

BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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The Year of Our Lord, Two-thousand and Twenty-three

by Brother Brian Herren

Regional Officers 2024

- Regional Director:
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- Counselors to Regional Director:
Elder Mike Terry (pastor)
Elder Gary Jones (pastor)
- Regional Youth Director:
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As we conclude another year, we have many reasons to give thanks for the sustained blessings in the Pacific Northwest. Each day reminds us of our dependence upon the Lord, and how much we need Him with us always. We are reminded also of God's perennial willingness to condescend unto us and make His habitation amongst His children. His mercies are new each day and His works are without end. We have enjoyed so many special moments together this year, in fellowship, in worship, in service, in labor, and in leisure. I have truly been blessed by the friendship of the Saints, and I will not soon forget the invaluable moments we shared together this year. In the following paragraphs, I give one testimony of the Pacific Northwest Reunion.

The reunion was well attended this year, July 31, 2023 through August 6, 2023 at Vancouver, Washington. The Saints in Vancouver had prepared the grounds and church beautifully, and many camped on the grounds throughout the entire week, never leaving. The weeklong theme was "Choosing the Kingdom", with daily themes including "Righteousness", "Peace", "Joy in the Holy Ghost", "Being Born Again", "Being Pure in Heart", and "Being a People Prepared". Several commented on the unity enjoyed by the Saints throughout the week, and the way that every facet of our fellowship and worship seemed to be harmonious throughout.

The priesthood started each day with worship and study at 7:00 am, which proved a consistent source of learning and growth that would extend into the various ministries offered throughout the day. The Holy Ghost was leading us, and the fruitful nature of our various assemblies bore record of God's hand in good order. The prayer and testimony services were genuine and focused, the classes well prepared, and the sermons inspired. Recreation brought the old and the young together, and the campfire service each night left us in awe of the day, and yearning for the next.

During the closing hours of our last full day together, I looked through the windows of the swinging doors that lead into the sanctuary and saw the many Saints assembled for a final evening of worship. The Lord spoke to me there: "I have accepted their sacrifice".

The next morning I was awake early and in prayer when that same Spirit filled me, and the voice of the prophets drawn through my soul as if a trumpet long and clear, and then the word of the Lord came again: "The Spirit saith further unto the church, Be of good cheer. It has pleased the Father to accept many of the sacrifices of his people; and, notwithstanding some have fallen while engaged in their work; some have been tried, and are still tried; some have been and are afflicted, yet the Lord has seen the affliction and trial and will accept and bless, and no man shall lose his reward."

This is the message He sent and the words I received. It once recorded in section one-hundred and twenty-four of the Doctrine and Covenants, and it is given of God unto His people again in the year of the Lord, two-thousand and twenty-three. Let all who receive these words know that He is with us still, and let the fire within be kindled against the day.



Youth Camp 2023

by Brother Benjamin Herren



When This year the pacific northwest regional youth camp was held at silver creek falls. Silver creek falls park offers cabins to rent, which is what we did. The men got to sleep outside in tents while the women slept in the loft of our cabin. On the bottom floor of the cabin there was a common area with a circular fireplace, kitchen and bathrooms. Since we couldn't have a campfire outside, due to a fire ban, we had our campfire service around the fireplace. Each day would start out with breakfast then we would go into songs of praise where we sang songs all together as a camp. Then we had two classes before lunch. After lunch we had a recreation time and then two electives. The first electives were more activity based and the seconds were more scriptural and informative. After the electives we had time to shower and clean in time for dinner and evening with the pastor. To end the day we had a campfire service and then we headed to our sleeping quarters to end the day spent in devotion and prayers. I enjoyed the electives I took, the first one being a wilderness survival class taught by Travis Clark and the second being a class called warriors and battles in the scriptures also taught by Travis Clark. In the warriors and battles class we went through major battles in the bible and book of mormon and highlighted significant warriors who fought in those battles. This year's camp was one of the best camps I've been to. I enjoyed spending camp with friends and family. We had a great balance of learning, having fun and drawing closer to God.



Youth Camp 2023



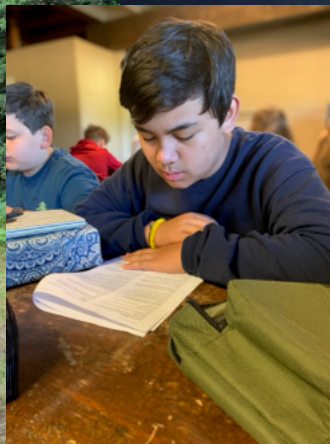
Youth Camp 2023



A Testimony from Youth Camp

by Brother Chris Terry

During Youth Camp I got to experience something great. It was the last night and I prayed about having a testimony. We had a special service for the seniors that night and we sung songs and took turns going to the cross to pray and then that's when I experienced my testimony! While I was praying at the cross I heard the voice of God say, "I'm here with you", and when I heard His voice I was in tears. I was so thankful that I got a beautiful testimony and got to experience the love and compassion God has for me.



Priesthood Retreat 2023

by Brother Michael Livingston



As a new priesthood member, this was my first priesthood retreat. I was excited to learn from those who had many years of experience in the priesthood. I wanted to understand how they did the things they do as priesthood. Being in the priesthood is a heavy task. As priesthood we need to live up to a high standard. We are servants not only to God who we serve first, but we are servants to His people. We are also leaders. With this understanding I want to be the best that I can be. These men who I have seen serve God for most of my life in this role, I wanted to learn from them as much as I could.

I led the first service which was a song service. One of the hymns that I had picked out would become our theme hymn for the weekend. The hymn was Blest Be the Tie that Binds. We would go on singing this hymn multiple times throughout the weekend. To share my testimony of this weekend, I would like to break down the hymn in parts. The first verse goes as follows:

*“Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.”*

All of us there were of “kindred minds” and we had love for one another. We wanted to seek the truth and come to a greater understanding together. In our classes and sermons we were able to do just that. We had wonderful classes taught by Brian Herren and Gary Jones as well as sermons delivered by Jim Clark and Gary Livingston. In the classes we had great discussions. We discussed difficult, maybe uncomfortable topics, but because of our love and respect for each other, there was no contention among us. We all wanted to seek for the truth and I feel we grew closer to the truth together. The second verse goes as follows:

“Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares”

One of the things that I learn from these men is that their wisdom didn’t come from their many years of experience, but by them seeking wisdom from God. No matter how big our how small, they went to God. They went to God for things that pertained to church. They went to God for things that pertained to their family. They went to God for things that pertained to work. In all things they went to God just as the scriptures have taught us to do. The third verse goes as follows:

“We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear, And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.”

As I stated before, being in the priesthood is a heavy task. But as the third verse of this hymn states, “Our mutual burdens bear,” we are there for each other and to strengthen one another. We are there to help one another, and we are called to bear each other’s burdens. The last verse goes as follows:

“When here our pathways part we suffer mutual pain; Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.”

At some point we had to leave the retreat. But that was ok as we grew with each other in Christ. We grew in strength, at least I did, from this retreat. All the classes that we had were wonderful as they brought out wonderful discussions. Our fellowship was wonderful as well. Again, the one thing I took most out of this retreat was the reliance all these men have on God and how much I needed to look to God more in my life. This is not only something the priesthood should do but something we all must do as members. This is my testimony of the retreat.