

BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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Fall Conference 2019

by Brother Brian Herren

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The Saints of the Pacific Northwest gathered at regional activities throughout 2019 under the banner of the regional theme: “A City on a Hill”. We were blessed in youth retreats, a women’s retreat, a men’s retreat, a summer preaching series, a Young Adult Group retreat, a reunion, a youth camp, a priesthood retreat, and the fall conference. Each of the gatherings were well attended and received our loving Father’s Holy Spirit as old and young sought to be all that He has made us to be for His glory. The Northwest Region also enjoyed the ministry and fellowship of many visitors. The last formal gathering of 2019 was marked by worship and meetings at fall conference, where the Saints nominated and elected those who will serve the region in 2020.

The following officers were elected at fall conference, October 4-6, 2019, and will serve the region in 2020:

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:	Sister Ashley Smithline
Regional Music Director:	Sister Cessaries Galusha
Regional Church School Director:	Sister Kara Miller

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, to 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.

By conference action, the Saints dedicated surplus monies from regional savings as follows: \$1,000 to the 2020 women’s retreat, \$1,500 to the 2020 youth camp, and \$1,000 to the Light a Home Project administered by the African Restoration Ministries.

As one year ends, let us commit ourselves to serving the Lord in the next. We rejoice in the fruit that has come, and renew our minds to labor evermore, that the Lord might bring forth even more abundantly in the seasons before us!



Several of the youth at Fall Conference

Priesthood Retreat

by Brother Kevin Herren

September 20th-22nd the priesthood from the Northwest region gathered at Lewis River Campground for a retreat filled with classes, fellowship and worship. It was a treat to escape from the world and gather together as brethren in the faith, united by our love of our savior Jesus Christ. Friday evening, after all were gathered together we took time to sing hymns to our Lord. We also were blessed by the word of the Lord delivered by Elder Wray Moreland.

Saturday morning found us again in worship in the morning and then class for the majority of the day; broken only by times when we had to break for the men to take sustenance. We discussed what makes a good priesthood member; looking at the attributes outlined in the scriptures and exhibited by the Great

High Priest Himself. We looked into how, as members of God's priesthood, we ought to be dedicated, loving and charitable with a heart to serve. A good priesthood member must first be a good member. We must be found in attendance at church services and offering our labors when and wherever we can find opportunity. Elder Brian Herren led us through this wonderful class that challenged us to be better and to grow in our ministry.

In another class taught by Elder Gary Jones we looked into the endowment. There were several considerations which we dove into. First, do we see the vision? Second, do we seek after the vision? Thirdly have we surrendered the natural man sufficiently to find ourselves and our congregations blessed by an endowment of the Spirit of God? Gary led us through scripture, pointing us to the way in which we can be prepared spiritually for such a blessing. If we are not walking in the ways of the Lord, then we ought not to expect the blessings which are promised to the faithful. We must walk in the Spirit always and be a conduit for the Lord to work His work through us.

Sunday morning was a blessed day as we were able to have song service again and offer our praises up to the Lord. We were blessed to take opportunity to partake in prayer and the sacrament service before the parting charge by Elder Mike Terry. The sermon delivered through Brother Mike was inspired and left us rejoicing in the Lord and His goodness toward us. It is always a tremendous blessing when we have a chance to come together as saints with singleness of mind, focused on the Lord. I thank God for the opportunity to have spent time sitting under the ministry of men whom I look up to for their service and dedication to the Lord.



Priesthood Retreat

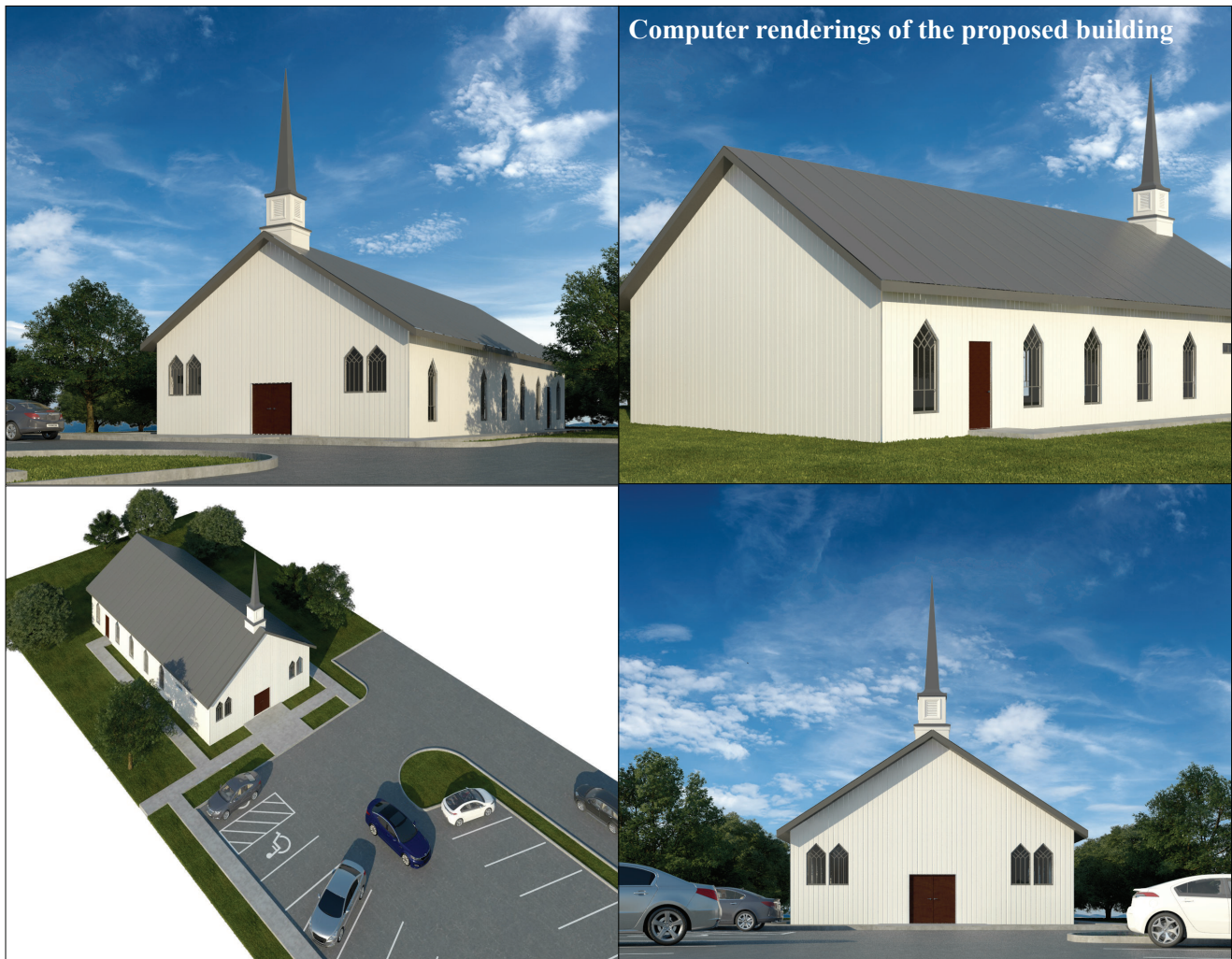
Salem Branch Building Project Update

by Brother Brian Herren

On July 1, 2016, a thorough cost analysis was prepared for the Salem Branch for the building of a new church. The analysis was broken down into two phases. The first phase would satisfy all local, county, and state requirements necessary to obtain an occupancy permit, whereby the Saints could begin worshipping in the church building while they saved for more refined finishes. The estimate to meet the requirements for occupancy was \$472,000, including surveying, site work, insurance, applications and permits, utility work, road improvements, a \$12,500 in contingency layaway, and the building. In the fall of 2016, the Salem Branch set an informal and non-binding goal of raising \$300,000 of the \$472,000 over the course of five years. The group intends to pay for as much of the project as they can in cash, committing themselves to a period of saving and fundraising so that their debt might be small and easily managed.

Over the past three years, the Saints have set aside more than \$210,000 in cash for the building project. The land has been purchased and paid for in full. Ahead of schedule, the branch leadership will begin investigating the most favorable financing options to close the gap as the congregation approaches their fundraising goal. The Lord has already opened many doors, rewarded the patience and delayed gratification of the Saints, and honored their discipline in savings. God has sent helpful municipal leaders, lawyers, and civil servants to prosper the work in His own timing, and we attribute every meaningful development to His gracious hand. May He be glorified as the project bears fruit in the coming years, and may the Saints be encouraged in their patient disposition, and dedicated service. Surely the day is growing nearer when the unseen labors of the faithful will yield fruit which is visible to all.

When additional information is available, it will be presented to the Salem congregation for prayerful consideration, including the potential financing options available as this project comes within our reach, and any projected increases in cost since the original cost analysis.



NW Contribution to Light a House Project

by Brother Ron Herren

In August 2019, Saints from the Salem Restoration Branch began raising money for the "Light A House" Project, which supplies solar rechargeable LED lights/cell phone chargers to our Brothers and Sisters in Africa.

The Light a House Project is administered by African Restoration Ministries (ARM) based in Independence, Missouri. The lights are distributed to African families by our missionaries. In Salem, money is raised by collecting and returning bottles and cans, along with contributions by the Saints. Our contributions are sent to ARM in care of Brother Brian Mundy on a monthly basis. Plans are to continue to do this for as long as it is feasible.

To date, the Salem Restoration Branch has sent sufficient funds to acquire 60 LED lights/chargers. That's \$750. At the Annual Fall Conference of the Northwest Restoration Branches, Saints voted to contribute \$1,000, enough for 80 additional lights.

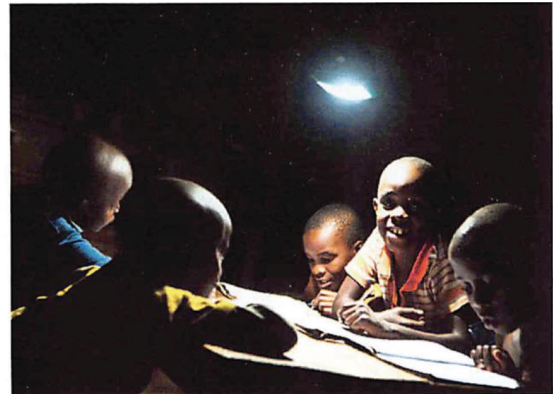
While writing this article I received an e-mail from Brother Brian Mundy, who just returned from Africa, thanking us for our efforts in the Pacific Northwest and informing us that every church family in Uganda now has a solar light. They also left 100 lights/chargers with the priesthood in Kenya. That's amazing! Praise the Lord!

At the risk of sounding like a public safety announcement, if you wish to make a donation to this very important project, you can send cash or a check to ARM in care of Brian Mundy, or you can send them to me and I will forward them with our next month's contribution (be sure to write "Light a House" on the memo line of your check).

Thank you so much for your efforts towards this project. What a tremendous blessing to our families in Africa.

Mosiah 1:49: "And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God."

Your Servant in Christ:
Brother Ron Herren



An Elect Lady

by Brother Brian Herren

Amongst the press of humanity there are a few who shine more brightly than their peers, live more honorably than their society, and bring heaven toward earth more clearly by their virtue. Such is our beloved Sister Janet Rew, who passed from this life to the next on October 13, 2019. She is remembered as a dedicated servant of our Heavenly Father, whose faith was unwavering and whose wisdom continues to bear fruit in the lives of those who knew her. Sister Janet was kind, and gentle, and cheerful in her warfare. Through a meek and quiet spirit she glorified God by an honest and genuine witness. When others were weak, she was strong, and when others doubted, Sister Janet was faithful. The ministry she provided was a strong example of God's promise to exalt those who humble themselves. It was not by her loud speech or bold claims that she was made great, but by the greatness of the Holy Spirit which she carried always by careful living and purity of heart. Sister Janet will be dearly missed, but our hearts will not soon forget the virtues of Christ revealed in this favored handmaid. May we honor a life well lived and aspire to the same high callings that led Sister Janet to the very hand of God, in word and deed, by power in Christ and a love for all. In patience she possessed her soul, in love her heart, in service her life. We wish to praise the Lord for the life of this bright and shining light amongst us, a fair and virtuous woman, a friend of our Dear Lord. Obituary on next page:

An Elect Lady

...continued from page 4

Janet Mauriece (Stoll) Rew, 87, died on 10-13-2019 at her home in Battle Ground, WA. Janet was born in Andover, MO, on May 22, 1932, to Howard and Wilma Stoll. She was raised in Lamoni, IA, along the Missouri state line on a farm where her father, Grandfather Landon, and Uncle Eddie farmed.

Janet is preceded in death by her brother Larry Stoll and her husband, Neil Wayne Rew. Neil and Janet were married on July 6, 1951, at the Evergreen RLDS church in Lamoni. She is survived by her brother, Duane Stoll, her sons Eric and Jeff (wife Christy) Rew, 6 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Janet was a lifelong member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, now known as the Restored Church of Christ. Her husband Neil was an elder in the church, and Janet taught church school classes to the youth since she was a teenager. She was the church school director at the Portland and Vancouver branches, and she helped with many youth retreats. Janet lived her life as an example of a daughter of Zion with a hope of eternal life. Her joy and pleasure came from being a mother and grandmother, her church, her husband, and from singing hymns at church.



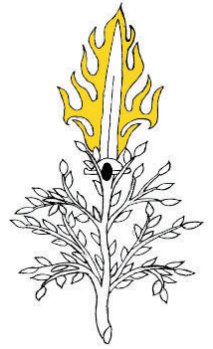
Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

- Proverbs 31



The Young Adults Group (YAG) Presses Forward into 2020

by Brother Brian Herren



Since the inception of the Young Adults Group more than a decade ago, we have been blessed in many ways. The group has always enjoyed the liberty to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit without the unnecessary expectations of tradition, which has resulted in numerous spiritual experiences, tremendous classes, powerful preaching, and exciting fellowship activities. Whether studying together deep into the night, worshipping at sunrise services, praising late at campfire worship, or praying silently on a boat dock, the Lord has been with us every step of the way. In fact, several organizational decisions that later proved widely influential and beneficial to the church in the Pacific Northwest originated in the fertile soil of the Young Adults Group worship and fellowship. The Lord has truly stood with us, called us nearer, and poured out His Spirit. We have also had a lot of fun. Memorable experiences include skydiving at a free fall, yurt camping after snowfall, polar bearing in icy rivers, warming up at beach bonfires, racing down mountain slopes on snow bikes, breaking a few bones on the sledding hills, enjoying mountain cabins and beach bungalows, and eating brownies in the hot tub. This group within the Church will continue to shine a light on the gladness of youth and the reverence of worship in Spirit and truth. It is an important group in the life of the church, and will surely continue to yield its fruit in earnest by Christ. We are reminded that all that Christ did on earth He did in His youth. It was not the seasoned sages or the regimented Pharisees, but the zealous Savior who showed God's loving way in perfect freedom and obedience. Paul wrote to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

The Young Adults Group invites young people who are at least eighteen years old to join, whether they are church members or not, regardless of one's knowledge of God or experience with the scriptures. The only real criteria is that you be eighteen. Because the Saints of the Pacific Northwest are fewer in number in each demographic than might be the case in other locations, the upper age of the group tends to be higher than might be seen elsewhere. This allows for a robust group, with lots of people coming together, and ensures a full compliment of YAGgers and YAGlets for every occasion. However, having turned forty and seeing the evidence of sound leadership and meaningful fellowship for years to come, I leave the group in good care, and in the hands of our loving Heavenly Father. May He continue to bless this special group and continue to use it in the building of His Kingdom. If you are eighteen years old or older, plan to participate in every YAG event in 2020. You won't be sorry. If you are not yet eighteen years old, grow strong in the youth group and prepare to take your place in the YAG!

Pray for the Missions

2020



Brother Brian Herren and Brother Andrew Smith will be serving in Nepal and India during the early Spring of 2020. One of the ministries specifically requested is a priesthood retreat, which they plan to provide. Additional ministry will include missionary outreach where permissible and advisable, as well as sustaining ministry to Restoration Branches and scattered Saints. The hope is to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ through fundamental Restoration teachings as far as they are able. The primary focus will be on sharing Jesus Christ, and teaching what He has taught. Some points of emphasis will include the uniqueness of the Church of Jesus Christ, how it

has been restored to the earth, and how it is different than all other churches. Their sharing will address the principles of the doctrine of Christ, priesthood authority, the Book of Mormon, the Kingdom of God, the ordinances, the spiritual disciplines (prayer, study, etc.), and individual priesthood responsibilities.

Later in the year, a team of brethren from the Salem branch will serve in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. At this point, the team plans to separate into two smaller groups once they arrive in Kenya. From Kenya, one team will travel to Tanzania to develop the missions field in that portion of the Lord's vineyard. The other team plans to travel to Bumageni, Uganda to contribute manpower in construction projects and share the gospel in as many homes as is practical.

Even the best laid plans and most prepared servants depend entirely upon our Heavenly Father. Let's pray that His will be done, knowing His plans to be higher, and His provision to be perfect.