "The Old Old Path" in a little bit different style than we are used to but it was so beautiful. When he was done, the final hymn was changed to "The Old Old Path". As we were singing, we got to the third verse and we sang "...are my friends most dear, and I walk with them, with the angels near." I was filled with the Holy Spirit and started to cry. I've never gotten to the point of crying when I've felt the Spirit before but this time I felt it so strong. I was thinking about the wonderful church family I have, and how much they mean to me. No matter what, they are always going to be my family and I will always love them.

This reunion has been the best reunion I have attended so far. I will never forget the blessings God gave me that week. I pray that the people who attended felt just as blessed as I did.

A Spirit of Brotherhood at Reunion

by Brother Tom Mitchell



Elder Tom Mitchell

For many years I have wanted to come west to the coast and meet the saints of the Northwest Pacific area. This summer the Lord prepared the way for my wife Deb and I to attend the reunion in Vancouver at the invitation of Brian Herren. Several weeks before Brian called to ask us to come, the good spirit rested upon me to begin preparations to teach the adult class.

We arrived a few days early and worshipped with the saints in the Vancouver branch the Sunday proceeding the reunion and also attended Sunday evening class with the saints in Salem that evening. It was good to meet the saints in those branches and begin the process of gathering together for the upcoming reunion.

Deb and I have never been treated with more kindness and generosity than from the saints we met. Every need and every want was cared for, most often before we asked. There are so many things that worked well that week, but three hallmark memories come to mind.

First, the priesthood sought unity and to be stripped of pride throughout the week but especially that spirit of brotherhood came in the early morning prayer and preparation sessions. There was never a hint of contention or disputation. Brian led us each morning in preparations for the day, respecting and honoring all the priesthood offices and ministry that would be brought to the body of Christ. The arrangement of the daily schedule was truly inspired as we moved through mornings of praise and preparation, to afternoons of learning, to evenings of powerful preaching and campfire worship.

Second, there was a willingness on behalf of the reunion from all attending to stay focused on our theme, keeping our eyes on Christ. That focus was born out so much in song, in fellowship, and in worship. It was evident in the sharing of work, in the sharing of songs, in the sharing of experiences. I was so immersed in the week that I would not allow any outside influence, not even emails or considerations of our house sale and new house renovations taking place back in Independence.

And finally, I was so taken in by the love, the dedication and friendship of the saints. As I would sit around the church grounds and in RVs and around the dining tables I would listen to the stories and powerful testimonies of so many saints that have become treasured friends. There was that same resounding theme of how God has moved in their lives, revealing himself in wonderful and miraculous ways.

I look forward to the near future when I can return to visit in the homes up and down the west coast. I look forward to spending more time with the young people as my class schedule did not permit much time to get to know them. (except of course those around the apple tree) But Brian promised me we would go visit them all. There are so many folks I want to see again, and new saints to meet. Soon I hope to be packing my bags, maybe my travel guitar and camera, with a few extra button down dress shirts and ties, to be heading west again.

Godspeed to the saints of the Pacific Northwest reunion. To those that might be gathering I echo the theme of several summer camps and retreats. "See you in zion next year"!

A Special Blessing

by Brother Phillip Breeze

What a blessing it was for my wife (Susan) and myself to attend the NW reunion. Our testimony starts when we left Missouri with Jessica and her one year old daughter Nora. We enjoyed getting to know Jessica better and Nora quickly became like a granddaughter to us on the two day 28 hour trip.

Upon arrival, the Saints quickly became brothers and sisters in Christ. They welcomed us as family and continued to prove that during the week long reunion. I came prepared to be blessed and the Lord and Saints did not let me down. My cup was filled to the brim and continued to over flow.

One of my testimonies that I pray I will never forget is about one of the saints. During the week I prayed for her and enjoyed her testimonies each time she shared. During the morning worship she read a scripture and during that reading she started to struggle with the words. I immediately started to pray for her during her struggle. I knew her heart's desire was to share this scripture. During her struggle I started to feel this overwhelming love for her.

I loved her just like our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ does. It is truly very difficult to describe the love I had for her at that moment in time. I did not care how long it took her to read that scripture because of the love I had for her and knew the strong desire she had to share. I did not want that love to stop.

...continued on page 3



Elder Phillip and Sister Susan

A Special Blessing

...continued from page 2

On our trip home while Susan was sleeping I began to go over all my testimonies from the week. When I came to this love I had felt for this sister, the love for her came back. I started crying because I could not contain this feeling of love I had. I so wanted to have this love for everyone in my life.

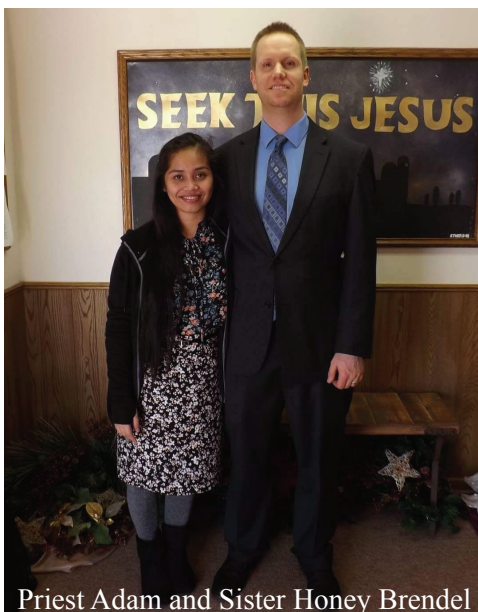
It started me thinking that this is how Christ loves us and the reason he died on the cross. I always knew this in my mind but now I know it in my heart and soul. He loves us unconditionally. We need to have that true love of Christ to be able to build his kingdom.

The Problem of Pride

by Brother Adam Brendel

I feel very blessed to have been able to attend the Pacific Northwest Reunion this year. This theme was "Keep your eyes upon Jesus". Thursday I had the responsibility to bring the morning Aaronic message. The Theme for the day was "Leaving Pride and Self". During my preparation the theme had a strong impact on me. I found a greater realization of how deep my pride was in my life, and prayed to God to help me make changes in my life that would be fruitful for the Kingdom. Pride always leads to gratification or elevating one's self. Pride does not lead to the interest of our Heavenly Father or our Neighbor. Pride violates the first and second great commandments found in Mathew 22:35-39.

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Priest Adam and Sister Honey Brendel

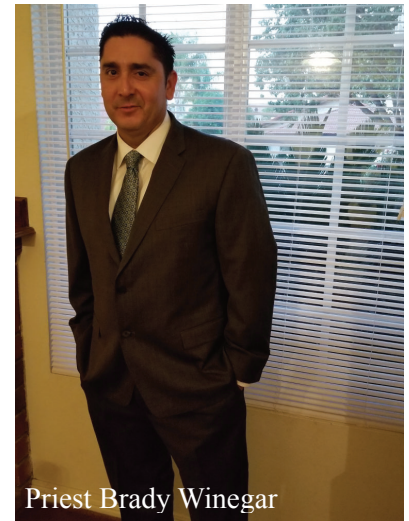
The Zenith of my Year

by Brother Brady Winegar

Over the past three years I have started attending the Pacific Northwest reunions. I live in Southern California, where, at this time, there is not a branch or mission for me to attend. So, when it comes time for reunion my heart swells within me. My longing is to be with God's people and these reunions that I have mentioned have become the zenith of my year. There is nothing greater for me, And I know in my soul it is a portion of the holy city, even Zion. I think about it a lot: people,

strangers, sinners, rich and poor, the learned and the unlearned...all coming together for one week, with one purpose. How I marvel at the mingling of the Holy Spirit being poured out from Heaven upon us and making us clean, even in holiness unto Jesus. In my earnest desires, the Lord brought to me ministry that filled my soul with love, and gave me such hope...hope in the reality that we are not alone. The God of Israel has not forsaken his people. I beheld the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the sacred grounds of the Vancouver church. How beautiful was my first morning this year. In my tent, I awakened to the sound of singing, and they sang "Hallelujah!!!" I was aware that no other person heard the heavenly song. I have come to love my time with the Saints in the Northwest. I cannot convey with paper and pen. How can I describe the hymns of praise when I could not sing because the Holy Ghost was so wrought upon me? How can I relate the worship I heard in the holy sanctuary as I sat under the ministry from on high? The servants of the Lord had their minds and mouths opened to feed my hungering soul the bread of life. My soul being fed, my only desire is to take the blessing back into my life in Southern California, all that was and shall be that my family and friends may know of the beauty of the city that is coming.

I tasted of that holy city being amongst the Saints. I remember well and cherish our last hymn together. It was a favorite hymn of mine as well. After my good friend, Elder Tom Mitchell played the wonderful hymn of praise to God, the Spirit of God moved upon me in power, and as the Saints stood to sing the hymn "The Old Old Path", so powerful was the gift of God to me that I could not sing. My soul was flooded with the knowledge that those that have gone before us, those early Saints...that the Father granted unto them that they should come in at that moment and be one with us. I could hear them singing with the Saints of today. I could feel my brothers in closeness and I wept. So, in this old, old path are my friends most dear and my great hope in earnest is to be at reunion next year.



Priest Brady Winegar

The Problem of Pride

...continued from page 3

Pride is ultimately the sin where Satan fell and was cast down. Satan came before God and wanted to redeem all mankind and not one soul will be lost. He was going to take away the agency of man. He wanted God to give him (Satan) the honor. Jesus came before God and said, Father, thy will be done, and the Glory be thine forever". Satan sought for honor but Jesus sought to give honor to God. When Jesus walked the earth he did not think of himself or how to bring honor to himself, but to bring honor to His heavenly Father. (Genesis 3: 1-5 IV) Jesus lived a life of service to His heavenly father and to others. Not a life a service to Himself. If we are to get the Pride out of our lives we need to be in of life a service to God and others and not service to ourselves. Like Jesus did! Anything good that we do, may the Glory be to God and not ourselves.

There were many things shared at the reunion that stirred my thinking. One was regarding discipleship. John the Baptist came before Christ to prepare the way for Christ. John bore record of Christ in his teaching that there was One (Christ) mightier than John who would come. That John baptized with water but when Christ came He would baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire. John had many disciples. After Christ came John referred his disciples to Christ and they stopped following John and began following Christ. So John lost disciples so that Christ gained disciples. John stated, "He must increase, but I must decrease". (John 3:31) We must do the same and make sure we are always referring people to Christ. That we do not have disciples who follow us because of ministry characteristics, style, or personality. That we must decrease and Christ must Increase. We must refer all people unto Christ.

The Holy Spirit was uplifting and edifying and bore much fruit in my life this year at the reunion. I received ministry and counsel that I can apply to my life. The goal to come to higher ground. I am looking forward to the months ahead to see the Lord work in my life and corporately in His church. Also, I am looking forward to the 2019 Pacific Northwest Reunion.

Growing Stronger at Reunion

by Sister Susan Ames

I start preparing for our next yearly Reunion about the time I return home from the one I just participated in. This year I was not sure if i could attend and it took some doing to overcome many small issues that always come up in my everyday life to thwart preparations that are made, changed and rearranged. As the women were asked to lead a morning devotional, I was aware of the theme and daily additions for study. I wanted to completely leave my normal temporal life and get into the Spirit that I knew was awaiting all who attended.

This entire week was filled with wonderful music from the youngsters to the adults. Singing started early in the morning and lasted throughout the entire week. Prayer and testimony meetings were heartfelt and meaningful. Our visiting Troubadour Teacher from Missouri left us wanting more, which he delivered with the closing song.

DO NOT LOOK BACK, PRESS FORWARD. Many new friends were made and seeing the Saints again renewed the Love we have for each other now matter the time and distance between us.

My testimony has been greatly affected by Reunion, year after year I have been able to attend and grow stronger in my love for my Savior, Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in His church, to discover what His plan is for my remaining time on this earth and do what I can to continue His work under His ever watchful presence in my life. Prayers for another year and the opportunity to attend another Glorious Reunion, if it Be His Will.

Pacific Northwest Regional Youth Camp

by Brother Donovan Murnieks

This year's NW Regional Youth camp was an incredible experience for everyone able to attend. The camp was held again at Lewis River Campground and included nineteen campers and nine staff members. The theme for the camp as well as the region was Focus on the Lord. It was a younger group of campers than I have experienced in the past, it was truly a blessing to be a part of a camp with some first-timers and watch them grow throughout the week.

At the camp, there were many traditions which continued from previous camps, such as the freezing river, the amazing classes and of course the delicious food provided by our cooks Ron, Dorothy and Melissa Herren. There were also new and equally enriching experiences. For example, the youth were given the option to participate in a missionary class provided by sister Cessaries. This was one of my favorite activities; we would go through the "Go Ye and Teach" slides and present them to our fellow campers in the class as well as the staff, who would give us advice on what to do when presenting these slides to others. It was a wonderful learning experience.

...continued on page 5

Pacific Northwest Regional Youth Camp

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While at camp the Spirit flowed among us as we diligently sought experiences with our Savior. Along with Brother Mike Terry's pastor talks and campfire, we would have Prayer and Testimony services in the outdoor sanctuary. Even though it was outdoors, the sanctuary was treated very reverently. During these Prayer services the Spirit flooded over us in abundance and almost everyone prayed or testified every night.

To mirror the experience of camp, I will end this article by discussing the campfires. Campfires are loved by all; it's a time at the end of the day to come apart and simply praise our Heavenly Father through song. We would often begin with silly songs and then move into more serious ones. As the nature of the songs changed so did the Spirit among us, we could feel it enter and we would close with a prayer. At the end of camp we all grew closer to God- Which is what youth camp is all about.



2018 Priesthood Retreat

by Brother Ed Mason

Hello to all Brothers and Sisters in Christ! I am honored and humbled to be asked to share my account of the 2018 Pacific Northwest Regional Priesthood Retreat. How great it was to leave all our worldly cares behind and come together with Brethren that love each other so much. I had been looking forward to this weekend for quite some time, as I'm sure the Brethren were also! The weekend started with a delicious meal Friday at 6:30 and went upward from there! At 7:30, Brother Jim Clark lead us in a spiritually fulfilling song service with him sharing scripture between each hymn. Did the Holy Spirit join us? YES HE DID! At 8:00, Brother Wray Moreland brought us the Word of God through the Holy Spirit with power and authority. Afterwards, I was on such a spiritual high, that I couldn't go to bed right away. Most of us stayed up visiting for a while in the living and dining rooms. I think part of my spiritual high was brought on by being around Brethren that I know love me, strengthen me, and don't cast judgment over me.

I was blessed with a restful night's sleep, and was ready with great anticipation for the day ahead! Breakfast was promptly served at 8:00 and was of course, a very tasty cuisine. At 9:00 Brother Derek Ethridge and I brought the morning worship. Brother Derek's opening prayer touched my heart in a way that I was able to share a few words with the Brethren. I spoke on one way to keep our focus on Jesus is to get back to the basics. Back to the Altar, and back in the arms of our first love-Jesus! (He loved us first). At 9:30, Brother Gary Livingston brought us the first morning class.

We were given 2 handouts- one with a tree with the branches of both priesthoods, and the other a list of the duties of each calling. He talked about the common priesthood purpose and we discussed the harmony between the two priesthoods. (The greater and the lesser). We covered scriptures about the priesthood in Hebrews, Psalms, Genesis, and 1st Corinthians. The class was over before I knew it, with the Holy Spirit leading us, guiding us, and directing us. Thanks Gary, it's almost like you were born to teach ☺! We took a short break and then it was Brother Mike Terry's time for the next class. Brother Mike was lead by the Holy Spirit to admonish us on our priesthood duties. We need to take our callings more seriously! More visiting, more fasting and prayer, more membership reach out. The small things that we don't do add up and do matter! We also need to quash the pride out of our lives. Our Father in Heaven loves us sooooo much, and at times, because He loves us sooooo much, as His children, we NEED that good, stern talking to! Thank-you sooooo much Brother, I felt like you were talking directly to me! After class lunch was served, and the Sisters must have cooked up around 10 lbs of bacon for our BLT's! Yum! (I asked Brother Mike Terry if he was going to have a little bread with his bacon ☺)

After lunch, we were delivered a message from Brother John Henderson who had joined us in the morning. He spoke about the "Simon" mentioned in the 8th chapter of Acts. Simon Magus, aka Simon the Sorcerer and Simon the Magician. He warned us that this Simon was a servant of satan. This Simon worked hard to break up Christ's Church here on Earth! ...continued on page 6

2018 Priesthood Retreat

...continued from page 5

After that, we had our last class by Brother Kevin Herren. (Another born teacher!) Kevin's class was "A review of the Financial Law." We went over lots and lots of scriptures from all 3 books. Kevin wanted us to critique this class as he was using us as test subjects to teach a class on financial law to the members. He showed us a way to lay out our tithing statement with our assets and liabilities. The class was very informative, it opened my eyes, and it spoke to me that I am not tithing in the proper manner. Thanks Kevin, the Holy Spirit was with us for this class.

After class, we had a little free time to visit then Dinner was served at 5:00. Another delicious meal prepared for us by Sisters Suzy Herren, Carla Livingston, and Jan Esquivel. (Did I mention the food was plentiful and very good! ☺) At 6:00 we were blessed with "Evening Chats" Led by the Holy Spirit and Brother Brian Herren. The theme was "Christ-centered home ministry." We covered a vast array of thoughts of how to be diligent ambassadors of Christ! From strengthening our families in Christ, to strengthening our relationship with Christ. From visiting the sick in hospitals, to visiting each active and inactive member. From prioritizing ourselves, to scheduling our time wisely. To go out in pairs, and "Just do it!" Thank-you Brother Brian for using the Holy Spirit to bring this into our hearts! Right after our "Evening Chats" we had a prayer service led by Brothers Gary Jones and Mitch Arndt. We had prayers for the brethren, our branches, and the Lord's work in the coming year. All shared as the Holy Spirit rained down upon us. It was a humbling experience! I was spiritually filled for the day and went to bed shortly after feeling very blessed.

Sunday morning was upon me very fast and another great breakfast was served at 8:00. We had another song service at 9:00 led again by our good Brother and excellent tenor Jim Clark. Liken to the Friday night song service, the Holy Spirit was among us again! After the song service, Brother Mike Terry led the Communion Service and I assisted. After Communion, to cap off the weekend, (extremely fast weekend) Brother Brian Herren, with the help of the Holy Spirit, shared a few parting words with us. Thank-you Brother.

We were fed well physically this weekend, but more importantly, we were fed well spiritually! Thank-you Lord for sending Your Holy Spirit down to intervene in our lives! May the Lord watch over us till we all get to meet again!



Youth Camp in Rwanda

by Sister Monica Moreland

With great excitement, I set off on July 31st to Rwanda for a two-week missionary trip. It would take four airplanes to get there, and I would meet up with three members of our team in Qatar (in the Middle East). Doug Smith, Sam Jordison, and Nicole Capps were waiting for me, and we ventured on to Rwanda together. When we arrived, everyone was able to get their bag, except me. My bag had not made the trip from Qatar, and it would arrive the next day around 4 p.m. God has used missing bags as disguised blessings before, so I did not get discouraged. The four of us met up with Elder Francis Baganizi and Priest Jean de Dieu outside. Brother Jean took our small group on a wild adventure on hired motor bikes with our luggage (this was one time I was thankful not to have mine) to our rented house. Brother Francis stayed behind at the airport to meet up with our final two members, Eric and Rita Woolery.



That night, I was informed that I would not be joining the group as they went visiting the next day in Gaseke. I would stay behind with Brother Francis' daughter, Phionah, and adopted daughter (because of the genocide), Sada. They would help me get to the airport to get my bag. Brother Francis shared how Phionah had been struggling with her faith and involvement in church and how Sada was of the Catholic faith. He hoped that the one-on-one time would be a good time for me to share my faith and testimonies. I prayed about that opportunity and that God would give me wisdom. The next morning before they left, the whole group was helping me get flip books ready for my "Plan of Salvation" class during the retreat later in our trip. After they left, Phionah and Sada came in to see what I was doing. I took the opportunity to share with them all about the books. They were very interested, and they each asked to keep one. I made them promise that they would share what they had learned in exchange for keeping a book. They both have kept their promises. Two days later, Sada surprised us all by asking to be baptized, and her husband (whom she shared the book with) is hoping to do so soon as well. I was thankful for my missing bag.



Our baptismal service that first week started out with three candidates, but in the end, six people were baptized. Right before Sam got in the water to perform the first baptism, an eel stuck its head out of the water and bore a big toothy smile. Sam's eyes were huge. We knew that we needed to pray for the protection of each member that got into the water. All went very smoothly...praise the Lord! I love how each of those watching stand by the water's edge and sing praises throughout the baptismal service. It was a new experience!

...continued on page 8



Youth Camp in Rwanda

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We had the chance to meet up with several groups during the first week, and we had many confirmations. Priest Jean and Priest Michal Nzaisenga have been busy with Brother Francis sharing the gospel and baptizing. Since there is only one elder in Rwanda, they wait until missionaries come to confirm people members. Rwanda is such a beautiful place. It is known for its thousands of hills, and I was greatly impressed and moved by the people that were working hard every day to deliver goods up and down those steep hills to provide for their families. I was also concerned and amazed by the children (as young as 3) that had to walk miles to go fetch water for their families. They are an amazing people! For the second week, we had a women's retreat and youth retreat at the same location. We took turns teaching at each retreat. We had saints and friends from Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, and the Congo attending, and our total number at the retreat was over 70 people. It was fun learning their

traditional songs of worship in their different languages. After teaching my "Plan of Salvation" class, I gave each person a flip book, and I loved watching them practice teaching each slide in small groups. I could just see the possibilities of the gospel going forth to every people in their own language. It was all such an amazing experience, and I am truly thankful to my Lord and Savior for opening that door and allowing me to be a part of His work. May God continue to bless my new friends and the work in that part of His vineyard!

Fall Conference 2018

by Brother Brian Herren

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. Every regional activity was Spirit-filled and financially self-sufficient, without deficit. Through conference action, the Saints decided to apply the surplus monies toward the cost of next year's youth camp and women's retreat.

The following officers were elected at fall conference, October 5-7, 2018, and will serve the region in 2019:

Regional Director:	Elder Brian Herren
Counselors to Regional Director:	Elder Mike Terry (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:	Brother Aaron Dukes
Regional Music Director:	Sister Cessaries Galusha
Regional Church School Director:	Sister Maddy Clark



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. In 2018, the fund helped five young families within the Church start small businesses in Kenya so that they could be self-sufficient (\$200 per family). The funds were also used to build a church for the congregation in Bumageni, Uganda. Several of the men from Salem, Oregon traveled to assist in constructing the church, which is the first permanent church building of the Restoration in Uganda. Monies from the regional missionary fund were also used to advance the church headquarters building in Kisumu, Kenya, where the Church will be able to hold retreats, camps, and worship services without ongoing rental fees.