

## Conference of Restoration Elders Fall Gathering Report “Zion, The Pure in Heart”

The annual Fall Gathering, sponsored by the Conference of Restoration Elders was an outstanding and unique experience. The theme was, “Zion, the Pure in Heart.” The weekend activities, Friday night, and Saturday, Nov. 9 & 10, 2007, were planned by the CRE officers. The officers are Richard Neill, Chairman, Aaron Smith, Secretary, Steve Mapes, Treasurer, and Jim Daugherty, Historian. Their testimony is that in the planning efforts, they were directed toward the topic of relationships. In spite of the many differences within the Restoration, as a whole, it is most likely that every group and member have a deep and abiding desire and longing for Zion. Most saints are very familiar with the definition of Zion as found in Genesis 7:23 and repeated in DC 36:2h, “And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and dwelt in \_\_\_\_\_.” Each saint can easily and quickly fill in the spaces with a pen, but can we fill them in as quickly with our hearts and spirit? Zion is all about relationships.

On Friday night, Elder Brian Mundy challenged the “shepherds” to stop scattering the sheep. He used Alma 12:36-80 for a scripture setting and his sermon. This is the story of Ammon defending the King’s flocks from the Lamanites who always scattered the flocks. Brother Mundy stated that it was time that we took a stand against those who are scattering the flocks of King Jesus. The Hood family presented beautiful ministry of music about Zion, including one entitled, “The Road to Zions in your Heart.”

Saturday began with a Prayer Service at 8:00 am. Elder Dan Sherer presided and led a beautiful service designed with the themes of each class and involving scripture and hymns. The participation from those present was good as the saints responded to the leading of the Spirit and Brother Sherers directions and leadership.

Classes followed the morning worship and dealt with “Our Relationships.” *Our Relationships with Christ* was directed by Seventy Richard Neill; *Our Relationships in Our Homes* by Elder Jim Bailey; *Our Relationships in the Priesthood* by High Priest Steve Bohall; *Our Relationships in the Church* by Elder Aaron Smith; and *Our Relationships with Our Neighbors* by Elder Jack Hagensen. All the presentations were very informative and essential to the saints in our preparations for Zion.

Saturday evening was a time of sharing by Patriarchs Mike Ballantyne, Vern Darling, and Dale Machart. These spiritual fathers of the church shared their concerns and hopes for God’s children, which, of course, includes each one of God’s creation.

All sessions were recorded and are available on CD or audio tapes. The information presented could be a valuable resource to individuals, families, small groups, or branches. Some of the presenters had materials to go with their session which could also be very helpful. CD's, tapes and materials are available through the office of the CRE. The CD's and tapes can be available, on order, in a set of 7-10, for a cost of \$4.00 each, which includes postage.

It may also be possible for any or all of these sessions to be presented in branches. Such arrangements may be worked out by contacting CRE Chairman, Richard Neill at 816-252-1715 Monday-Friday or by contacting the CRE office at 816-835-3421, Tues-Fri. 10am-4pm.

## Restoration Priesthood Retreat FYI to the Saints of the Restoration Branches

A retreat was held at the Odessa Hills Campgrounds November 30-December 2, 2007. The gathering included brethren of the Melchisedec Priesthood offices of Bishop, High Priests, Patriarchs, and Seventy. This was a follow up retreat to the one held September 7-9, 2007 which was reported in the Sept/Oct. issue of the Tidings of Zion. The retreat was attended by one Bishop, five High Priests, four Patriarchs and six Seventy. There were very meaningful and spirit filled sessions of worship, prayer and praise as well as sessions of testimony and general discussion about the conditions of the Center Place and the needs of the Restoration Saints. A committee was selected to proceed with preparing a statement to the Saints as well as planning the next retreat. These brethren meeting together are not "sponsored" by any group or organization, but are meeting for worship and out of concern for the Saints. Priesthood holding the offices mentioned, were considered as "General Officers" of the Church, simply because they could function above the branch level.

## A REPORT FROM THE RESTORATION SEVENTY

MORE INFO AFTER THE MEETING