

# BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC  
NORTHWEST

FEBRUARY, 2022  
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1



## Bearing Fruit

by Brother Brian Herren

### Regional Events 2022

- Winter Youth Retreat:  
Feb. 18-21
- Women's Retreat: April 22-24
- Spring Youth Retreat: May 6-8
- Men's Retreat: May 13-15
- YAG Retreat: May 27-29
- Summer Preaching Series:  
June 17-19
- Youth Camp: July 12-17  
(entering middle school  
through 2022 graduates)
- Reunion: July 25-31
- Priesthood Retreat:  
Sept. 16-18
- Fall Conference: Oct. 7-9
- Fall Youth Retreat: Oct. 14-16

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- Youth Retreat
- Women's Retreat
- Men's retreat

The disciple of Christ is concerned with the fruit that he or she is bearing. In truth, his or her discipleship is ultimately qualified by the fruit borne:

*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. -*  
John 15:8

One who contributes nothing to the process of fruit bearing in the vineyard of the Lord may assert central beliefs consistent with the will of God, but may not rightly claim discipleship in His Only Begotten. In the heart of the faithful, honest convictions are planted early and often with full expectations of a harvest that will glorify the Master of the vineyard. The Master of the vineyard is not glorified in the will to bring forth or the potential for yield, but in the very yield itself. For this reason, the disciple of Christ is concerned with the fruit from the very beginning. He or she looks forward to the ultimate realization of every perceived potential, and is uplifted in every season of growth by the hope of full maturation. The apostle Paul acknowledged the process in one of his letters to the Corinthians:

*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. - I Corinthians 3:6*

The Father is glorified in the fruit. As such is revealed to the faithful, he or she becomes more concerned with the development of the fruit and increasingly motivated to ensure the fullest yield for the glory of God. His or her interest is not limited to the measure of the yield, though Christ said "*much*", but also in the quality of the fruit being yielded. Jacob stressed the importance of the quality of the fruit in his ministry:

*And thou beheldest that a part thereof, brought forth **good fruit**; and a part thereof, brought forth **wild fruit**.*

Without fruit, there is no discipleship of any sort. Without Christian fruit, there is no discipleship to Christ. Both measures have worth, that of yield and that of quality, and either measure loses something in the absence of the other. Therefore, the Christian disciple seeks maximum yield of the highest quality fruit that his Master may be glorified to the greatest degree. The process resists complacency, but rewards the laborer with unlimited joy in every part of the fruit bearing process. In sowing, he or she has joy. In watering, he or she delights. In the harvest, he or she is satisfied. Even so, when one crop has brought forth in abundance, it is stripped of the vine with the hopes of still more fruit. The Apostle John wrote:

*"...and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." - John 15:2*

No fruit is spoiled in the Kingdom, but laid up a treasure in heaven. However, no laborer in the vineyard can be satisfied with the harvest of years past when such satisfaction ignores the potential of the present, and neglects plans for the future. A life well-lived is one lived to the end, so that there is no disruption in the yielding of the fruit, nor distortion of the fruit itself. A disciple who points to fruit borne long ago as his or her measure of discipleship may well be pointing to the terminal point of such discipleship.

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## Bearing Fruit

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Jesus said that His disciples would bear fruit, and that they would bear *much* fruit, but what is that fruit and how is it come? An exhaustive answer awaits the end of eternity, but the beginnings are clear in Christ. Once convinced of the Messiahship of Jesus Christ, the Jews asked the apostles what was next. Peter spoke for the apostles, and spoke directly:

*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.* - Acts 2:38

Nephi answered the same, and described one gate by which all must enter:

*"For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost".* - II Nephi 13:24

Moroni described baptism as the first fruit that would follow true repentance:

*"And the first-fruits of repentance is baptism..."*  
- Moroni 8:29

Peter, Nephi, and Moroni all describe a specific outcome to an authentic baptism: the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Apostle Peter answered, "repent and be baptized...and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost". Nephi reported, "...the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism...and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost...". Moroni indicated that "the first fruits of repentance is baptism...and because of meekness and lowliness of heart cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost". King Benjamin acknowledged that all men and women are born with a portion of the Holy Spirit within, but taught that they might receive the Holy Spirit "more abundantly" in the realization of their baptismal covenant (Mosiah 9:41).

So desperate is the Christian for the Spirit of Christ. There is no cost to self too great, but the very cost is often self alone. The Holy Spirit is paramount to the disciple of Christ, working in concert with the obedient in the fruit bearing process. The Apostle Paul was explicit in describing the kind of fruit the Holy Spirit bears in the lives of the pious:

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance..."* - Galatians 5:22-23

Paul was equally emphatic in the Lord's expectation that this fruit would not be the only good that would come, though it might be the start of all good that would be. The fruit of the Spirit would result in action, and that action would be good too:

*"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*  
- Galatians 5:25

From a good Spirit would spring many good works:

*"Therefore, let your light so shine before this world, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* - Matthew 5:18

So inextricable is the spirit within and the fruits without, that Jesus was able to conclude:

*"Ye shall know them by their fruits; for do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ...Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."* - Matthew 7:25, 29

*"For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart, bringeth forth that which is good. And an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart, bringeth forth that which is evil..."*  
- Luke 6:44-45

By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit comes the fruit of the Spirit, and by this fruit, many good works without end. In fact, by example God Himself reveals that where the Holy Spirit dwells in full, there is no end to His works. It is a miracle of life, that fruit multiplies fruit. From one apple might arise an entire orchard under the right conditions. It is our responsibility then, to sow the seed and to improve the conditions under which it will grow.

Before we act, think, or say, we might ask ourselves:

- What fruit will this bear?
- Is it good fruit or bad?
- Can the fruit be described in Kingdom terms and measured in Kingdom values?

Every disciple of Christ will bear much fruit. What have we done for the Kingdom today? What fruit have we gathered today? If the Father be glorified in the immortality and eternal life of mankind, and the Father is to be glorified in our fruit, should not our fruit be toward salvation?



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## Bearing Fruit

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Remember, the toil of a disciple is not without reward, as rest well earned is a rest made sweet. In the end, it will not surprise the laborers of the vineyard that the reward of the work is to share in the harvest. There is a fruit which is borne by the diligence of the laborer, and blessed by the grace of the Father.

*"And because of your diligence, and your faith, and your patience with the word, in nourishing it, that it may take root in you, behold, by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white; yea, and pure above all that is pure; And ye shall feast upon this fruit, even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst.*

- Alma 16:171-172

There is but one purpose for a vineyard. Let us bear fruit!

*"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit; and that your fruit should remain..."*

- John 15:16

What fruit? Let us cultivate the fruit of the Spirit AND all the fruit that is multiplied therefrom. The Lord has shown us the way:

*"Verily, verily I say unto you, This is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do, that shall ye also do; For that which ye have seen me do, even that shall ye do; therefore if ye do these things, blessed are ye, for ye shall be lifted up at the last day."* - III Nephi 12:34-35

## What Fruit Have You Gathered

by Lizzie de Armand

What fruit have you gathered for Jesus  
Through all the glad, beautiful days?  
The fields and the gardens have yielded  
A bountiful tribute of praise.  
What fruit have you brought for the Master?  
What fruit are you bearing today?  
O workers, dear workers for Jesus,  
What souls have you gleaned by the way?

The golden hours happy and restful,  
Ought surely a harvest to bring;  
Oh, have you not one loving token,  
One trophy to offer your King?  
What fruit have you brought for the Master?  
What fruit are you bearing today?  
O workers, dear workers for Jesus,  
What souls have you gleaned by the way?

What fruit have you gathered for Jesus?  
What sheaves have you found by the way?  
Come, hasten to lay on his altar  
The souls you have garnered today.  
What fruit have you brought for the Master?  
What fruit are you bearing today?  
O workers, dear workers for Jesus,  
What souls have you gleaned by the way?



## Tanzania

by Brother Brian Herren

Brother Travis Clark and I were blessed to serve a mission in Tanzania between October 19, 2021 and November 4, 2021. We feel that it must be that every prayer was answered in full and beyond measure for the glory of God. Rich are His blessings and deep are His ways. God moved the mountains and made straight our way! The mission yielded considerable fruit for the kingdom, and established the potential for blessings to come.

We were led by the Holy Spirit to return to the region where we had sown seeds in 2020, to follow up on those foundational efforts and nurture the work where we might.

*"Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do." - Acts 15:36*

Upon our arrival, the Lord hastened His work in extraordinary ways, and made His will clear to us. We taught classes for two full days, and on the third day, baptized eight souls and confirmed nine. That same evening a formal meeting was held to organize an official restoration branch in Tanzania at Utegi. A pastor, treasurer and secretary were elected by those who had been baptized. We passed out the t-shirts we had carried with us from the states and it was wonderful to see the joy and excitement amongst the Saints in all that the Lord had done. (See the picture for the graphics used on the t-shirts...the lion head was used on the front left chest, with the Swahili words for "firm in the faith" or "strong in the faith".)

The next day, ground was broken for a new church building in Utegi. Travis and I helped measure out 1.83 acres of land to be donated to the church, surveying the grounds with the iPhone compass and GPS bearings, along with a long tape. On the same day, we laid the cornerstone and dedicated the plot. During the afternoon, several of us went into Tirime to formally open a bank account for the branch with an initial deposit.

Two full evenings were spent instructing the branch officers in record keeping and branch responsibilities. Special care was given to the pastor to review the ordinances and sacraments. Elder Albert Okumu will serve as pastor in Utegi. He had received wonderful instruction in times past, but review seems beneficial in consideration of our responsibilities in the priesthood.



On our final morning in Tanzania, we concluded with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We were awash in the Holy Ghost as the Lord sealed His work in the remembrance of His Son, and the gift seemed especially sweet in the presence of those who were new members of the Church. The communion we felt in that moment eludes earthly description, but favors the warmest hopes we have by Christ's presence.

The field in which we served was quite remote, offering both stunning beauty and wild encounters. One night, in the middle of the night, I awoke to being bitten all over my torso by a swarm of ants (siafu) that ultimately entirely overwhelmed the shed-like structure wherein Brother Travis and I had been sleeping, forcing us to flee. The local men burned rubber to smoke the ants out and drive them back into the jungle. The very next morning brought renewed commotion as a viper, a puff adder (one of the seven most deadly snakes in Africa), was discovered in a pile of sticks from which we had been taking wood, and by which we regularly passed. The snake was confronted and killed. In many ways we felt like we were living out a National Geographic documentary as we watched spiders attack and eat cockroaches right on the walls whereby we slept, ticks and bed bugs scramble by as we lay, and classes interrupted for unexpected snake hunts. During the trip we saw zebras, giraffes, warthogs, and baboons in the wild.

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## Tanzania

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After leaving Tanzania, Brother Travis and I served in Kenya. Again, the Lord moved in His everlasting mercies and prevenient grace. On the evening before I was scheduled to serve in Nakuru, the Lord brought to mind a most obscure scripture, and one which seemed unhelpful in preparing a class or sermon for the following day. It was an obsession, and I could barely think of anything other than the scripture, nor put it out of my mind for more suitable preparation. I fell asleep thinking about those verses and the strangeness of my experience. The next morning, after arriving in Nakuru, it was decided by Elder James Yogo that I would teach a Sunday school class and then preach a sermon. Almost as soon as I opened the morning class, a very bright woman raised her hand. She was a school administrator and Sunday school teacher, and seemed true and faithful in Christ. She asked a challenging question of an unusual character. Amazingly, and miraculously, the very Bible verse upon which the Lord had fixated my attention the night previous was a thorough answer to a genuine question. The woman was pleased, and you can only imagine my elation.

In all, we felt the blanketing love of Christ as the Lord worked and impressed upon us His desire to bless His children with providential care and clear vision of His Kingdom. It was hard to leave that beautiful and rugged place after assimilating so thoroughly, and after allowing our hearts to swell for the people. Our stay was lovely in every way, and the errand filled us in spiritual ways that may be hard to express. Our feelings were mixed and our hearts provoked as we left the wilderness of Tanzania for Nairobi, Amsterdam, Salt Lake City, and Portland. There are no roads serving the field where we labored in Tanzania. As we drove away, through field and brush, a hymn filled our ears and I could have cried. We continue to pray that the Kingdom flourish in Utegi, and we continue to thank the Lord for the miraculous ways and means by which we saw His hand move in these recent days.



Elder Brian Herren baptizing



Elder Herren teaching Elder Okumu to baptize



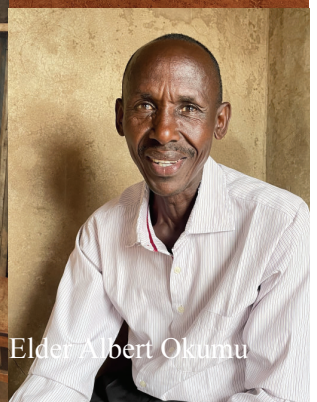
Deacon Travis Clark preparing for communion



Deacon Clark teaching the financial law and record keeping to the newly elected officers of the Utegi branch



Preparing supper



Elder Albert Okumu

## 2022 Pacific Northwest Winter Youth Retreat Information

February 18 - February 21, Vancouver Branch

*Retreat Theme:*

*Unity - Mosiah 9:54*

**When:** February 18 - February 21 (Drop off: Friday 6:30pm) (Pick up time: Monday 1:00pm.)

**Location:** Vancouver Branch - 2602 NW 151st Vancouver, WA 98685

**Cost:** \$45 (Please make checks out to the Northwest Region of Restoration Congregations or simply NWRRC). If you need assistance with this fee, please see your local youth leader or pastor. Payment can be paid on the arrival of camper or checks can be mailed in advance to the regional treasurer, Brother Travis Clark, at 4701 Rawhide Ct. NE Salem, OR 97305.

The Retreat is for youth between 6th - 12th (grade 2021-2022.)

For any questions or emergency, call or text Brother Michael Livingston cell: [\(503\) 877-8535](tel:5038778535).

We would ask that all attending this retreat would come prepared to draw apart from the world and to seek to draw closer to the Lord with a desire to receive and honor His Spirit.

*Please observe the following:*

- Youth Retreats are filled with activity: Please be prepared for running around, playing sports, singing praises and worshiping God.
- Please read the rules carefully before signing the registration form. Keep this sheet for reference as you are packing
- Signed registration and medical forms are required.
- Campers are expected to participate in all activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. They must treat others with respect, courtesy, and kindness. • Be respectful to your counselors and be willing to pitch in and help if asked. • Be respectful of the grounds and the property of others.
- Dress code will be enforced. Dress code is as follows: no short-shorts, no short shirts (bare midriffs), tube tops, spaghetti straps, low-cut tops or see-through tops. No inappropriate language or logos on any clothing. Please dress in a modest fashion. If you are not sure whether an item of clothing fits the dress-code, ask a counselor for an opinion before entering the common areas wearing it.
- No foul language, sexual contact, innuendos or derogatory remarks are permitted. • All participants must stay within the boundaries of the campgrounds (to be defined at orientation), through the duration of camp and must remain in areas that are supervised by camp counselors. • No CD players, cell phones, iPods, or electronic devices are allowed in camp. If brought, they will be taken away until the end of camp. (Counselors will make their cell phones available in an emergency.) • Possession or use of weapons, tobacco products, alcohol or illegal drugs are not permitted. If probable cause exists, Camp Director will be allowed to search a person and personal property for illegal items. • No gum, candy, pop or other junk food is to be brought to camp. Refreshments will be provided. There is no need to bring money to the camp. All snacks will be provided.
- All rules will be interpreted at the discretion of the Camp Director and Staff.



**BE UNITED  
IN CHRIST**

## 2022 Pacific Northwest Winter Youth Retreat Registration

**NO CAMPER MAY ATTEND WITHOUT THIS SIGNED PERMISSION FORM ON RECORD**

**Please Submit this completed form to the Regional Youth Director: Brother Michael Livingston**

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in 2021-2022 school year \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (for the purpose of receiving information about retreats and camp in the future)

Emergency contact in case parent/guardian cannot be reached.

Name/Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**COST OF ANY MEDICAL TREATMENT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT /GUARDIAN:**

Insurance Co. \_\_\_\_\_

Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Last Tetanus shot \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby approve my child's participation at this retreat and give permission to the Retreat Administration to make decisions related to the physical well-being of my child. In case of an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician and /or hospital, selected by the Retreat Administration, to secure proper treatment for my child, as named above, and will assume liability for any resulting expenses not covered by my insurance. The Church or staff will not be held liable for any injury.

\*Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Camper Agreement: I have read the attached information and expectations and I will abide by and support it.

Camper's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

What you should pack:

- ◆ your scriptures
- ◆ a jacket or sweatshirt, a towel
- ◆ clothing and shoes appropriate for a variety of activities (Swim suit, tennis shoes, hiking clothes etc.)
- ◆ A sleeping bag and pillow (We will be sleeping on floors so bring an appropriate sleeping mat if necessary.)
- ◆ Worship, and or devotional materials

# 2022 Pacific Northwest Women's Retreat

April 22-24, 2022 - Anderson Lodge

Regional Theme:  
"Bearing Fruit"

## Friday, April 22

6:15 Dinner  
7:30 Song Service  
7:45 Evening Activity

## Saturday, April 23

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Song Service  
9:15 Morning Worship Service – Salem Branch  
9:30 Class  
10:30 Break  
10:45 Class  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Class  
2:15 Free time – craft – recreation  
5:00 Dinner  
6:00 Song Service  
6:15 Evening Worship Service  
6:30 Prayer & Testimony Service

## Sunday, April 24

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Song Service  
9:15-11:00 Communion and Preaching Services  
Goodbyes and Departures

### Registration Information:

\$125 registration fee  
(add \$7 for craft with Sister  
Maddy Clark)

Send to: Travis Clark  
4701 Rawhide Ct NE,  
Salem, OR 97305

Checks should be made out to:  
NW Region of Restoration  
Congregations or NWRRC

# 2022 Pacific Northwest Men's Retreat

May 13-15, 2022 - Pacific City, Oregon

(5750 Kiwanda Dr., Pacific City, Oregon, 97135)

Regional Theme:

“Bearing Fruit”

## Friday, May 13

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

## Saturday, May 14

8:00 Breakfast  
8:45 - 9:15 Morning Worship: Brother Ron Herren and Brother Benjamin Herren  
9:20 Class  
Class  
Afterward Lunch  
1:30 Class  
Afterward Free time  
5:00 Dinner  
6:00 Evening Worship: Brother Michael Livingston  
Afterward Prayer and Testimony Service: Brother Gary Livingston

## Sunday, May 15

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 - 9:30 Morning Worship - Brother Amos Johnson  
9:30 - 10:15 Communion Service - Brothers Mitch Arndt and Derek Ethridge  
Break  
10:20 Parting Charge - Brother Gary Jones

**Registration Information: Please send \$160 to:**  
**Travis Clark**

**4701 Rawhide Ct. NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305**

**Checks should be made out to:**

**NW Region of Restoration Congregations or NWRRC**