

# BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC  
NORTHWEST

FEBRUARY, 2025  
VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1



## Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

by Brother Brian Herren

### Regional Events 2025

- Winter Youth Retreat:  
Feb. 15-16
- Women's Retreat: April 25-27
- Spring Youth Retreat:  
May 2-4
- Men's Retreat: May 30 - June 1
- Summer Preaching Series:  
June 20-22
- Reunion: August 4-10
- Youth Camp: Aug 17-22
- Priesthood Retreat:  
September
- Fall Conference: Oct. 3-5

### Inside this Issue

- Regional Theme
- Summer Preaching Series
- Women's Retreat
- Men's Retreat
- High Priest Bill Curtis

An effectual way to prepare for an eternal life with our Heavenly Father, and the first step in any meaningful relationship with Him here, is to humble oneself. Proverbs 3:6 promises: *"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths"*

Yet, a man cannot rightly acknowledge the Lord in all of his ways, until he has fully realized the limitations of acknowledging himself in any of them. When one's focus shifts away from "self", his time upon this earth becomes a living revelation of everything else, and in time, paradoxically, restores the kind of proper relationship that makes him confident in his own worth by virtue of Another's undeniable love.

One of the great theologians has written that humility is not thinking less of oneself, but thinking of oneself less (Lewis). The process leaves open a growing appreciation of all that is beyond oneself, and a burgeoning awareness of an expansive Kingdom wherein God reigns sovereignly at the center. In fact, to think poorly of oneself cannot be humility at all, for the focus remains wholly on oneself. Self-deprecation is still a thought of self, and cannot be considered anything humble. Likewise, thinking highly of oneself cannot be humility because one's thoughts remain insatiably self-occupied. The only solution is to look beyond oneself, beginning in the deepest, most tempted, and hidden chambers of one's heart, from whence every common act and sweeping perspective arises:

*"A good man, out of the good treasure of the heart, bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure, bringeth forth evil things."* (Matthew 12:30)

What then should a man's heart focus upon if he is to be freed from self and sin, and remain humble each day? The Lord is the answer (Matthew 6:22):

*"...if therefore thine eye be single to the glory of God, thy whole body shall be full of light."*

Men unavoidably drift in the direction of their gaze. God does not need man, but man does need God. An eye single to the glory of God moves the heart closer to Him and further from every idol, including carnal self-interest and unchecked self-absorption. One

more interested in God becomes immediately more caring of all. This doesn't marginalize the genuine cares and concerns that any one individual has for himself, but it does add to those cares the urgent consideration of a great many others, diluting the pool of thought which might otherwise prove toxic. Humility extends care to others. Even church changes shape to the humble, as the worship of God replaces the pursuit of personal spiritual entitlement. Humility is a renewing of the mind, and leads to a variety of inevitable ends, including kindness, empathy, tenderness, tolerance, patience, and service. Humility is a changing awareness that resists self exaltation and ultimately concludes that which should have always been obvious:

*"And the one being is as precious in His sight as the other."* (Jacob 2:27).

In the end, humility is about remembering. Remembering who God is, and remembering our proper place before Him. A right spirit within us is dependent upon the restoration of proper scale, and the resizing of self by the immutable awesomeness of a God beyond measure. Without God, humility is hopelessly philosophical, but as we stand before Him and look up as far as we can see, virtue distills and men are made humble.

...concluded on page 2

## Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

...continued from page 1

It was the sudden and jarring revelation of the disparate scale between God and man that caused Moses to exclaim, *"Now, for this cause, I know that man is nothing, which thing I never had supposed"* (D/C 27:7b).

It was the shadow cast by the resplendence of God that caused one of the most successful military leaders and kings of the ancient Americas to admonish his people: *"Even so I would that ye should remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness, and his goodness and long suffering towards you unworthy creatures..."* (Mosiah 2:20). Of course nothing is nothingness, and certainly man is something, but how else can one explain man's place before the immensity of God in power and wisdom? What could be said of man, in contrast to God? It is indeed this righteous and fair comparison unto which man must return in his heart if he is ever to be humble.

Despite unparalleled conquest and great shows of personal courage, the most celebrated king of Israel's history was still left in awe of One infinitely greater than he when he wrote, *"What is man, that thou art mindful of him?"* (Psalms 8:4).

Perhaps one key to humility is a clear vision of God, or better yet, an appreciation of man's stature in comparison to that vision, but it's not the only key. Humility is also a choice. God's greatness, and man's weakness cannot actually be measured precisely, but our assessment of each will ultimately determine the humility with which we live. Underestimating one, or exaggerating the other, will result in a grave distortion and lead us to error.

This year, let us seek to be humble before God, and kind to all men. One being is as precious as any other in the eyes of God, and all are staggeringly small in comparison to Him. As the Lord opens the windows of heaven, let us keep our eye single to His glory, and never forget who we are and why we serve. It is He who has made us, and not we who have made ourselves. This is the substance of stewardship, and the mandate of righteousness, to humble ourselves always in the sight of the Lord. Come, let us worship the Lord.

*"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life."*  
- Proverbs 22:4

## Summer Preaching Series 2025

by Brother Brian Herren



The Pacific Northwest Summer Preaching Series will be held during the weekend of June 20-22, 2025 in Vancouver and Salem. The series opens Friday evening at 6:45 pm at the Vancouver Restoration Branch. The series will continue Saturday evening at 6:45 pm in Vancouver, and conclude Sunday morning near Salem, Oregon. Sunday services will be held at Willamette Mission Park, beginning at 10:30 am, with a potluck to follow: 10991 Wheatland Road NE Gervais, OR 97026. Your fellowship is deeply appreciated. All of the Saints, near and far, are encouraged to attend the series. The Lord is sure to bless us as we humble ourselves and receive the word of the Lord. This year, Elder Fred Brown Jr. has been invited to preach the series. I wanted to provide some autobiographical information here so that we can get to know a little more about Brother Fred before he arrives in June:

"I was born and raised in Michigan in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints having been baptized at 8 years old by my father Elder Fred Brown Sr and confirmed by the same. I attended just about every available church youth function throughout my adolescent years and thereafter a youth camp Counselor, and Director or co-director for many years. After some spiritual experiences I was ordained to the office of priest in 1984 shortly after my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and ordained an elder in 1994. I was married in 1994 to my wife Melanie and we have three sons namely Chaz,

Nicklaus and Joseph. Chaz and Nick are married and have blessed us with five grandchildren. I have been a pastor at three different restoration branches stretching from 1996 through the present time totaling approximately twelve years. I am the current pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ Restoration Branch, Garden City."

# 2025 Pacific Northwest Women's Retreat

April 25-27, 2025 - Anderson Lodge

Regional Theme:

“Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord”

## Friday, April 25

- 6:15 Dinner
- 7:15 Welcome Introductions
- 7:45 Song Service
- 8:00 Evening Activity - Maddy & Melissa J.

## Saturday, April 26

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:45 Song Service
- 9:00 Morning Worship Service - Vancouver Ladies
- 9:30 Class
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Class - Priesthood
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Class - Priesthood
- 2:15 Free time - rest / recreation / visiting
- 4:45 Group photo
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:00 Song Service
- 6:15 Evening Worship Service – Salem Ladies
- 6:45 Prayer & Testimony Service

## Sunday, April 27

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Morning Worship Service – Puyallup Ladies
- 9:30-10:15 Communion
- 10:15 Break quietly – Please be mindful/respectful of the hour
- 10:20 Preaching Service
- Goodbyes and Departure

### Registration Information

Please send \$185 to: Travis Clark  
4701 Rawhide Ct. NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305  
Make checks out to: NWRRC

# 2025 Pacific Northwest Men's Retreat

May 30-June 1, 2025 - Rockaway Beach

(639 Pacific View Dr, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136)

Regional Theme:

“Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord”

## Friday, May 30

6:30 Dinner  
7:30 Song Service - Brother Travis Clark  
8:00 Evening preaching - Brother Kevin Herren

## Saturday, May 31

8:00 Breakfast  
8:45 - 9:15 Morning Worship: Brothers Amos and Benjamin  
9:20 Class: Brother Jim Clark  
Class: Brother Gary Jones  
Afterward Lunch  
1:30 Class: Brother Michael Livingston  
5:00 Dinner  
6:00 Evening Worship: Brother Brian Herren  
Afterward Prayer and Testimony Service: Brother Gary Livingston

## Sunday, June 1

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 - 9:30 Morning Worship - Brothers Amos and Benjamin  
9:30 - 10:15 Communion Service - Brothers Brian and Mitch  
Break  
10:20 Parting Charge - Brother Travis Clark

**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**

## William Forest Curtis (August 2, 1937 - February 6, 2025)

by Sister Nancy Curtis



Bill (as he was known) was born on Aug. 2, 1937 in Kansas City, Missouri and passed away on February 6, 2025 in Salem, Oregon. He had one sister and two brothers. His sister Willa Mae and older brother Rex preceded him in death. His younger brother Tom lives in Junction City, Oregon. His mother played the piano and organ so their family grew up singing and Bill loved singing hymns.

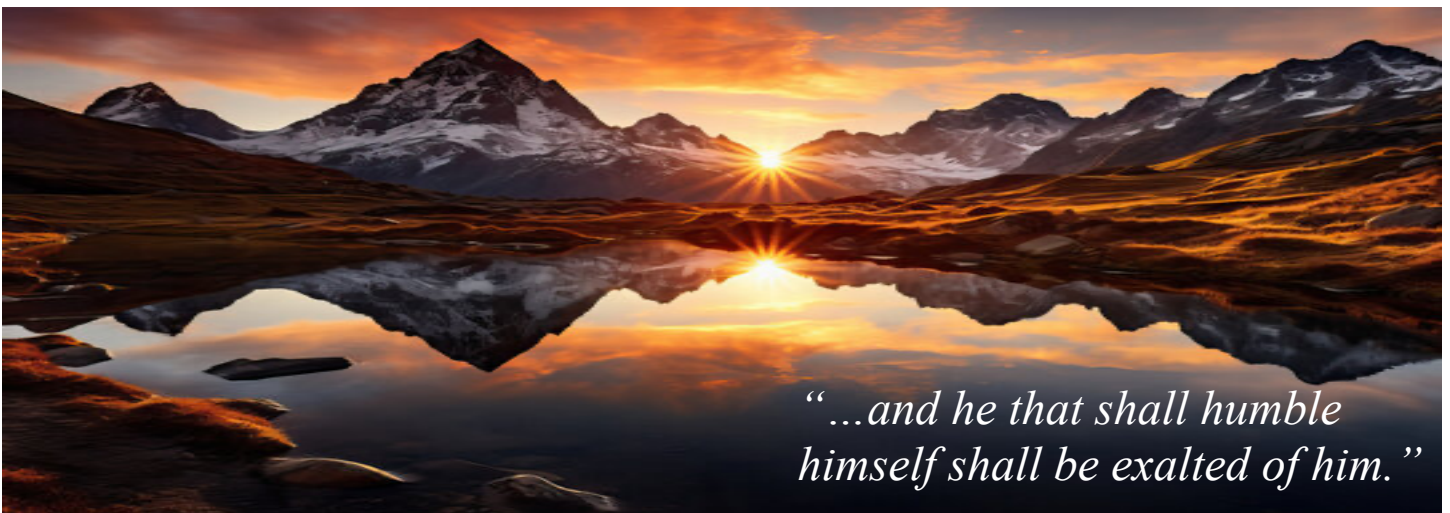
Bill joined the Navy when he was 17 years old. He was a Gunners Mate on the USS Kemper County and served during the Korean War. A year after he joined the Navy his older brother Rex also joined the Navy and was able to get transferred to the USS Kemper County. Two years later his younger brother also joined the Navy and was able to get transferred to the same ship. They served together for two years.

In 1958 he was introduced to Nancy by way of his father. His father taught the senior high Sunday school class at church in Albuquerque, NM. Nancy's family moved from California to Albuquerque in 1958 and attended that senior high Sunday school class. One day his father told Nancy that he had three sons in the Navy and two weren't married. He asked her if she would go out with one when they came home on leave. Bill came home first, the rest is history. Bill and Nancy married on Aug. 22, 1958. They had three children: Bill, Cindy & Sheri. In 1961 they moved from New Mexico to Oregon. They now have nine grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. His granddaughter Kayla and daughter Sheri preceded him in death. They have been married for 66 years

Bill enjoyed working with locks so in 1970 he enrolled in several courses to learn the Locksmith trade. In 1975 Bill and Nancy opened their business, Fox Lock & Safe in Salem and continued for 50 years. After selling their business in 2021, Bill continued to open safes until last year. He always enjoyed the challenge. Over time he taught himself everything he could learn about opening safes and safe deposit locks. He was considered a master safe technician. He taught the trade to his son Bill and they worked together for many years.

Bill loved to study the Scriptures and daily you would find him with the Bible open. He was called to the ministry in 1965 and served the Lord for 60 years. During that time he officiated in 54 weddings and 63 funerals. His greatest joy was sharing the truths of the Scriptures. He was always a very loving and caring husband and father and lived his life with integrity. He was a friend to all that he met.

Early in the morning of Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Bill had an experience where he said his entire being was filled with the Holy Spirit. He saw himself laying on a silver blanket and being taken up. He said "Thank you Lord" because he was ready and excited to go to heaven. Then he was lowered back down and he wondered why. Slowly eleven family members came (nine were grandchildren) and as they stood around his bed, he began to share with them what they needed to consider as they live their life. He was so happy to have that time to talk to them all at once. When he was finished and they quietly left the room, he looked at me and said "that couldn't have worked out any better". I believe he was brought back for that one purpose.



*"...and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted of him."*