

BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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A City on a Hill ...by Brother Brian Herren

Regional Events 2019

- YAG Retreat: March 15-17
- Women's Retreat: April 26-28
- Men's Retreat: May 17-19
- Summer Preaching Series: June 21-23
- Reunion: July 29-Aug. 4
- Youth Camp: Aug. 4-9
- Priesthood Retreat: Sept. 20-22
- Fall Conference: Oct. 4-6

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The regional theme for 2019 is "A City on a Hill". Matthew 5:16 records the instruction given by Christ to His disciples: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the light of the world; a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid".

As disciples of Christ, we are challenged to reach for higher ground in every aspect of our daily walk. We must be different, unique, peculiar and distinct in word and deed if we are to be the witness of Christ intended in our divine purpose. We must be different...different from the heathen nations...different from all faithless society...and different from the vain professors of a sliding Christendom intended to be more inclusive through moral decline.

The Saints should stand out. They should be known for their virtuous conduct in every environment, their sterling character and adherence to the highest principles of the kingdom, and the unfettered charity revealed in Christ Jesus. We should have a different perspective, having been "transformed by the renewing of our mind". The Church should strive to see others as Christ sees them, and approach each day as Christ has purposed in us. The Saints should speak differently, never descending to the degenerating standards of reprobate public discourse, but holding our tongues for praise and thanksgiving. A Saint should not be heard complaining, disparaging another, quitting, giving license to unrighteous judgment or permission to pessimism. He is optimistic, ready to give answer in Christ to every human dilemma by the hope found in the Lord. Paul wrote: "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." The Saints will never give up. We will not abandon our posts, but will "remember that Saints should be cheerful in their warfare that they may be joyous in their triumph."

The Church should stand out. We are told to "be clean, be frugal, cease to complain of pain and sickness and distress of body; take sleep in the hours set apart by God for the rebuilding and strengthening of the body and mind", and "see that ye love one another; cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires; cease to be idle; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another." We are to keep the Lord's Day holy, meet together often, pray without ceasing, study, fast, and live by every word which proceedeth from the mouth of God. The Saints have three books of scripture: the Bible, the book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants, and will live by the counsel of God through much thanksgiving for every verse given. What a strange and happy people they will be!

We are to show mercy unto others as God has shown mercy unto us, be anxious to forgive, slow in wrath, temperate in all things. The Lord has instructed, "In your patience possess ye your souls." Anger should be treated as a poison to be carefully dispatched with every wasteful toxin: impatience, malice, rumors, self-righteousness, and pride. Even our dress should show clearly our difference, not given to self-indulgence and laziness, but neat and disciplined, an outward show of an inward mastery.

Those purporting to be members of the true and living Church of Jesus Christ should be as a city on a hill, lights in a dark world, unique and set apart. This city on a hill will draw those seeking truth, and those longing for a respite from endless debates without satisfying conclusion. Mankind needs the difference in our lives that comes through the revelation of Jesus Christ. The gospel call is not to division, but it is a call to distinction. Are we ready to be a city on a hill? In the fifth chapter of Matthew, Christ was not calling for His disciples to move to Zion. He was calling them to move Zion within. May He bless us this year as we consider the ways.

Young Adults Group Retreat 2019

by Brother Brian Herren



The Young Adults Group Retreat will be held March 15 -17, 2019 on D Lake in Lincoln City, Oregon. A newly constructed home of 4,000 square feet on 1/2 an acre has been reserved. The home has 5 bedrooms and 4 baths, and will sleep 20 guests. One hundred feet of lake frontage and a private dock will add to our adventure! Don't forget to pack swimsuits for the hot tub and polar bears. The rental home is a short distance from the beaches of Lincoln City and the awe-inspiring Pacific Ocean.

Elders Jack Hagensen and Tom Mitchell will be visiting the Pacific Northwest this Spring, and have been invited to bring the guest ministry at the YAG Retreat. The classes, preaching, campfire services, and prayer services are sure to be the highlight of the weekend as we draw nearer to the Lord in worship and study.

All are welcome. There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP to Brian: (503) 949-2484. The retreat is open to those young adults who are 18 years old and older.



2019 Pacific Northwest Women's Retreat

April 26-28, 2019 - Anderson Lodge

Regional Theme:
"A City on a Hill"

Friday, April 26

3:00 - 6:00 Arrival
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Evening activity

Saturday, April 27

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

Sunday, April 28

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Song service
9:00 - 11:00 Communion and Preaching Service
Goodbyes and Departure



Registration Information

Please send \$115 if registration is received before April 5th

-or-

\$125 if registration is received after April 5th
(add \$7 for craft)

Send to: Jim Clark

4577 Sunflower Way NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305

Checks should be made out to:

NW Region of Restoration Congregations or NWRRC

2019 Pacific Northwest Men's Retreat

May 17-19, 2019 - Lewis River Campground

Regional Theme:
"A City on a Hill"

Friday, May 17

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

Saturday, May 18

8:00 Breakfast
8:45 - 9:15 Morning Worship: Brothers Steve Scuito and Ron Trammell
9:20 Class: Brother Gary Livingston
 Class: Brother Wray Moreland
Afterward Lunch
1:30 Class: Brother Ed Mason
Afterward Free time
5:00 Dinner
6:00 Evening Worship: Brothers Jim and Travis Clark
 Prayer and Testimony Service: Brother Jeff Rew

Sunday, May 19

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 - 9:30 Song Service - Brother Jim Clark
9:30 - 10:15 Communion Service - Brothers Gary Jones and Mitch Arndt
Break
10:20 Parting Charge - Teacher Kevin Herren
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

Uganda and Kenya

by Brother Ron Herren

On October 18, 2018, Elder Brian Herren, Priest Jim Clark, Teacher Kevin Herren, Brother Travis Clark and I, from the Salem, Oregon Restoration Branch embarked upon a service trip to Kenya and Uganda. This was to be a somewhat different missionary effort than many others.

We flew into Nairobi, Kenya where we were met by James Yogo and Dean Odida. We were taken to the home of Brother Dean where we spent the next day and a half. Dean provided us with housing and delicious meals.

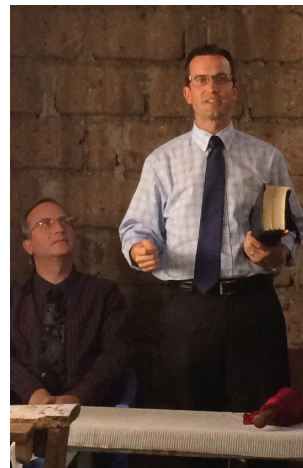
On Sunday we were blessed to be able to worship with the Nairobi Saints at the Jakaranda Branch. The accommodations were humble but the spirit strong as God poured out His blessings in great measure as Brian delivered the sermon.

Preparation for this trip began months before our actual departure. As a group we fasted and prayed and met each Sunday evening after our Doctrine and Covenants class. We broke bread together and prayed for many aspects of the trip but most importantly we prayed that we would recognize and do God's will and not our own.

The trip to Uganda was evidence that God had different plans than our own. We thought we would spend the first part of the trip in Kisumu, Kenya, to assist in the building of their church headquarters. However, due to the permit processes and other unforeseen issues construction there had not yet begun. We were sent to Uganda instead, to assist the Saints in Bumageni in building a church as their current structure was no longer safe or suitable for meetings.

We were accompanied by Brother Eric Odida on our drive through the Great Rift Valley to the border of Uganda. When we arrived at the border we found it to be closed for the evening, and not to reopen until the next morning. This required us to spend the night in a local road house. On this trip we realized God's blessings every single day in a variety of ways, finding a guest house with 6 rooms available was one such blessing.

We woke the next morning well rested. After a breakfast of mondazi and tea, we headed for the border. Since the taxis or matatus don't cross the border, we entered Uganda on foot. With Eric's great assistance we found a Ugandan matatu to take us to Bumageni. As we traveled through the country side we were taken by the pure beauty of Uganda. Rolling hills covered in lush vegetation was a comforting sight.



"Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living."

- Albert Einstein

Uganda and Kenya

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The trip to Bumageni was an adventure in and of itself. We traveled on what passes for roads as far as we could and then we climbed aboard Honda 125cc motorcycles (people, luggage and all) and were taken through the jungle to a village where we were welcomed at the home of Elder Simon and his family, Priest Sam, and Elder Tadeo (Sam's father).

We worshipped and ate dinner at Simon's home that evening and were then assigned, in pairs, to homes of the Saints where we spent the next couple days. Every morning we met at Simon's house for breakfast and worship before beginning the day's labor of building a suitable place of worship for the Saints. The old church was condemned and new building barely started. It was such a thrill and honor to work shoulder to shoulder with men who have faced such adversity in their lives. The act of building was a challenge as they do not have the resources common to us in the United States. Sand, rock, and bags of cement had to be brought long distances through the jungle and mixed by hand on the ground. These men labored arduously without complaint. The village women transported water for the "mortar" using five gallon jeep cans, making several trips a day carrying the cans (over 40 lbs. each) on their heads. The water source was about one mile away from the building site.

We were blessed each day that we labored with these men and women. The countenance of these beautiful people who live humbly and face daily hardships was truly amazing. Joy and love shone from each and every face. We were blessed with good weather, often times having a gentle breeze blowing. This was welcoming and made it far more comfortable for us Mzungu (white people).

The villagers had made and stockpiled several thousand bricks to be used in this construction project prior to our arrival. Each day that we labored we were joined by the village ladies; they would bring the children to watch the building activities and to watch us.



Kyle and Kayla received their baby blessings while we were in Bumageni



Uganda and Kenya

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The children, another blessing to us all, were amazing. They were happy, beautiful and joyful. At one point we were moving bricks from the stockpile to the building site. Without being asked these small children began carrying bricks, as many as their tiny hands, bodies and heads could carry. They kept it up for several hours each day and were happy just to help. The ladies also prepared a delicious lunch each day.



When we arrived Brian challenged the village children to foot races. They raced until Brian was exhausted. Later he introduced them to the game of "tug of war". This was something they had never heard of. It was delightful to watch them trying to master the game. Each afternoon, near the end of the workday, the children would gather waiting for the treats that Brothers Jim and Travis brought for them from Salem. Jim and Travis gave them candy, bracelets, finger lights and other trinkets that the children cherished.

Each evening we returned to Simon's home for a meal, worship and fellowship. After several days of construction, the building was ready for the roof to be placed and the floor finished. This work was physically demanding but the Lord strengthened us all. The next day we departed Uganda leaving a piece of each of our hearts with the Saints in Bumageni, and headed to Kisumu, Kenya. We stayed with Eric and Pam Odida until we left Africa. They were very gracious hosts providing with wonderful meals, beds, modern facilities and safety. We are eternally grateful to them.



In Kisumu, since there was no physical labor for us, we were able to visit different branches and many homes of the Saints. One evening Brother Eric informed Brian that there was a need for ministry in Sori Bay. This meant our group was to be split up for a few days. I think we all wanted to stay together so as we prayed over this. It became apparent that Brian and Jim should travel to Surrey Bay. Brother Eli Okecha, Brian, and Jim traveled several hours over very rough terrain to get there, where they were received with great anticipation and felt very welcomed over the next three days and two nights. They received blessing upon blessing while there. We were happy that we recognized and did God's will and not our own.



Brother Travis treats a friend to "Pop Rocks" candy



Tug-of-war with the village children at Bumageni



Brother Jim Preaches in Nairobi

Uganda and Kenya

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While in Kisumu, Brian and Eric taught classes at a young men's retreat. The classes were aimed at improving family values and trying to put away some old traditions. Blessings were poured out on everyone in attendance.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the great service of our Brother Eli. He is truly a work horse. Eli drove us daily, from early in the morning until late at night as we visited the homes of the Saints. In addition, he translated tirelessly all day at every class and at each of the homes we visited. We never heard a murmur or complaint. Eli was truly a blessing to us and I know God is pleased with his service.

Also, Elder James Yogo was there day in and day out while looking after his family business. James' brother had recently passed away which meant he had numerous family obligations and arrangements to make, yet he diligently served. One day we told him that he should take care of his family needs, he replied, "after God's work!" He was a tremendous help and inspiration to us all.

On one particular visit Kevin, Travis and I were at the home of Sister Hulda Simba. As soon as we arrived we all felt the Spirit in great measure. As we were visiting, Sister Hulda looked at me and said, "You have a testimony for me." This was completely unexpected and out of the blue, I did have a testimony and was happy to share it. This is a testimony I have shared many times, but on this occasion I was so filled with the Spirit and was enlightened and inspired to relate it differently. I will always cherish the insight the Lord provided me on that day. As I mentioned we all felt a strong Spirit here. We were welcomed by several children singing beautiful hymns. Because there were many children, it was decided that Kevin would teach the adults and Travis would teach the children. At the end of the visit both Kevin and Travis were so excited to tell how God had inspired them over the past several hours. At one point during Kevin's speaking a young man passing by on the road entered Hulda's home saying that he felt led to enter this home to hear the word of God – what an amazing day.

On our last day in Africa, November 4, we once again had the pleasure of worshiping with the Saints at Jakaranda. Priest Jim Clark gave an inspiring sermon and we partook of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with our brothers and sisters. It seemed a fitting way to end our efforts in Africa. Later that evening, Eric and Dean Odida drove us to the airport as we prepared for our return home. It was bittersweet leaving our brothers and sisters in Africa. So much work is being accomplished there and there is so much yet to do. I am reminded of the Doctrine and Covenants 32:2c: "Yea, verily, verily I say unto you, that the field is already to harvest, wherefore, thrust in your sickle with all your might, mind and strength."

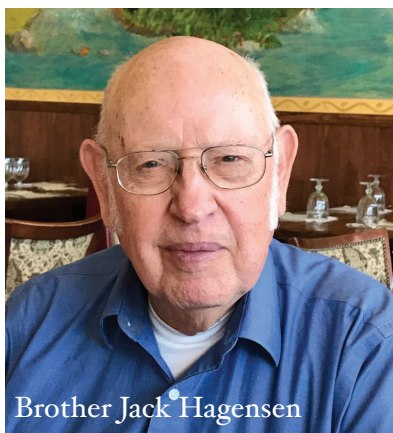
During the short time in Africa I grew to love these men, women and children so much, my heart aches that I couldn't do more. I feel that I left a part of me behind; my heart belongs to the ones in Kenya and Uganda. I thank God for His blessings and his tender mercies. I pray for our Brothers and Sisters in Kenya and Uganda; that God will continue to watch over them and will continue to pour His blessings upon them. I pray that the Lord was pleased with our efforts.



A visit to Sister Simba's home

Summer Preaching Series 2019

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 Willamette Mission: 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 21-23, 2019. Elder Jack Hagensen, of Independence, will preach Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. All are invited for a potluck picnic after Sunday morning services at Willamette Mission State Park. This will mark the 6th annual Northwest Regional Summer Preaching Series. In 2014, Brother Eric Odida preached a three day series, followed by Brother Frank Shepard, Brother David Gilmore, Brother Paul Gage, and Brother Richard Neill. 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 in a patriarchal spirit. He is a valiant witness of the Lord, with a cheerful countenance, carrying 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.

Congregational Camping

by Brother Brian Herren



We were able to reserve the group camp grounds at Sunnyside Campground at Foster Lake for our congregational camping trip this year: August 23-25, 2019. 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 would like 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 Clark 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, August 23-25, 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.

I am really looking forward to our fellowship on the lake! The group site will be especially fun this year, and we will have use of a covered shelter area for eating and worshipping. Two boat moorage slips have also been reserved. The group site is adjacent to Foster Lake as well as stocked fishing ponds. There is plenty of room to spread out, let the kids ride bikes, throw frisbees and football, and play croquet / hill billy golf. We have both ponds and a lake to choose from for the polar bearing, and a great place for campfire services. Let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

2019 Regional Youth Winter Retreat

by Sister Emily Herren

The winter youth retreat was Friday, January 4th through Sunday, January 6th. The theme of the weekend was "Restoration Fundamentals". On Friday we gathered together at the Vancouver church. Firstly, we watched a movie about Joseph Smith Jr and the trials he had to face throughout his life as a Christian. It was interesting to see how many people didn't like him simply because of his religion. The next day we had my dad Kevin's class which was on the Kingdom of God. We read scriptures about the Kingdom of God and looked at scriptures about how to enter. He also set up chairs in a circle with blankets and pillows with an opening to walk into the circle. He said that the circle represented the Kingdom of God and those who follow His commandments may enter in. Everyone who decided to go in got treats that represented how good God is to us. After his class was Travis's class. His class was on the six principals of the doctrine. He broke down each one and gave scriptures explaining what they were. When we had questions, he would answer them by supporting it with scriptures. When his class was finished we had lunch and played tag all together during a little bit of free time. Our next activity was a game called "Name That Tune." It was girls vs. boys and the way to play was by wagering how many notes of the hymn Cessaries plays before the other team could guess it. For example, if the girls said they could guess the hymn in three notes, the boys could say "bet" and she would play three notes. If the girls guessed it then they got the point, but if they didn't then the boys got the point. Whoever won got to have a kitchen raid. The girls won by far. After the game was Cessaries' class. Her class was on the history of the apostasy and the restoration of Christ's Church. She handed out a timeline on a piece of paper to show us when the significant dates were leading up to the establishment of the Restoration. After her class we planned worship for Sunday morning and decided on the theme of "praise", wherein we read scriptures not only talking about what praise is, but had examples from the scriptures of people praising God. We used Psalms 69:34 that says "Let the heaven and the earth praise Him- the seas and everything that moveth therein." We also had many hymns such as hymn number 1: "Let Us Praise the Lord" and hymn 7: "Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore". We ate dinner after that, and then had my Uncle Brian's class, which was on the restoration of Christ's Church, the fullness of the gospel, the gifts of the Spirit, and the priesthood (along with the different office duties). If you could memorize and reproduce an image of the Church summarizing the class (see below), you could receive a \$25 Amazon gift card. Kaitlin Herren and Jonathan Terry were able to do it, and Daniel and Logan were so close to doing it as a team. Later, we played kick the can in the dark for about an hour. We all wanted to wait until it was pitch black outside so we couldn't be spotted easily. It was late by then, and Brian read a bedtime story about an account of a faithful man from the 1800's. He owned a business where he worked with sharp tools such as saws. One day he accidentally cut his finger off, but instead of getting frustrated he had faith and prayed to God that he would be healed. Although he didn't have a finger in the end, God blessed him by stopping the bleeding. This story was an example of how God is merciful to us when we pray and have faith to him. The next day we went to church and packed our stuff up and all went our separate ways. I think the winter retreat was a lot of fun. We learned a lot about the church that I didn't know about, and it was really interesting to read testimonies leading up to the beginning of the Restoration.

