

# BROTHER'S KEEPER

## THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

JUNE, 2020  
VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2



### Regional Events 2020

- Summer Preaching Series:  
June 12-14
- Reunion: Aug. 3-9
- Youth Camp: Aug. 9-14
- Men's Retreat: Sept. 18-20
- Fall Conference: Oct. 2-4
- Women's Retreat: Nov. 6-8

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### Stand Fast in the Faith: Summer Preaching Series

by Brother Brian Herren

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven; A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak"  
- Ecclesiastes 3

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wanted to share a blessing with you that happened on May 20th. A small congregation gathered on the back deck of Brother Jim's and Sister Dianna's home to worship the Lord together for the first time in two months. The Lord had brought to my mind a particular passage from the Old Testament (Ecclesiastes 3) several times in recent days and He did again that night. I felt an assurance as I read the scripture aloud that evening, that we had passed through one season, and were entering another even now. The Lord is with us, and is leading us forward. During the closing prayer, the

Lord opened my mind to view a single drop of rain falling long and far from the heavens above to strike the stained wood plank upon which we stood. It was as though it were the first drop of many to come, a promise that something important had happened that night in our assembling, but it was just the beginning. The Lord will water the earth, and refresh the Saints. That night, one small drop fell from the heavens, but it was a sign of the life giving rains to come. The Saints have started to assemble again, and our Father in Heaven is pleased. As we leave one season behind, the Spirit promises good in the days to come.

Still, at the time of this writing, our assembly at large remains restricted indefinitely as we approach the dates of the Pacific Northwest Summer Preaching Series. We have acted in good faith, and suspended centuries old practices for months, showing good will to law and a heart established in meekness. It is now time for many of us to assemble again. Our strength lies where wisdom and sound judgement ultimately prevail, even if forcibly furloughed for a time by the demands of good citizenship. Some are asking whether there will be a Summer Preaching Series this year in the Pacific Northwest. Local governance has made the use of traditional sites uncertain for the series. The use of public sanctuaries and state parks seems increasingly unlikely. At this time, I cannot offer any church building, but that which I can offer, I do freely.

I offer up my own property, and all that is protected under our personal stewardship, in an effort to open the way for the Saints to worship the Lord under the preaching ministry of Elder Jay Havener of Michigan. Our home and a 32' X 34' shop will serve the needs we have for sanctuary, with heating, ventilation, and nearby bathrooms. A pulpit will be properly appointed, and chairs neatly placed. There are sufficient rooms for nursery. For those traveling, an invitation to come for the weekend is extended. There are Saintly homes in Salem with spare rooms prepared to receive you, and families prepared to show their love in the spirit of hospitality should you choose to stay the weekend with us.

On Friday, June 12th, and Saturday, June 13th services will begin with hymns at 6:45 pm. On Sunday, June 14th, services will begin with worship at 9:45 am with a potluck following. If you wish to attend, and need assistance with any matter, please feel free to contact me: 4555 Jan Ree Dr. NE, Salem, OR 97305; (503) 949-2484.

## **Saints of the Pacific Northwest Assist Our Brothers and Sisters**      **Word of Appreciation from the Saints in Kenya**

by Brother Brian Herren

by Brother Eric Odida

Toward the end of April, areas of Kenya suffered severe flooding. The flooding impacted Ahero, Bonde, and Hongo-Agosa, where the Saints watched their homes crumble and collapse. The Bonde Restoration Branch was converted into a rescue center for church families whose homes had collapsed or filled with water. Many families were displaced, suffered catastrophic failure of their crops, and had very little in reserve whereby to sustain their families. They needed food, medicine, and building supplies. Upon learning of the needs, the Saints of the Pacific Northwest responded informally, but generously, accumulating \$4,000 to wire to the leadership in Africa over the course of two days. Your contributions were of immense and immediate help. The Saints in Africa have expressed their gratitude, and sent unsolicited and heartfelt responses. Some of those responses are published here. Thank you for your sacrifice and love.

But whoso hath this world's good, and  
seeth his brother have need, and shutteth  
up his bowels of compassion from him,  
how dwelleth the love of God in him?  
My little children, let us not love in word,  
neither in tongue only; but in deed and in  
truth. - I John 3:17-18

Dear Ones, We greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We take this opportunity to thank The Lord our Savior for the offerings the church in your part of the vineyard made to support the saints in Kenya who apart from difficulties brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic also had the misfortune of having their homes flooded and some destroyed. Most of these saints were forced to move from their homes to live in schools and church buildings amongst others. The crops have been destroyed and life made difficult. Your responding generously and in a timely way gave comfort and hope and was a testimony of the love of our Lord and Savior towards us. We understand that the covid 19 pandemic affected the whole world including your country and therefore appreciate your sacrifice to support your brothers and sisters in our part of the vineyard. Your offerings made us to feel love and hope, and are re-assured that the Spirit of the Lord that moved you to sacrificially respond will abide with you and your families and remember your jobs and businesses and education and other areas from where your offerings are drawn.

We continue to thank the Lord for you and pray that He may bless the church in the US and each of you and your families and the labor of your hands.





## Notes of Thanksgiving from Kenya

Received from our Brothers and Sisters in Kenya. Printed without editing.

This is a letter from Restoration Church of Jesus Christ, Rakwaro Branch. We take this chance to greet you all brothers and sisters from the US. Though we maybe far apart physically, spiritually we are still together as one family. We are very sorry for the Covid-19 cases that currently are very high in the US. Even though you are going through hard times we are always remembering you in our prayers as members of the Rakwaro branch. We submit to you our dear appreciation and we say thank you for your help when undergoing tough situations. We are so grateful and thankful for the help you offered to us during these moments we faced during COVID-19 and the floods. May our good Lord grant you favor and be with you all. May He also bless you all and your families. We are also requesting you to remember us in your prayers so that the Lord may get us through this COVID-19 pandemic and the floods.

This is from the members of Rakwaro Branch headed by Pastor Wilson Oyatta. May the Lord be with you all.



Thank you so much to our Heavenly for remembering us during this hard time. May the Lord bless the offering and where it has come from.

- Giko Collins, Rakwaro branch

Much thanks to our brothers/sisters in the USA, worldwide for the offerings to help my family and the Siany Restoration Branch. May God bless you abundantly. - Ken, Siany branch

It is with great thanksgiving to Christ for his great love . We find great blessings from you. May our Lord be with you and other people. We will always remember you in prayer. - from Mama Hulda.

"I can only say, PRAISE BE TO THE LORD WHO ALONE IS GOD. Glory and honor and praise be His, whose love is limitless unto the undeserving. May you have enough and to spare for the sake of His church and His Kingdom."

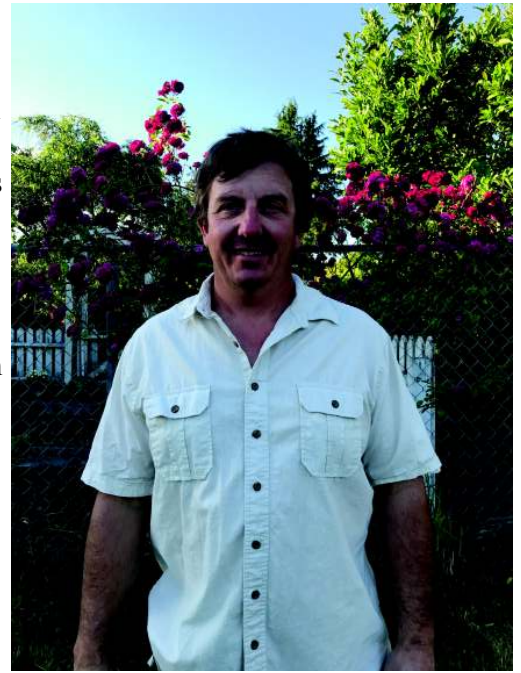
- Brother Eric Odida upon learning that help was on the way from the Northwest

## God's Ways Are Higher Than Our Ways

by Brother Brian Moreland

It was around 4am on a Saturday morning when I was awakened by a sharp pain on the left side of my lower back. It was familiar and unmistakable in nature, having felt it before in times past. It was most certainly a kidney stone. The past protocols for dealing with such torment was a trip to the ER for prescription pain meds, then a day or two of drinking lots of water until the stone passed through the urinary tract. I felt confident this would pass relatively quickly as the others had.

Once home from the ER it was time to get to work moving this stone along its journey, so I began a steady regiment of drinking large sums of water. This is when things took a turn for the worse. The more water I drank the more the pain increased and I soon found myself reeling in pain I had never known before. The pain medication that proved to be so helpful in the past was not effective against pain of this measure. The next five days were to be a very humbling experience. There were moments of relief followed by hours of agony. However, even in the most difficult times I found strength and encouragement knowing many prayers were being said on my behalf. Elders Mike Terry and Jeff Rew came and administered to me. Jenny and my boys were in MO visiting family, and they were all praying for me as well. I, too, was pouring my heart out to the Lord, sometimes even begging that this stone would pass. At times I would sing hymns and read scripture out loud while pacing back and forth throughout the house in an effort to strengthen my own faith. I knew this was a temporary situation and that the Lord would see me through it but I wasn't sure how much longer I could endure. I was at a point where all my efforts had failed. I was solely dependent upon Him.



Toward the latter part of this trial, when things seemed the most difficult, a scripture from Isaiah came to my mind: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." - Isaiah 55:8,9

I met with a doctor on Wednesday to discuss my options. He informed me that surgery was the best option given the location of the stone and that he could maybe get me scheduled the following day but I had to commit now otherwise risk waiting until next week. Surgery was not an option I wished to pursue, I wanted the Lord to do it my way so I opted to wait. That night the pain was as bad as it had ever been, and I finally surrendered to whatever would be His will. I prayed that I might know with assurance the course that He had prepared for me, and also that I might know it by the morning, for I would have to call the doctor first thing and hope there was still a chance of getting in that day. I found some relief in the early morning hours, which allowed me some much needed rest, but I was a little frustrated and still unsure what to do. The time was drawing near to call the doctor, but I was feeling better then, so again I asked for the Lord's will in the matter. He answered soon after. Shortly before the doctor's office opened, there came upon me an intense pain even greater than anything previous, it was clear to me then I needed to get the surgery regardless of whose will it was. This stone had to go.

The manner in which everything came together that day was without a doubt the hand of the Lord at work. Doctor schedules and OR rooms that normally should have been booked were made ready for me. Preliminary tests and admitting protocols went smoothly and quickly. By that afternoon I had been in and out of the operating room, to recovering at home stone free. The Lord opened the doors for my wife and children to come home early from MO that same day so she could care for me. Looking back, I can testify the Lord was with me throughout it all even when I couldn't see Him. We often don't see His blessings when we are in the midst of our trials until after He has seen us through the fire, but when we do, our faith is made stronger.

The Lord provided for me in ways I could not see until I surrendered my will unto Him and His way. His ways are perfect and He knows our every need before we know ourselves. I'm so thankful for our God, His Love and His Mercy.