

BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC
NORTHWEST

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Summer Preaching Series 2025

by Brother Michael Livingston



Regional Events 2025

- Reunion: August 4-10
- Youth Camp: Aug 17-22
- Priesthood Retreat:
September
- Fall Conference: Oct. 3-5

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The Pacific Northwest was blessed with another guest minister this year for our annual Summer Preaching Series. Elder Fred Brown Jr. was our guest minister. The series was held on June 20-22.

A little about Fred: he was born and raised in Michigan and ordained to the office of priest when he was 17 years old. Later, Brother Fred was ordained to the office of Elder 1994. He is presently the pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ Restoration Branch, Garden City.

Brother Brown shared many testimonies in his sermons from when he was a young minister. He spoke on how we should be witnessing to others about the gospel. Not only to people we don't know but to people who are our friends. He gave examples of how to live in the world but not become entangled in it through his testimonies. Fred spoke on how we should always pray to the Lord before we do anything. I would highly recommend listening to the sermons on restoredchurchofchrist.com. The Spirit of the Lord was certainly with our brother as he spoke, and with us as we listened.

As it turns out, this was the first time that Fred had visited the Northwest. He was able to tour the beautiful waterfalls of Silver Creek Falls State Park. He was also able to see the Pacific Ocean for the first time, on a tour along the Oregon coast. Fred also was able to indulge in some delicious ice cream at the Tillamook Cheese Factory.

Though it was only a short time with Fred, we have truly gained another member of our family here in the Northwest.

Women's Retreat

by Sister Sharon Trammell

The 2025 Pacific Northwest women's retreat was held at Anderson Lodge in Ariel, Washington. We again enjoyed the beautiful and peaceful setting of Anderson Lodge in the trees and forest among God's beautiful creations.

We were blessed to have Melissa Herren's mom, Betty Jones and Dianna Clark's mom, Susie Seth join us this year.

Jan Esquivel led the song services for the weekend. She read some scriptures and one of the things she talked about is she realized that we read the Bible, but instead of following what is written, we tend to "do it my way". We focused a lot throughout the weekend on the regional theme of "Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord". Jan Esquivel also brought up the names of ladies that for several different reasons were not among us this year and how much we miss and feel the absence of each one.

Maddy Clark and Melissa Johnson had the evening activity where we made a Bible bookmark with twine and beads that said "Humble thyself".

The Vancouver women's worship was different readings from a book that they are currently studying called The Women of the Bible Speak. They focused on Leah, Ruth, Hannah and Mary of Bethany. It was very interesting to focus on the lives of these four women.

The first class was taught by Cessaries Galusha and was about the many different aspects of humility. She began with the scripture Genesis 1: 2-5. During the class she stated that humility is a choice we make. We need to have a clear vision of God and our stature in comparison to that vision.

The next class was taught by Priest Michael Livingston. He talked about humility and pride. He read the quote: "True humility is not thinking less about yourself but thinking about yourself less", by C.S. Lewis.

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Women's Retreat

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We need to change our thought from “what can I get?” to “what can I give!”. We need to go from “being served” to “being a servant” to God and others. It is not only your actions but the heart behind your actions.

Elder Gary Livingston taught the afternoon class. He spoke about being taught something, but not learning it. When you have learned something, it becomes a part of you and you will do it without having to think about it. For example, you learn to look both ways before crossing the street and once you have learned it, from that point on, you just automatically do it. But there are steps to learning it. You first need the knowledge of what you should be doing, then you need to understand why you are doing it, and then you must apply or put it to action in your life. It may take some time, but when all three are completed, you have learned it. We need to look at ourselves to see if we have selfishness in our lives and work on getting the focus off of ourselves.

We had some free time in the afternoon to do a craft/fellowship/rest/take a walk in the woods. Ashley and Dianna had beautiful stickers with lovely scriptures and gorgeous flowers that could be wrapped around a drinking glass with a lid and glass straw. They were simple to make, but turned out beautiful.

Salem women gave the Saturday night worship service with several scriptures and readings and poems on being humble.

A prayer and testimony service was held on Saturday night.

Priest Michael Livingston presented the Sunday morning preaching service, where among other thoughts, he stated we need to focus on others and not on ourselves and have a charitable heart. Christ should always be our standard that we try to live up to.

All of our meals for the weekend were prepared by Chef Travis Clark and his assistant Ron Trammell. All of the meals, from the street tacos to the breakfast casserole, were restaurant quality, especially the crème brûlée that they served us for dessert on Saturday night. What a special treat.

I am sorry that some of the women did not attend this year, as it was a weekend filled with a strong spirit, place of beauty, joy, learning, and fellowship. I hope all the women, in all the branches, can attend next year. Please mark it on your calendar as soon as the dates are announced and make it a priority to attend. You will not be disappointed. It does not matter if the last retreat you attended was last year or five years ago, please know that you were missed this year!

“...for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.” - I Peter 5:5-6



Men's Retreat

by Brother Brian Herren

The Pacific Northwest Regional Men's Retreat was held at Rockaway Beach from May to June 1, 2025. This year, the theme was "Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord", and classes were taught by Brothers Jim Clark, Jacob Pressler, and Michael Livingston. Sermons were delivered by Brothers Kevin Herren and Travis Clark, and Brother Gary Livingston led us in a Prayer and Testimony service. Several also provided worship services and song services. We were so blessed with ministry and participation. The Holy Spirit offered ministry through so many men, and in so many ways, and I felt the Lord very near to us throughout the assembly. The retreat was a reminder of the reason for hope we have in Christ, and the joy we have in His kingdom, as God communed with a few of his children during three days of respite.

One of the great blessings of this retreat was the attendance of several younger men. The young men, from various households, contributed significantly in sharing their testimonies, leading worship, praying vocally, and offering their fellowship to all. I found their offerings insightful in times of study, and their zeal refreshing in times of recreation. Not only are they faithful, but they expressed meaningful perspectives and valuable ideas throughout the retreat. It was another reminder of how valuable every member of the church is, and the retreat this year was blessed many times over as a result of the young men who made time to be there. The retreat had a youthful feel, and a spirit of promise seeded in that which lay ahead. We were from different backgrounds, and different generations, but felt to be of one body, under one Lord. Those who are older multiplied those blessings in wisdom and testimony, sharing from their experiences in life and expanding their understanding of the gospel way. It was a beautiful time together, and I pray it return many times to us. Some of the men traveled many hours to attend, and I believe their sacrifice pleases the Lord and encourages the brethren.



I pray that we stay close, to each other, and to the Lord, and never overlook an opportunity to stand at the side of a brother. What a privilege it is to cherish each other. What a joy to be together. What a boost to the Kingdom, and an offering to the King. I look forward to the next time we can be together. May the Lord keep us humble, and always engaged in a good cause.

2025 Pacific Northwest Reunion

August 4 - August 10, 2025, Vancouver, WA

Regional Theme:

“Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord”



Monday, August 4

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

Tuesday - Saturday, August 5 - August 9

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)
 4:45 -5:30 Ministry of Music Practice
 5:30 Dinner
 6:45 Song Service
 7:00 Preaching Service
 Afterward Campfire

Sunday, August 10

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

	<u>Presiding</u>	<u>Assisting</u>
Tuesday	Elder G. Livingston	Elder E. Mason
Wednesday	Elder E. Mason	Priest M. Livingston
Thursday	Elder M. Arndt	Priest D. Ethridge
Friday	Elder B. Herren	Priest D. Ethridge
Saturday	Elder G. Jones	Priest J. Clark
Sunday	Elder G. Livingston	Elders G. Jones and M. Terry

Preaching Services

	<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Presiding</u>	<u>Assisting</u>
Monday	Priest J. Clark	Elder M. Terry	Priest M. Livingston
Tuesday	Elder G. Jones	Elder E. Mason	Priest J. Clark
Wednesday	Elder G. Livingston	Elder M. Arndt	Elder E. Mason
Thursday	Priest T. Clark	Elder G. Livingston	Elder M. Arndt
Friday	Elder B. Herren	Elder G. Jones	Priest T. Clark
Saturday	Elder M. Arndt	Elder B. Herren	Priest D. Ethridge
Sunday	Elder M. Terry	Elder B. Herren	Elder G. Jones

Morning Worship

Tuesday Vancouver sisters
 Wednesday Zillah sister(s)
 Thursday Independence sisters
 Friday Salem sisters
 Saturday Regional youth

Campfire Ministry and Prayers

Organized by Brother Michael Livingston,
 Regional Youth Director

Classes

Tuesday Teacher K. Herren
 Wednesday Elder E. Mason
 Thursday Elder G. Livingston
 Friday Priest T. Clark
 Saturday Priest M. Livingston

Daily Themes

Humble Thyself in...

Tuesday ... acknowledging the Lord
 Wednesday ... serving the King
 Thursday ... unfeigned love
 Friday ... the fear of the Lord
 Saturday ... unshaken faith
 Sunday ... a brightness of hope