

BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC
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Stand Fast in the Faith 2020: A Year of Faith Building

by Brother Brian Herren

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Within the past year we have encountered new challenges and new opportunities. Circumstances beyond our control have tried our faith and proved our resolve, but our Lord has been glorified in all. My heart takes joy when I consider the steadfastness of the Saints of the Pacific Northwest, and the many examples of individual courage and dedication that has strengthened the body and built up the Kingdom. I have been in awe of the way that God has moved amongst us in the very throws of political upheaval, widespread sickness, and natural disaster.

Through all of it, God has shown His power, delivered His children, and glorified His name. If ever a people had cause to rejoice, it is us, as we see that nothing can overthrow His Kingdom, frustrate His work, or turn His course. Many reading this newsletter have roofs over their heads and food in their homes. Our Heavenly Father has furnished our tables in the face of our enemies, multiplied our flocks in times of famine, and brought forth increase abundantly from our fields. Within the past year, the Saints of the Pacific Northwest pressed on. We felt the Holy Spirit in the assemblies of our Men's and Women's Retreats, and the youth worshipped in zeal at the regional youth camp. Elder Jay Havener traveled from Michigan to preach the gospel in power in a Summer Preaching Series. Later, Saints old and young united in worship and study at the regional reunion. The Northwest sent men into missionary fields around the world, to contribute our part and assist in the work. We sent missionaries to Nepal, India, Kenya, Tanzania, and into domestic fields in the United States in 2020.

The Lord has smiled upon us this year, and He is to be glorified forever. What shall we fear, when the Lord has overcome the world, and has made death itself the sweet savor of a life well lived? We praise Him at year's end, and look forward to that which He holds for the new year ahead. May the words of Paul remind us of the resilience we find in Christ.

"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..." - II Corinthians 4:8-9



Standing at the Portal

by Frances Havergal

*Standing at the portal Of the opening new year,
Words of comfort meet us, Hushing every fear;
Spoken through the silence, By our Father's voice
Tender, strong, and faithful, Making us rejoice.
Onward then, and fear not, Children of the day,
For His word shall never, Never pass away*

*He will never fail us, He will not forsake;
His eternal covenant He will never break;
Resting on His promise, What have we to fear?
God is all sufficient, For the coming year.
Onward then, and fear not, Children of the day,
For His word shall never, Never pass away.*

A Mission to Kenya and Tanzania

by Brother Brian Herren

It would require our best efforts, blessed by powers not our own, to fully report the blessings, miracles, and favorable circumstances we enjoyed in Kenya and Tanzania this year. I desire to make a brief report here, to the glory of God, so that others may be informed of the work, peoples, and places where we witnessed the hand of God moving with our own eyes, and heard His tender voice by Spirit in truth.

We traveled at the invitation and direction of Elder Eric Odida, of Kisumu, Kenya, and by the direction and call of the Holy Spirit.

We served abroad between August 28, 2020 and September 15, 2020. Five of us traveled from Salem: Elder Brian Herren, Priest Jim Clark, Teacher Kevin Herren, Deacon Travis Clark, and Brother Michael Livingston. All of the men traveling had served in East Africa before this mission, and I felt particular direction from the Holy Spirit in assembling the team. We fasted as a group each Sunday, and broke bread with prayer and preparation each Sunday evening for several months before departure. The plan was to break into two smaller teams upon arrival so that more ground might be covered in the same amount of time. The team would travel as one body as far as the Tanzanian border, and separate at that point, one going further south into Tanzania to serve in places familiar to Elder Paul Makawiti, and one team staying north to serve with Elder Albert Okumu. Two of the brethren from Kenya would travel with us, Elder James Yogo and Elder Mishael Onyiego, with one of them assigned to each team. The plans were, at least in part, the result of collaboration with these men.

We flew into Kenya, but our time in Nairobi and Kisumu was brief, as our primary errand was to Tanzania. One team lodged in the home of Elder Tom Okeo, and one team stayed in the home of Priest Ellie.

The whole of our group traveled south to the border of Tanzania as soon as practical. The country of Kenya was under the constraints of COVID-19 precautions and we were detained by the police on our way to the border with Tanzania because of alleged violations of the mask mandate. We spent one half of one day under police detention until our release was secured by bail, and we continued to the border of Tanzania without paying any bribes. It was suggested that a bribe payment may have expedited the process, but we thought it better to be captive to the governments of men than to compromise our integrity as citizens of the Kingdom.

At the border with Tanzania, we processed our exit through the Kenyan immigration authorities, but were denied entrance into Tanzania because Brothers James and Mishael were unable to provide negative COVID-19 lab results, and Brother Mishael's passport had expired.



The team was determined not to proceed without our brethren and would not endorse any plan that left them behind, even if provision was made for our reception by friendly parties across the border. Again, it was suggested by some local men, and perhaps those in positions of civil authority, that a payment of questionable nature might secure our desired ends. Again, we determined it best to avoid all appearance of evil where possible, and refused any payment that may have been interpreted as bribery or perceived as illegitimate. We returned to the Kenyan immigration authorities and requested they cancel our exit, which they did. While canceling our exit from Kenya, the authorities questioned the nature of our change in plans, and we explained that we would not go into Tanzania if our Kenyan brethren were not permitted to travel with the team. We learned of a civil and political conflict at the border between the governments of Tanzania and Kenya resulting from the respective responses of each country's leadership to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Tanzanian leadership blaming the Kenyans for some matters, and the Kenyan leadership blaming the Tanzanians for others. The results of the feud had closed the Tanzanian border and airspace to all Kenyans without exception.

Though it appeared that our best efforts had stalled and the mission to Tanzania would be postponed, our hearts were not without comfort. We were blessed with a presence of the Holy Ghost to assure us that we had not yet seen what God would do, nor had we fully understood His plan for us, and we could not deny His presence with us as we prayed and sang hymns. We had fasted and prayed that His will be done expressly, here avoiding the stiffness of our necks to force our own will, and feeling better in our submission to His gentle direction than in the triumph of our own making. Still, on the evening of our failed entrance, we were stricken by heavy rain, darkness, and fatigue. There was no place for us to go, and the possibility of lodging with any nearby friend had been eroded as the dirt passages were washed away in the relentless rain.

A Mission to Kenya and Tanzania

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Brother Mishael Onyiego had the greatest familiarity with the community near the Tanzanian border and tried his best to secure lodging. His efforts were without success, and we were faced with the prospect of the seven of us sleeping in the van with our gear. Suddenly, a man appeared in the torrential rain, stepping from the darkness in an obscure corner of a city in which we were the strangest of strangers, and told us that he had been sent to give us assistance and ensure our deliverance from our present trial. He showed us to a local guest house (hotel) which was hidden in the heart of frenzied street commerce, burning heaps of garbage, and nighttime revelry. The Lord had delivered us to an oasis in the hour of our need. For about \$10 each, we were furnished with comfortable beds, hot showers, and breakfast. A divine appointment had also materialized in the home of a local man named Jeremiah, who we agreed to visit first thing in the morning. In retrospect, we see clearly God's plan. About one year earlier, some of the brethren had sought a visit in Jeremiah's home, but reasons unknown to us had prevented it, creating some disappointment in the local work. Brother James was most excited as the prospect of this fellowship, but even his excitement fell disproportionately short of the blessings we were to experience during our visit to Jeremiah's home the next day.

After sleeping the night through at the guest house, we traveled to Jeremiah's home in Migori, Kenya, where his family greeted us warmly and with genuine love. After some introductions, we were invited to share the message we carried. I opened with a brief period of preaching, and then began to teach a class in their home. No sooner had I anticipated the closure of the class than did Brother Mishael begin receiving phone calls from the authorities at the Tanzanian border insisting that we return and enter into Tanzania!!!! The same federal authorities that had denied our entrance the day previous were now anxious for our entrance and advocating for our return immediately. It was concluded that we had time to finish the class, which I did, before pictures were taken and farewell greetings were made. The whole experience at Brother Jeremiah's home was wonderful, causing us to feel that we had all been folded together by Christ for purposes beyond our full comprehension. Brother James and Brother Mishael were satisfied in the work, and acknowledged that something great had been accomplished by God. We had needed to be there, at Jeremiah's home, for that ministry. It had been a part of God's plan, if not a part of ours, and it was made clear to us in that moment. We had been tried at the border, whether to insist upon our plan by the devices of men, or to carefully discern the Lord's hand and trust in His providence when it meant an uncertain end to our minds. My heart fluttered to think of how many such times I might choose wrongly, but it rejoiced in this moment wherein we had chosen well. Now we would enter Tanzania as free men, with our brethren from Kenya, without the shadow of bribery over us, and having satisfied another purpose for our time through the ministry at Jeremiah's.

We passed through Kenyan immigration and Tanzanian immigration, but were not permitted to take our van over the border. The Lord had changed everything in one day. The same authorities that had resisted us one day earlier now welcomed us, served us, provided assistance, and literally walked with us through every hurdle until we were turned loose into the heart of Tanzania. The contrast escapes our ability to express, but serves to remind us even now how the Lord is able to soften the hearts of men and open the most impenetrable paths before His children in a single day.

While the entire team, all five Americans and two Kenyans, were allowed to pass into Tanzania, the van was not allowed by Tanzanian transportation officials. We left it behind. This changed our plans again, and we could not see the enormous blessing in this until sometime later, as the alteration shifted the plans in a way that would prove most advantageous in God's work. Now, Brother Jim and I would spend our time in the north with Brother James, and the others would travel by public transport to spend their time with Brother Paul in the south. As it turns out, this made for marvelous opportunities that would not have been had the van been permitted entrance, and we rejoiced again and again at the way the Lord had established us by His hand in wisdom. We were in the places we needed to be, when we needed to be there, having been gently directed at every turn. How can we ever doubt God's providential care, or murmur at the outcome of men's changed course?!



Jeremiah and his family at Migori, Kenya

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A Mission to Kenya and Tanzania

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The entire team traveled to Utegi, Tanzania and spent one night before Brother Kevin, Brother Travis, and Brother Michael continued with Brother Mishael to Mwanza.

In Sudi, the Holy Spirit blessed us richly in brotherly love. The local brethren were able to spend time together for a full day, and enjoy the warmth of fraternal fellowship in Christ as they put aside that which might have otherwise divided them. Brother James Yogo was very pleased at the reconciliation that day, and was instrumental in the ministry whereby it was secured. Before leaving, it was made clear to us that the church in Sudi and the church in Utegi had every intention of moving forward in unity and mutual respect. The men which may have been estranged from one another seemed most assuredly folded together again, and there was a general excitement to compliment the palpable sense of reunification sensed by all.



We spent a full day in Masaguru. Having arrived a day or two after the time in which the leading men of the area had expected us, there was some confusion, even friction upon our arrival. Brothers Jim, James, Albert and I were received hospitably into a cool mud home, while Brothers James and Albert conversed with the leadership of the village. It seemed there may have been some misunderstanding, and we were told that it may not be possible for us to receive an audience there of any size for several hours or more because the local villagers were disbursed in their daily chores. We had been expected a day or two previous, as best we could understand, and our sudden arrival had not allowed for the community to prepare for us. After being told about the circumstances, our hosts took us outside to demonstrate the nature of the dilemma and the lack of people nearby with which to share. To the surprise of our hosts, the Lord had assembled a considerable congregation and set them before us. No sooner had we opened the door to exit the mud house than did we see so many seated in plastic chairs awaiting a message!



We started classes in Masaguru at once and taught for several hours there. The old women expressed approval, and the young men asked many questions. The young men asked a long list of questions that they had put to the local protestant ministry of the surrounding communities. With each question, the Lord seemed to place the precise scripture before us so that we were able to give a specific answer with clarity in scripture in a way those men had not found anywhere else. Their joy was obvious, and their excitement grew with the answer of each question. At the conclusion of our teaching, the older man of the house spoke, "these men are deep in the bible, and they can not be confounded". A considerable portion of the village that had come to hear us expressed interest in being baptized, and we pointed them to Brother Albert and suggested that more teaching would bless them in their preparation for that covenant.

In Kowak, a most fortuitous meeting was almost more than we could believe. Our constant companion and dear friend, Elder James Yogo was reunited through a series of divine interventions with a friend he had known some twenty years or so earlier in Nairobi, Kenya. The man's name in Tobias, and had received something of the gospel from Elder Paul of Tanzania before learning that a certain James Yogo would soon be arriving to serve in the region of his home village. Tobias could scarcely believe it could be the same James Yogo that he had known so many years previous, and that the Lord would now bring them together in the same church, under the same gospel. So it was. The reunion was incredible!!!

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The reunion was incredible, and Tobias took to our teachings immediately. He had been baptized some time previous to our arrival and awaits confirmation. As we shared in Kowak, several others became very interested in the Kingdom of God as it was presented, and decided they would continue with us as we moved toward Chereche to preach for the day. They stayed for all of the classes in Chereche and showed unfeigned interest in the restored gospel and the promise of the Kingdom of God. They had been moved by the Spirit and wished to continue with us along the journey.

The reception in Chereche was friendly. A small protestant congregation is being pastored there and we were invited to preach in the evangelical church. The effects of our preaching there upon the congregation was obviously impactful. We had planned for a day, but so fruitful was our time there that Brother James advised that we stay the night and start again in the morning. The evangelical congregation in Chereche, old and young, and those that had joined our band from Kowak expressed deep and genuine interest. The local protestant pastor seemed motivated to capture the excitement and power of the Holy Spirit that moved amongst us, but it remains unclear as to whether he has embraced the underpinning message bearing such fruit. As for the congregation, they received the Restored Gospel with open arms. The first day we spent in Chereche was blessed by spiritual gifts. It was decided that Brother James would share his testimony, but when he stood, he preached something different in Swahili, which meant that Brother Jim and I were not aware of that which he was sharing. I knew it was not his testimony, as I had heard it many times before. Suddenly, and in conclusion of his preaching, Brother James asked if I would share. Having not been specifically prepared for the moment, I had nothing but that which the Lord might deliver in the moment. We were not left wanting, and after the Spirit conceived in my that message and delivered it to my surprise, we learned that the message I had preached was the exact same as Brother James had preached before inviting me to stand. The Lord had delivered the same message by two witnesses and the congregation responded with favor. Brother James was excited, and was even jumping up and down outside of the tent in which we were preaching. We carried services until after midnight in that place, and into a second day.



Kowak, Tanzania



Chereche, Tanzania

Brother Jim and I had not prepared to stay, and had only the clothes upon our backs and our scriptures. Brother Jim did not even undress, but laid down that night in his church clothes, and rose a few hours later, ready to teach and preach! Our days were filled with teaching and preaching during the mission, from sunrise until deep into the nights. At times our bodies were exhausted and our bellies were confused, but always our spirits abounded with the joy of Christ's Spirit.

We spent a day teaching classes in Nayanduga, and were warmly welcomed to return. By this time, Brother Albert seemed to be learning a lot, and he began to carry himself with more confidence in the gospel. Those of the community seemed ready to embrace his leadership, and he began to feel more comfortable in it. We devoted one whole day to teaching classes just to Brother Albert. He spoke in broken English, "classes, just for me". That day was well spent, and many basic, but enormously important understandings were made bare, distinctions drawn, questions answered, and scriptures studied. We presented slide shows via a pico projector that I carried everywhere in my backpack. We were able to provide power point presentations upon any dirt wall or cement building using my iPhone. We even held a community wide movie night in Utegi to show the movie, The Testaments. It was great and everyone seemed so happy to be together and watch that movie even though most of them could not understand English. The screen (the side of a mud hut) must have been ten feet wide and six feet high. Many had not experienced anything like that before, and it pleased them very much.

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In Utegi, we found a home away from home, involving ourselves in daily chores, cooking, and sharing with any neighbor who would listen. On our last two days there, many of the local pastors, or “men of God” assembled near Brother Albert’s home. They were largely evangelical or catholic. Each listened intently to our sharing of the original church in the days of Jesus, the apostasy, and the restoration. They were actually quite excited. They began to understand the need for true authority and genuine ordinances, and even agreed to the conclusion that re-baptism was the only means of joining Christ’s church for them. By studying the book of Acts, they agreed that their positions in other churches and leadership titles would not transfer to Christ’s true and living church, but that they must be baptized and grow as member before the Lord might call them to His work as a matter of His own divine will. That is a time that I will never forget. The subject matter and study was such that it could have incited any number of responses, but so clear were the scriptures in

hand, and so warm the Spirit upon us, that the various men actually clapped their hands and gave each other handshakes with looks of approval at what was offered in love.





Teaching general classes in Utegi, Tanzania



Teaching classes to local protestant pastors in Utegi, Tanzania



Teaching classes to local protestant pastors in Utegi, Tanzania

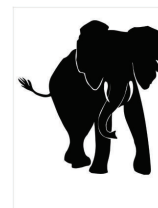
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The team that traveled south with Elder Mishael taught classes, preached, and fellowshiped in Mwanza, Musoma, and Serengeti. Brother Jim, Brother James Yogo, and myself stayed in the north, where we spent full days teaching classes and preaching the Restored gospel in Utegi, Sudi, Kowak, Chereche, Masaguru, Nyanduga, and some the smaller places between.



We thank God for His tender mercies, and bare record that He is working in every part of the world, in every portion of His vineyard. It was a great blessing to each one of us to be even the smallest part of His great work, and we pray for those abroad, that His Kingdom may continue to grow in their hearts and homes.



Men's Retreat

by Brother Ron Trammell

In September of this year, a group of men met for a spiritual weekend in Seaside, Oregon. This was both a good weekend and a sad weekend.

The Good:

The weekend had a great spirit starting with our first evening with a great sermon from Brian Herren to set the tone for the weekend. He spoke on being a peculiar people (Deut. 11), showing that the House of Israel had gone wrong by assimilating. The morning classes the next day by Gary Livingston and then by Gary Jones, seamlessly picked up right from where Brian left off.

After lunch, which like all the weekend meals was outstanding (thank you Sisters Suzy Herren and Sharon Trammell), Travis Clark taught the afternoon class that made you think about you and your life with Christ. The latter part of the afternoon left time to walk down on the boardwalk of Seaside and walk on the beach.

The evening started with Travis Clark and Michael Livingston giving us an evening worship that worked right into Brothers Mitch Arndt and Derek Ethridge leading a prayer and testimony service. Now if you have never heard Mitch's testimony about how the Lord blessed him during a very difficult time in his life, you need to ask him. I personally had never heard it and found it very emotional how the Lord truly had a plan for him.

After a restful night's sleep, Brother Ron Herren gave us a moving morning worship. Knowing Brother Ron as long as I have, and seeing the trials and tribulations that he has gone through, I listened closely to what he brought, knowing that he is one of the Lord's sheep that He left the others for, in order to bring him back in the fold.

The weekend ended in the hands that got us in the right frame of mind with parting thoughts from Brother Brian Herren. (Which I think he got home with all of his shirts)

The Sad:

The sad part of this weekend was learning that Brother Gary Jones was moving to the Center Place. He and his family will be missed in this part of God's vineyard. The other sad part was the number of other brothers who were unable to make the men's retreat, their presence was missed by all.

In this crazy year of closures, working from home, schools closed, limited group gatherings and worldly stress, it was nice to just be with some of my brothers and work on getting closer to my Lord.

Women's Retreat 2020

by Sister Kara Miller

Due to the pandemic, I wasn't sure if I would attend this year's women's retreat. Also due to the pandemic, I knew I needed to attend more than ever. After working from home and our lives being turned upside down I needed my sisters in Christ. This year we had a neat older home in Rockaway Beach. Our numbers in attendance were low, as many were having to keep themselves safe at home. Those who couldn't come were dearly missed.

We started the weekend with an amazing dinner by our two wonderful cooks, Ron Trammell and Travis Clark. Afterwards, we enjoyed a worship provided by a few sisters to go along with our yearly theme.

Saturday was such a spirit filled day. Gary Livingston brought our first class of the day which was about being an advocate or an accuser. Basically since Jesus is our advocate we need to do the same for others. Then in the opposite setting, Satan is always accusing us of things so we need to make sure we are not doing this for our fellow brothers and sisters. Brian Herren taught our next class and it was equally spirit filled. As he discussed what was shown to him when he prayed over other Christian denominations. He was shown a bike wheel and each person or denomination was a spoke on this wheel with Jesus being the center. He explained that we need to focus on the Lord, then, our relationship with him builds as we move closer to him down the spoke of the wheel. Eventually we will all be connected and closer.

This retreat was truly what my soul needed to reset in these crazy times. The Lord surely did bless each one of his daughters this weekend.



Reunion 2020

by Brother Ron Herren

The year 2020 has certainly been a year like no other, and one that will be remembered by all. Covid-19 and the restrictions placed on us, caused us all to make significant changes in our lifestyles. But these challenges can be overcome if we have a burning desire, and by the grace of God.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, as restrictions increased it made "normal" life more difficult, and with our Reunion rapidly approaching, we made it a matter of prayer and fasting as we sought the Lord's guidance as to what we should do regarding the Reunion. God answered swiftly and clearly!

Because of the Covid restrictions we were not able to hold our Reunion at the Vancouver, Washington Branch, as has been done in the past. Because there was a deep longing to meet and the need to have some sort of normalcy returned, the Salem, Oregon Branch offered to host the 2020 Reunion. As the time for Reunion approached, the Saints gathered to make ready the grounds at Brother Brian and Sister Melissa Herren's, where the event would be held.

On the evening of August 3rd, the Pacific Northwest Reunion convened. This Reunion was different than any I can remember, and I feel many safety concerns were addressed and alleviated.

We began each afternoon with a short family worship, followed by a wonderful class taught by Elder Tom Mitchell. The class theme was "I am the Vine; you are the Branches". Brother Tom's enthusiasm, understanding, and desire to serve the Lord was constantly evident. The afternoon seemed to fly by all too quickly, as we listened and studied. Activities and classes were also provided for the youth throughout the afternoon. Dinner and fellowship followed, after that the preaching service began at 7:00 pm. The Lord's presence was felt in abundance each day. The activities of the day concluded with an evening campfire. What wonderful days!

In this Saint's opinion, because of the changes made necessary by the local restrictions, the Reunion had a more Zionite feel than others I have attended. The women cooked in their separate homes, preparing dinner with a singleness of purpose and heart, bringing that food together to share as a group. Most of the Saints from out of town stayed in the homes of Salem Saints. This allowed for unique fellowship and an opportunity to draw nearer to each other. Because of the abundance of desire felt by the Saints, and because we sought the Lord through mighty prayer, the Pacific Northwest Reunion for 2020 went smoothly and was a tremendous blessing to all that attended. All glory and honor to God for his guidance!



Reunion 2020

by Brother Derek Ethridge

There are many things that could be said about our Pacific Northwest reunion and they would all be good. There are the facts, like the class Elder Tom Mitchell gave on the vineyard, the true vine, the prophecy of Zenos in the Book of Mormon (Jacob 3:30-153) and how our testimony and actions shared with others can lead people to the true vine, and how grafting works in the context of binding oneself to Christ. How, during 2020, the families of the region offered their houses as places for us visitors to stay without expectation of recompense, and the group acted in faith and didn't enforce any mask policy, while still making the option available to all.

There are comparisons in the message, how without coordination by the priesthood every message given to the group in the form of the services built upon the last, including the messages from the summer series, to go from our regional theme (Stand fast in the Faith) to the Summer series theme (Quit ye like Men), to the reunion theme (Standing fast as the people of God). The messages given by the families during the earlier services acted as a warm up to the day's theme, and allowed the message to flow from topic to topic of each day. Even the Priesthood meetings in the morning felt a part of the daily services.

There are the feelings we had, being willing to repent as a combination of part of the Conference of Restoration Elders call to repentance that was occurring at the same time. The feeling of being with your extended family, as everyone was willing to help and share the gifts and talents they have with the group in whatever skills they may have. The feeling of how God's message is the same Yesterday, Today, and Forever. I was preparing after guidance left in one of my mother's hand-me-down book bags, given as an "Invitation to Climb a Mountain" from a few years back. Not sure where it came from, but the message was Pray, Fast, and "get ready" spiritually. That applies to everyone.

The conversations we had, each to his or her own. Val Brotherton spoke to me at one point and asked something along the lines of 'What would I need to do to go further on my walk with the Lord?' (Also that isn't a direct quote, I didn't write it down and my memory isn't THAT good). For me, one answer is leaving everything behind when I next move, but I invite everyone to ask yourself that question seriously in prayer sometime. The answer might be as simple as stop drinking or stop watching TV. A small change could lead to large improvements in your walk with the Lord.

I also hope that each of us there had an experience, be it large or small, that connected us more strongly to our Father in Heaven.

As for me, I was feeling kind of down after the Gifts and Talents for the Lord. I had said to myself if there was applause after my performance, and I felt pride at a performance well done instead of only joy at serving the Lord, I would discard or destroy my Ocarina (instrument) and find some other way to serve, while avoiding pride. The next day, before I had done anything to hurt or damage my instrument, a child came to me and said nothing more complicated than "Your music yesterday... you did good". That was enough to save the Ocarina and dispel the remainder of the pride at my performance. Our Father in Heaven protects and cherishes each and every one of his own.

I know many who will read this are part of the Region where the Pacific Northwest Reunion took place. To those I would invite you to Praise the Lord and remember those things he has done for you, and most importantly to share these things with others as the change arises. To those who may not be part of our Region, the people here are nice. Get in touch with someone and write a letter or send an email. Make sure you are connected to someone. The best thing you can do is to be grafted to the true vine of Jesus Christ, which means everyone in Christ's Church should be family in the best sense of the word. Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you.

May God bless all who have the opportunity to read this message,

Derek Ethridge, December 05th, 2020



Reunion 2020



Reunion 2020



Youth Camp 2020



Youth Camp 2020



Reunion 2020



Youth Camp 2020

Summer Preaching Series

by Sister Jan Esquivel

The weekend Mike and I spent in Salem for the Summer Preaching Series was a time for unity, joy, fellowship and culmination--an answer to prayer. Anytime saints gather there is fellowship, joy and unity, but after C-19 we were anxious to share in the love of the gospel and spoken word. We were welcomed with open hearts and spent many precious hours in friendship with Ron and Dorothy Herren.

We were the first to arrive. Mike asked if anyone was there so I went to check inside and then told Mike "This is a first--we get to worship with a cord of wood in one corner and a motorcycle in the other." Two minutes later Brian appeared and removed the cycle. I think Christ would have enjoyed worshipping there--it was probably not the first time He had listened to men preach with a cycle propped in the corner while He was praising the cycle for bringing ministry. Meeting Jay Havenor was the culmination of desire and answered prayer--so delighted to meet him and sit under his ministry. His sermons were pointedly focused on our annual theme, but more importantly, not a generic message but specifically for our circumstances here in the Pacific Northwest--isolated from the strength we might receive from our fellow saints in Missouri. The sermons were based on the words from 1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, Stand fast in the faith, Quit you (be courageous) like men, Be strong. Throughout each sermon he gave anecdotes, laced with memorable sayings. I'd like to share the ones most meaningful to me.

WATCH YE *A watchman is to be alert and aware, to watch and listen, for any trouble. He never leaves his post. He is to take stock of our spiritual condition. *A lighthouse warns ships of land ahead. The lower lights guide the ship to the harbor. *Lord, help me rid my ears and tongue from voices of the world.

STAND FAST IN THE FAITH * Keep the focus: bear one another's burdens, mourn with those that mourn, comfort those that need comfort, and stand as a witness in all times, all things, and all places. Too many have tried to walk with one foot in the Kingdom and one foot in the world. Doing this, the kingdom gets far away. *Beware of being anchored to men instead of anchored to Christ.

BE COURAGEOUS *It is easy to be backed in a corner with your enemy. It is harder to be courageous with a friend. Daniel's three friends didn't back down. They were willing to stand. *The real obstacle the world has is to overcome the people of God. *John Wayne said courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway. Saddle up to do work of the Kingdom of God.

BE STRONG *In order to accomplish the above three we must be strong. Our strength is measured by our covenant with the Lord. *Having struggles?--don't toss them aside. Put them on a lower shelf--so you can reach them when you are on your knees praying. *Our strength is seen in our words and actions. We must walk the walk and talk the talk. But our Walk-talks must be louder than our Talk-talks.

Jay ended with the reminder that God knows this church the people who have made a covenant with Him. We may be small here in the Northwest, but we are the body of Christ. We are connected! I needed that reminder.

Summer Preaching Series

by Sister Connie Godjikian

Things have not been the same in 2020. The Summer Preaching Series was no exception. Elder Jay Havenor traveled from Michigan to bring a message of preparedness over the course of three services held in Brother Brian's shop. The setting took nothing away from the services and everyone seemed comfortable. Beautiful music streamed from the building with hymn singing and a variety of special music.

Four imperatives from I Corinthians 16:13 were expanded upon during the three services by Brother Jay. These were: 1. Watch ye. 2. Stand fast in the faith. 3. Quit ye like men or be courageous. 4. Be strong. We are all called to be watchmen and women. Lighthouses are examples as they warn and guide the ships. We need to tune our ears to hear that which is sought. Our job is to sow the seeds. God will decide upon the harvest. We can prepare the vineyard so the seeds have the best chance. To be steadfast is to not waiver. To not waiver is to have courage. Brother Jay ended the series with the admonition of "Be kind and love one another." This is so fitting in today's world. I Corinthians 16:14 says, "Let all your things be done with charity."

I am grateful that I was able to attend the services and worship with the saints. I appreciated the ministry of Brother Jay and his willingness to travel across the country to share his message. Thank you to the hands and hearts of all those who worked to make the series a success and the attendees comfortable in these times.