BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

JULY, 2023
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Regional Events 2023

- Youth Camp: July 24-29
- Reunion: July 31-August 6
- Priesthood Retreat: September 15-17
- Fall Conference: Oct. 6-8
- Fall Youth Retreat: Nov. 3-5

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Young Adults Group (YAG) Retreat

by Sister Melissa Johnson

This years winter YAG retreat's theme was choosing the kingdom. There were 10 souls in attendance, each of whom brought something special to share with the group. Whether it was a meal, a class, a helping hand, or a smile, each soul was important in the make-up of the retreat.

We enjoyed a cozy cabin home in Rhododendron, OR. Some participated in the annual Croquet match, while others enjoyed watching the snow fall peacefully from indoors. We enjoyed a few classes, during which much fruitful discussion was had, as well as a movie together. All in attendance very much seemed to enjoy the fellowship had with one another. I look forward to the next YAG retreat with whatever adventures that await.

Women's Retreat

by Sister Dianna Clark

April 21st, 2023 was a long-awaited date for many. 20 women gathered together at Anderson lodge to take part in the annual women's retreat. It was a great blessing to worship alongside my sisters in Christ, some who made great preparations and effort to be present. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Friday evening was spent embracing one another and catching up with those we do not get to see as often as we would like. A wonderful dinner was followed with a song service and evening message before retiring to bed. The immense gratefulness of the heart escapes proper words to describe the arrival of sister Lois Arndt. Her testimony and love for the Lord shines so bright it lights up every dark corner of every room she enters.

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Women's Retreat

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Saturday started with an amazing breakfast by our loving thoughtful chefs, Travis Clark (now father of two boys), and jack of all trades Ron Trammell. These two men are true servants and willing to place their needs aside to answer the call for silent service unto the Lord. Thank you for the wonderful meals. Walking through the dining room or kitchen area might result in flying objects at your head but the playful banter is medicine to the soul. Classes were taught by our attending priesthood, Gary Jones and Mitch Arndt. Both classes resulted in thought provoking questions and insight. Our third class was taught by Dorothy Herren. Thorough and well thought out, you could never guess this class was her first one ever.

Sunday morning was met with renewed vigor and sore anticipation for departure. Singing together with my sisters in praise and adoration for our Lord can only be described as a minor glimpse into those days when we will worship for eternity. Three deer were wandering the property as we exited the premises. Thank you, each, and everyone, for a wonderful weekend. May the Lord continue to prick the hearts of his children and call us to higher ground.

Men's Retreat

by Brother Gary Livingston

This year's Regional Men's Retreat was held during the dates of May 26-28 in Rhododendron, Oregon, which is located at the foothills of Mt. Hood. Our retreat was centered around our regional theme, "Choosing the Kingdom". We had wonderful fellowship as we bonded together in the good Spirit of our Heavenly Father. As we enjoyed each other's company, we were treated to fantastic meals as provided by our good sisters, Dianna Clark and Carla Livingston.

Priest Michael Livingston started us off with our Friday evening song service. The hymns brother Michael chose were centered around how Jesus is calling each one of us. The song service was followed by our Friday evening preaching service. The sermon was delivered by Elder Brian Herren and centered on the Greatness of God.

Saturday began with Priest Travis Clark leading us in our morning worship. Three classes were taught during the day. Our teachers were Elder Brian Herren, Teacher Kevin Herren, and Elder Mitch Arndt. There was great discussion and much participation during each of the three classes. During the late afternoon, several of the men took advantage of the beauty of God's nature by taking the Road 19 Trail Hike. Saturday concluded with Priest Michael Livingston leading us in our Evening Worship followed by Elder Gary Livingston presiding over our Prayer and Testimony Service.

We welcomed Sunday morning through worship as led by Brothers Ron Herren and Benjamin Herren. We continued our worship through partaking of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as Elder Brian Herren presided, assisted by Priest Travis Clark. Elder Gary Livingston delivered our Parting Charge.

It was a wonderful retreat as we found ourselves ministered to by the Holy Spirit. We value this opportunity for us to grow together as men in the Lord.

Summer Preaching Series

by Sister Dorothy Herren

This year's inspired messages were presented by Elder B.J. Schultz, from Columbia, Missouri. The Preaching Series on Friday, June 16th and Saturday, June 17th, were hosted by the Vancouver Branch and Sunday, June 18th was held at Willamette Mission State Park near Salem.

At the park we were greeted by wind and rain, neither of which dampened the message, the fellowship, or the potluck enjoyed by those that were in attendance. On Thursday the 15th my husband, Ron Herren, and I were blessed to host Elder Schultz and our eldest grandson Benjamin at breakfast, where we shared great conversation. This conversation only scratched the surface of our interest, and whetted our appetite for what was to come at this year's preaching series.

Throughout the three days, Elder Schultz exhibited his love and knowledge of the scriptures when he discussed topics like the plan of redemption, the glory of our Lord's resurrection, our relationship with God, how we can grow from grace to grace and how we are to prepare for our Lord's return, to name but a few. The descriptive tone and interesting content of his sermons touched the hearts of those in attendance and his messages were uniquely meaningful. His sermons were laced with personal testimonies and remembrances of his missionary work in Rwanda, which added touches of poignancy and reflected his humility.

On Monday, we were again blessed by being asked to transport Elder Schultz and his son, Joel, to the airport. The trip was bittersweet, we were going to have to say goodbye to our new friends and family members, but

A Testimony: Summer Preaching Series

by Sister Milee Gage

Greetings to all the saints who find themselves reading this newsletter! I'm writing to you from Blue Springs, Missouri of the center place. No matter how many miles separate us, I can think of two things that connect us as if we were just in the Next Room, from each other. One is our love for the Lord and his magnificent gospel and the second one is our love we have for the Restoration Saints of the Pacific Northwest. This group of Saints have become very near and dear to my heart over the past several years and I consider them to be a part of my family. I am very grateful that we have been given the opportunity to stay connected through this newsletter and in other various ways. As you have already read, sister Dorothy Herron wrote a beautiful article, detailing the Pacific Northwest region's summer preaching series, that happens every June. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to be able to listen to the sermons that were given by Elder BJ Schultz, this year.

Each of the three sermons left me with much to ponder and many a lesson learned. It was in the first sermon around minute 26 where brother BJ shared an experience that really left me feeling convicted. Those of you who heard the sermon might remember the experience he shared of one Wednesday morning where he had risen early to make preparations for an Easter sermon, he was to give that Sunday. He had asked the Lord one question. What is the glory of your resurrection? He goes on to mention how he became very frustrated with their family dog Hunter as he kept making messes. BJ found himself having to clean up rather than being able to make his preparations. Finally, BJ said he put Hunter outside, to stay there for a while. BJ is a physician and knows the difference between life and death. A while later he noticed that Hunter had collapsed and was not breathing. He mentions how he knelt to pray and then prepared to tell his family the news. BJ found himself contemplating this experience of him being frustrated with Hunter and how this was their last experience together. A bit later Hunter twitched and began to breathe again. He continued the story stating his family was blessed with two more months that they were able to spend quality time with Hunter before he passed. Through this experience, BJ said that the Lord showed him that the glory of the Resurrection is in our Redemption. He was also given the opportunity to ponder how he didn't have to be that way, but that he could change his ways. This specific experience he shared, really left me thinking about how I conduct myself and my relationships with others. Life can change in an instant and sometimes we don't have another chance for redemption. I want to be the type of person to show my love and the love of Jesus to others each moment of every day so that I won't have to live with regrets. I am a work in progress but will strive each day to serve the Lord and each person I come into contact with. These three sermons had many more lessons, but this is just one example that really stuck with me. God bless you all dear Saints as you strive to do the Lord's will daily.

2023 Pacific Northwest Reunion

July 31 - August 6, 2023, Vancouver, WA
Regional Theme:
"Choosing the Kingdom"

Monday, July 31

6:45	Song Service
7:00	Preaching Service
Afterward	Refreshments and Fellowship, campfire

Tuesday - Saturday, August 1 - August 6

7:00	Priesthood Meeting
8:00	Breakfast
9:00	Morning worship
9:15 - 10:00	Songs of praise: Sister Cessaries Galusha
10:15	Prayer and Testimony Service
12:00	Lunch
1:00 - 3:00	Recreation / Rest / Preparation
3:00-4:30	Class

(Gifts and Talents for the Lord on Sat. @4:45, dinner at 6:00)

5:30	Dinner
6:45	Song Service
7:00	Preaching Service
Afterward	Campfire

Sunday, July 31

8:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15	Song Service
9:15 - 10:45	Prayer and Communion Service
11:00	Preaching Service

Prayer and Testimony Services

	Presiding	Assisting
Tuesday	Elder G. Livingston	Priest M. Livingston
Wednesday	Elder M. Arndt	Priest D. Ethridge
Thursday	Elder B. Herren	Priest M. Livingston
Friday	Elder M. Arndt	Priest T. Clark
Saturday	Elder G. Jones	Teacher K. Herren
Sunday	Elder G. Livingston	Elders G. Jones and M. Terry

Preaching Services

	Preaching	Presiding	Assisting
Monday	Priest J. Clark	Elder B. Herren	Teacher K. Herren
Tuesday	Elder M. Terry	Elder G. Livingston	Priest D. Ethridge
Wednesday	Elder G. Livingston	Elder M. Arndt	Priest M. Livingston
Thursday	Elder M. Arndt	Elder G. Jones	Priest D. Ethridge
Friday	Elder B. Herren	Elder M. Terry	Priest J. Clark
Saturday	Priest T. Clark	Elder G. Livingston	Teacher K. Herren
Sunday	Elder G. Jones	Elder B. Herren	Elder M. Terry

Morning Worship

Tuesday	K. Herren family
Wednesday	TBA
Thursday	R. Herren family
Friday	Priest D. Ethridge
Saturday	Regional youth

Campfire Ministry and Prayers
Organized by Brother Travis Clark, Regional Youth Director

Classes

Tuesday	Priest M. Livingston
Wednesday	Teacher K. Herren
Thursday	Elder G. Livingston
Friday	Teacher K. Herren
Saturday	Elder M. Terry

Daily Themes
Choosing the Kingdom…

Tuesday	…by choosing righteousness
Wednesday	…by choosing peace
Thursday	…by choosing joy in the Holy Ghost
Friday	…being born again
Saturday	…being pure in heart
Sunday	…a people prepared