

NEWSLETTER TO THE

Women of the Restoration

FROM THE RESTORATION WOMEN'S COUNCIL, CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION ELDERS

THEME: *“For when that which is new is come, the old is ready to be put away.”*

Matthew 9:21

God Keeps His Part

By Karen Parker

I want to invite you to gather with the Restoration Women's Council at the annual Fall Retreat as we learn what it means to be in covenant with God and be his people. The scriptures document many covenants that God has made with His people over the ages and many of us have already made several covenants with Him. The council's desire is to provide an opportunity for you to learn how to keep those covenants more fully - thank God that He forgives us when we repent, but wouldn't it take us a step closer to being more like Jesus if our need to repent was reduced?

Because of His nature, God will always keep His part of the covenant that we make with Him. Because of our nature we need the atoning blood of Christ to bridge our failure to keep our part of the covenant. Jacob 2:50 tells us that three responses to being God's people are to lift our heads, receive the pleasing word of God and feast upon his love. When our hearts are pure, the Word is pleasing to us - we stay away from worldly lies that would try to distract us from the truth. Feasting upon God's love reminds us that we are nourishing ourselves with his love, taking it inside of us so that it can become part of us and we can turn around and give it to others. If we are not God's people, we are warned in Jacob 2:51 to repent to avoid being cursed. The Lord is patient with us as we fight against our sinful nature and He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us, but there will be an end to the time we have been given to repent and judgement will be pronounced. Jacob 2:55-56 give us the example of the Lamanites who became more righteous than the Nephites. They were faithful to keep the commandment concerning sexual purity and because of it the Lord did not destroy them but was merciful. May we learn from them and be faithful in keeping the commandments.



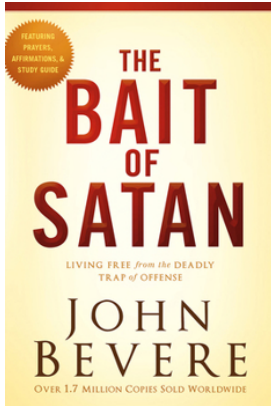
We will close our retreat on Sunday morning with a communion service to reinforce all that we have learned about our covenant and the covenant maker. I hope you will come asking the Lord what he wants you to know about being part of His people. I pray that every woman in the church asks that question and that each one makes necessary changes and encourages another sister. Revival spreads one woman at a time. The Lord told the church “The work of preparation and the perfection of my Saints go forward slowly, and Zion is no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of my justifies; but my word shall not fail, neither will my promises, for the foundation of the Lord standeth sure.” We do not know the exact timeline for the physical Zion, but we can live in such a way that we have Zion conditions. Let us not delay making the necessary changes to our spiritual conditions.

Book Report

Bait of Satan

by John Bevere

Reviewed by Jamie Bendorf



If any of you reading this sat in on my “Rooted, Grounded, and Unoffended” class, then you will know how much I recommend this book! I truly wish everyone could read it. What is it that Bevere is calling the “bait of Satan”? Taking offense. When we become offended, it causes rifts in relationships, which is just what Satan wants. So often this can cause division within families, friends, and churches. Bevere divides offense into two categories: those who have been genuinely mistreated and those who think they were mistreated but were not actually mistreated. Bevere dives into a multitude of examples of offense in the scriptures – those who took offense and those who did not – such as Cain and Able, Joseph, and even Jesus. He addresses many topics that many churches deal with which are all rooted in offense. Bevere also tells how to remain free from offense – by being firmly rooted in Jesus Christ – and gives practical tips for ensuring we can be rooted in Christ and remain free from offense in our own lives. Also covered is advice on how to evaluate our own hearts for offense, what to do when we have caused offense, and how to forgive those who have truly wronged us. This is a worthwhile read, I promise you!

Testimonies

Mom's Testimony

by Glenda Lair

I met my husband Gary at church in Miami, Oklahoma when we were both 12 years old. He had attended another RLDS branch before this time, however, it had closed, so you can say that we grew up in the church together. When Gary was a Senior in college, he was called to the priesthood office of Deacon. We married when we graduated from college.

Gary decided to make the Air Force his career. His second assignment was to Itazuke Air Force Base in southern Japan. Our son Kevin was between 2 and 3, and our daughter Barbara was born there.

This is the only assignment that isolated us from our church. We truly missed meeting with our brothers and sisters in our church. I decided to take Kevin to the Sunday School at the chapel on base, and I taught a Sunday School class there. Gary and I along with another couple were church youth leaders.

Apostles at that time were assigned countries to visit that had church members. We received a letter in January 1963 from Apostle Neff, in charge of Japan, asking if he could visit us on February 16th. Gary replied that we would be very happy to have him visit. That day arrived. I fed and dressed Kevin and Barbara after playing with them awhile, then I took them to their bedroom to play while I worked on my Sunday School lesson. I went to check on them after a short time. When I went into the room, I found Barbara in her crib playing with toys and Kevin had placed a drapery cord around his neck and strangled to death. Now we knew why God had arranged for a priesthood member to be there that day.

God granted me a testimony with Apostle Arthur Oakman when I was emotionally distressed. We returned to the States immediately following Kevin's death. My parents cared for Barbara while I unpacked our household goods. While I was alone, satan convinced me that Kevin's death was my fault. This was the week before Easter, and Apostle Oakman was conducting a series of meetings in Oklahoma City. I was an emotional mess by Friday. I went into the bedroom and knelt down by our bed and asked God to in some way use Brother Oakman to help me. At church on Sunday, we sat on the back row because the church was filled. He preached a very meaningful sermon on Life After Death. After the service was over, we were the first ones out to shake hands with him. I told him his sermon meant so much to me because our son had recently died. He looked me straight in the eyes and said, "Don't blame yourself." This lifted my heavy burden. What an amazing and loving God we have.



Gatherings

2025 Spring Gathering

by Donna Eichorn

On April 26, 2025, the Lexington Restoration Branch of Jesus Christ hosted the Women's Council Retreat where we enjoyed the fellowship of many sisters from many Branches. We were blessed with a beautiful Spirit from the Lord as we gathered in the Sanctuary.

We had an awesome class presented by Brandy Schoff. The theme for the day was "I Will Do a New Thing - New Heart and New Spirit." Her class was very uplifting and guided us into new thinking; where is our heart, our mind and our thinking today? Is it centered upon the Lord and what He has for us to do as His Children? How can we accomplish that work? Many avenues for us to consider were given and was a great start for renewing our desires to serve the Lord and be a witness for Him.

We next had the pleasure of seeing a play which was titled "Hinds Feet on High Places". That was very inspiring to watch as it gave our minds to see how the Lord is always with us through our struggles and our joys. It was such a joy to watch it unfold. It showed how we are given HOPE as we TRUST in the Lord "in all things".

Angie Goff led the discussion following that play and had us break up into several groups of about 6-8 women, so we could discuss the statements that were on the board of where we are today in our lives, what did we see in the play that can help us see where, and who to trust in to find our way to Him in our lives.

Following this we went into the fellowship hall where we had a meal that had been prepared for the women. All the chairs were filled with women conversing of what we had just witnessed in the Sanctuary and what we need to do to move closer to our Lord. We all enjoyed being in the fellowship one with another - meeting old friends and making new ones. We so enjoyed the Spirit that attended us through the morning. May the Lord be praised for His goodness and mercy that He has bestowed upon each one there.

God bless,

Donna S Eichorn

Story Behind the Hymn – 1871 – Verses by Mary Ann Fulkner – Tune by James Walch

Untold numbers of missionaries have been sent off to the regions beyond by congregations singing this rousing Episcopalian missionary hymn that exhorts the church (“Zion”) to hurry and fulfill its mission of telling “all the world that God is light.” But few realize it was written by a worried mother sitting at the bedside of her dangerously ill son.

Mary Ann Fulkner, the author of “O Zion, Haste,” was born in London in 1834, and her family immigrated to America when she was young. After marrying John Thomson, the first librarian of the Free Library in Philadelphia, she and her husband joined the Church of the Annunciation (Episcopalian) in Philadelphia, where they served for many years.

Mary Ann, who enjoyed writing poetry, penned more than forty hymns, though only “O Zion, Haste” has lasted in the hymnals. This is what she had to say about writing her most famous hymn:

I wrote the greater part of the hymn,, “O Sion, Haste,” in the year 1868. I had written many hymns before, and one night, while I was sitting up with one of my children who was ill with typhoid fever, I thought I should like to write a missionary hymn to the tune of the hymn, ‘Hark, Hark my Soul! Angelic Songs are Swelling,’ as I was fond of that tune, but I could not then get the refrain I liked. I left the hymn unfinished and about three years later I finished it by writing the refrain which now forms a part of it.”

Most hymnals omit some of Thomson’s original verses, one of which says:

*‘Tis Thine to save from peril of
perdition
The souls for whom the Lord His life
laid down;
Beware lest, slothful to fulfill thy
mission,
Thou lose one jewel that should deck
His crown.*

O Zion, Haste

Mary A. Thomson 393 James Walch

♩ = 110

1. O Zi-on, haste, thy mis-sion high ful-fill-ing, To tell to all the
2. Be-hold how man-y thou-sands still are ly-ing, Bound in the dark-some
3. Pro-claim to ev-ry peo-ple, tongue and na-tion That God in Whom they
4. Give of thy sons to bear the mes-sage glo-rious; Give of thy wealth to

7 world that God is Light; That He who made all na-tions is not will-ing
pris-on-house of sin; With none to tell them of the Sav-iour's dy-ing,
live and move is love; Tell how He stooped to save His lost cre-a-tion,
speed them on their way; Pour out thy soul for them in prayer vic-to-rious;

13 CHORUS
One soul should per-ish, lost in shades of night. Pub-lish glad ti-dings, Ti-dings of
Or of the life He died for them to win.
And died on earth that man might live a-bove.
And all thou spend-est Je-sus will re-pay.

20 peace; Ti-dings of Je-sus, Re-demp-tion and re-lease.

Theme for Fall 2025

Valiant Women of the Scriptures

Dear Sisters,

Down through the ages there have been women who God called and chose to pour out His Spirit upon. They were women called, at a particular point and time, to carry forth God's work. We will look at some of those women in this fall session of classes. As we look at these great women of the past, it is also important that we look at ourselves. We too are called to greatness. We too live at a turning point in history, where greatness is needed. Joel 2:28-29 is speaking directly to our day and time. Debrah, the first woman we will study, was called "A Mother in Israel". Godly women in all ages are called to be "Mothers in Israel", called to be mature women of God with a strong faith in God, and women who bring forth fruits of the spirit such as love, peace, joy, etc. They are awake and productive. They are busy fulfilling their individual callings, as they rely upon God. As "Mothers in Israel", we can expect to be called out of our comfort zones. All of these women we will study were challenged and had to grow in faith, and move out of their comfort zones, to accomplish the work given to them. This is our calling also. So let us move forward as we study these great women of the past and be ready, to not just learn from them, but to move out in faith in our individual callings. God needs mighty women today who will stand in Holy Places and be the "Point of His Spear" even "Mothers in Israel".

Blessings,
Pat Chadwick

Tuesday mornings at 10am (Sept 2-Nov 18)

Oak Grove Restoration Branch

Class presentation: 10:00am

Prayer groups: Following class

Please join us at the church as we study together! (Classes will also be live-streamed. Please watch the OGRB Website and Restoration Women's Facebook page for class notes and links.)

Sept 2: Deborah

Teacher: Pat Chadwick

Sept 9: Ruth

Teacher: April Smith

Sept 16: Esther

Teacher: Connie Smith

Sept 23: Lucy Mack Smith

Teacher: Bonnie Anderson

Sept 30: Mary and Martha

Teacher: Sylvia Powell

October 7: Mary Mother of Jesus

Teacher: Pat Chadwick

October 14: Mary Magdalene

Teacher: Amy Burk

October 21: Sarah, wife of Abraham

Teacher: Barb Capps

October 28: Rahab

Teacher: Susan Freeze

Nov. 4: Sariah, Wife of Lehi

Teacher: Anita Brotherton

Nov 11: Emma Smith

Teacher: Sheila Schrunk

Nov 18: Jochebed

Teacher: Debbie Norman

Restoration Women's Council

Fall Retreat

September 6 - 7, 2025

Please join us at

Odessa Hills Campground

Registration begins Saturday at 8:30 am with light breakfast

We will begin scheduled activities at 9 am

We will Make a New Covenant

And Be God's People

Hebrews 8: 6-13, D&C 85: 18b, Jacob 2: 50-51, 56

Speakers: Bethany Eggenberger and Stacy Pyatt

Sisters returning from recent Women's Retreat

In Kenya will be sharing in the afternoon.

The swimming pool will be open for an evening swim
after campfire on Saturday so come prepared with a suit
if you would like to take a dip!

The retreat will close Sunday following
Morning Services including Sacrament
Elders Brian Twombly & Jared Ellis Presiding
Brunch will be served.

Please register by August 31st - jenniferschrunk@yahoo.com

or call/text Jennifer Schrunk at 816-674-2172

Retreat fee of \$45 will be collected during registration.

\$30 for Saturday only. \$15 for Sunday only.

Let us know if you have any dietary requirements and
whether you will be attending both days when you register.

2025-26 Women's Council Members

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**Restoration
Women's Council**

Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.

