

Tidings of Zion

Conference of Restoration Elders

January-February-March 2019 Issue 126

...therefore hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do.

3 Nephi 8:54-55

The Tidings of Zion is published quarterly by the Conference of Restoration Elders. It is under the editorial responsibility of the Coordinating Council, Richard Neill, Chairman. It is sent to all who desire to receive it.

An annual contribution of \$20 is appreciated.

Purpose of the Conference of Restoration Elders

"To bring solidarity to a growing number of Restoration branches and Latter Day Saints in general during this period of disruption and fragmentation" (Conference Operating Guidelines accepted in 1996).

The Conference exists to:

1. Organize the coming together of Melchisedec priesthood, as well as the Aaronic priesthood members, for:
 - Spiritual preparation and to unify our efforts on behalf of the work to which we are called.
 - Much needed fellowship and fraternity to prepare us to defend and preserve the faith.
 - Identify and seek divine guidance concerning the critical issues now confronting the Church.
 - Chart a course of action that will maintain the gospel as restored in 1830 (Original Letter of Intention and 1993 Conference Materials).
2. Support Restoration branches in their efforts to work together.
3. Provide needed resources to branches and members as they are requested.
4. Offer ongoing support and resources to Restoration priesthood.
5. Offer support to the elders to take the gospel message to the world.

The Conference is not the Church, but a gathering of the Melchisedec priesthood to share in testimony, prayer, legislation, and preparation to return to our branches better equipped and unified to perform our duties to minister to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In addition, the Conference of Restoration Elders provides a forum for Aaronic priesthood and member alike to share in fellowship and to be nurtured in the Word. The Conference helps the scattered Saints and isolated branches throughout the world to enjoy the hope that we find in Jesus Christ and each other.

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2019 Restoration Branch Family Reunion & Conference of Restoration Elders

The Pastors of Zion (POZ) and the Conference of Restoration Elders (CRE) invite all restoration branch Saints and priesthood to consider participating in the 2019 Restoration Branch Family Reunion and Conference of Restoration Elders. The combined reunion and elder's conference will be held at the Center Place Restoration School (CPRS)/Waldo Ave Restoration Branch from June 23 to June 28, 2019. We believe that this week will once again be a wonderful opportunity for the Saints to draw close to the Lord and to each other.

To register for the Reunion/Conference go to the CRE website at www.eldersconference.org, or use the following link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019Reunion-CRE>. You can also go to the CRE website to print out a registration form. There is only one registration form for both the Reunion and the CRE. For more information, visit the CRE website or call the CRE office. Local calls: 816-836-3421 or Toll free calls: 877-748-8947. (Please leave a message if no one answers.)

As in previous years, the primary focus of the week will be on worship, classes and fellowship for all, and an opportunity for the elders to meet in conference. This year's overall theme is, **Be Ye Transformed** (Romans 12:1-2 & Philippians 2:1-5). Through the following daily themes, we will focus on different aspects of what it means to live transformed lives.

Sunday	Be Ye Transformed for our journey to Zion
Monday	Be Ye Transformed through fasting and prayer
Tuesday	Be Ye Transformed through the renewing of your heart and mind
Wednesday	Be Ye Transformed and be a good steward
Thursday	Be Ye Transformed and live like Jesus
Friday	Be Ye Transformed and bear good fruit

Several years ago, some of the following thoughts concerning "being transformed" were shared in the Tidings of Zion, Issue 111, and are offered again for your consideration as you reflect on this year's theme:

God desires to "Transform Us." Certainly transformation begins with God's affirming love, but it cannot stop there. For God so loved the world that He sacrificed His Son for us. In response, we must sacrifice "self" and be transformed. Transformation involves us becoming new creatures through Christ. It requires the renewing of our minds, what we think about and how we think. Romans 12:1-2 summarizes this. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is."

Romans 8:7 tells us that the carnal mind is enmity against God. Our minds must be renewed if we are to abide with God. No longer should we think on the things of this world only, walking in the vanity of our minds (Ephesians 4:17), fulfilling the desires of the mind (Ephesians 2:3), those that are temporal in nature—but now we should put off the old man, be renewed in the mind of the Spirit, and put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:22-24). Philippians, chapter 2, encourages us to be Christ-minded: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Who, (Christ) made himself of no reputation, took upon him the form of a servant, humbled himself, and was obedient unto the death of the cross. 1 Peter 4:1 challenges us as follows: "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind." I Corinthians 2:16 informs us that we have the mind of Christ if through humbleness of mind, we allow the transforming grace of the Holy Spirit to work within us.

Transformation also has to do with the renewing of our hearts, what we love and how we love... Luke 12:37 states that where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. In Mark 7:7, we find the Lord expressing the following rebuke, "This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit, in vain do they worship me." No longer should our hearts be set on ourselves and the lusts of the world, but rather on righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart (II Timothy 2:22).

The Book of Mormon speaks of how the Spirit of the Lord wrought a mighty change in the hearts of the people; how they had no more desire to do evil, but to do good continually (Mosiah 3:3); and how because of this change, they were made free, were spiritually begotten, and became his sons and his daughters (Mosiah 3:9-11). In Alma 3, Alma calls the Church into remembrance of how Abinadi preached the word unto their fathers and how, "a mighty change was also wrought in their hearts; and they humbled themselves, and put their trust in the true and living God. And behold, they were faithful until the end; therefore they were saved." Alma went on to ask the brethren of the Church, "Have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts?" (Alma 3:21-29) These questions may well be asked of each of us. Let us pray that our hearts have been transformed and that our response to these questions might be to declare unto all people the self-same thing; "that our hearts have been changed; that we have no more desire to do evil." (Alma 12:176).

We encourage you and others from your branches to join in this wonderful opportunity to draw nearer to our Lord and each other—all for the purpose of being transformed and better equipped to participate in this great and marvelous work.

Restoration Branch Family Reunion and Elders Conference Schedule

June 23-28, 2019

“Be Ye Transformed” (Romans 12:1-2 & Philippians 2:1-5)

Daily Themes	<i>Be Ye Transformed for Our Journey to Zion</i>		Daily Themes	<i>Be Ye Transformed through Fasting and Prayer</i>	<i>Be Ye Transformed through the Renewing of Your Heart and Mind</i>	<i>Be Ye Transformed and Be A Good Steward</i>	<i>Be Ye Transformed and Live Like Jesus</i>	<i>Be Ye Transformed and Bear Good Fruit</i>
Time	Sunday		Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Registration and information desk will be open from 2:00pm to 6:30pm			Registration and information desk will be open daily from 8:30am to 6:30pm					
			7:00 am	Priesthood Worship	Priesthood Worship	Priesthood Worship	Priesthood Worship	Priesthood Worship
			7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast and Gathering	Breakfast and Gathering	Breakfast and Gathering	Breakfast and Gathering	Breakfast and Gathering
9:00	Prayer Service		9:00	Prayer Service	Prayer Service	Prayer Service	Prayer Service	Prayer Service
10:30	Worship Service		10:30	Classes	Classes	Classes	Classes	Classes
12:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)		12:00 pm	Lunch	Lunch	12:30 Picnic Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2:00 – 6:30	Displays & Exhibits Open in Gymnasium		1:30	Classes or Other Scheduled Activities	Classes or Other Scheduled Activities	Family Fun & Fellowship Event	Classes or Other Scheduled Activities	Classes or Other Scheduled Activities
			3:00 – 5:00	Free Time or Other Organized Activities	Free Time & Other Organized Activities		Free Time & Other Organized Activities	Free Time & Other Organized Activities
2:00 – 5:00	(PLEASE NOTE) Elders Conference Meetings Begin		Monday 1:30 to 5:00 Rest of Week 3:00 to 5:00	Elders Conference Meetings	Elders Conference Meetings		Elders Conference Meetings	Elders Conference Meetings
	Dinner (on your own)		5:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner (on your own)
6:30	Song Service		6:30	Song Service or Other Activity	Song Service or Other Activity	Song Service or Other Activity	Song Service or Other Activity	Song Service or Other Activity
7:00	Evening Worship		7:00	Evening Worship	Evening Worship	Evening Worship	Evening Worship	Evening Worship
	Reception			Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments

The Education Council has agreed to provide teachers for the children and youth classes during the In-Town Reunion, June 23-28, 2019. The classes will be as follows: ages 3-5, grades K- 2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8. Bob and Janet Dickson will have charge of grades 9-12. We hope this will encourage families with children in these age ranges to attend the reunion.

The Seventy Prayer

By Seventy Richard Neill
Independence, Missouri



October 16 to October 30, 2018, I was serving the Lord in the Philippines. I was accompanied by Jeff Stilwell, his wife Dyan, and their two children, Zelda and Kalel. Dyan was born and raised in the Philippines. This was an opportunity for Dyan and the children to visit with family members and for Jeff to travel with me. Many marvelous things took place. As we visited with many branches and people, we were accompanied by Elders Jun Pamongcales Jr. and Bernardo Camana. As we visited with the people, Brother Jun Pamongcales would mention to them the reference in the New Testament to the office of seventy in Luke 10.

As I was preparing for sharing with the branch in New Batayan, I felt God's Spirit in a powerful way. As I looked upon the verses recorded in Luke, I was impressed that the Lord asked to have the seventy to go forth and bless the people in very important ways before He would come in person to them. There were at least three specific blessings they were to go before Jesus to proclaim: proclaim Jesus (Luke 10:1&2), proclaim peace upon their homes (Luke 10:5), and proclaim the Kingdom of God (Luke 10:9). As I looked upon these passages, the Lord indicated to me that He wanted me to do this blessing and not just for the Philippines, but for all the nations. I was assured by the Spirit to do this. So as I spoke to the people that were assembled, I invited them to enter into a prayer of blessing for the work to go forth unto all the nations that the promises of God would come to pass. I present this prayer unto you. Brother Jun, from then afterward, always referred to this as the "Seventy Prayer."

Seventy Prayer

Oh, God, our Eternal Father, I come before you as a seventy, and as an especial witness of Your Son, Jesus Christ. I pray for the families and the people of the Philippines who are faithful, but I also pray for the nations of this world wherever there are faithful that are found. You have asked the seventy to go and to bless the people, and so now, Father, by Your Spirit I will pray a blessing upon them. First, upon the Saints of the Philippines and then upon the nations of this world, that Your Kingdom might come and these people will find peace and happiness. And so, Father, by the power of the Spirit, I pray for peace upon their homes, that their houses will be places of rest. Where men and women, husband and wife, and father and mother and child will find Your Spirit to be in their homes, and that their homes would be blessings to each one who enters in—not only for this family, but for all family members, all friends and loved ones, all people of the Church, and all strangers who enter into their homes. I pray that blessing upon them, and I pray Your blessing upon their houses of worship, that when we come together as a people we might be one, that we might know You as the one and true God, and that we might serve Your Son, Jesus Christ. That as He went to the cross for us that we might sacrifice for those of this world. I pray that blessing upon this people. And then, Father, I pray for the blessing of the Kingdom to be upon this people of the Philippines and even the New Batayan Branch, and the nations of this world that we might live together as a people. That we might love one another, that we might be equal, and that all men, women, and children will feel invited to the house of the Lord to worship. And so I pray for Your peace upon our houses of worship, even the Church wherever it might be found, whether it be at New Batayan, Sampao, or Tagum City in the Philippines; Siguatepeque, Honduras; Melbourne, Australia; Berlin, Germany; or even in the city of Kisumu, Kenya. Wherever the Saints would be found. And, Father, I pray for the blessing of Jesus Christ upon the people. I pray that they be blessed in the name of the Lord, that all their doings will

be in the name of the Lord. That in every breath they take they will praise the name of the Lord, and that they will be blessed even to the end, that their final home would be the home of Your Kingdom, in the presence of their Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. As a member of the seventy, Father, I pray this blessing. You have sent us forth to cast out the devils, and I pray that the devils of fear, and of poverty, and of sickness, and of relationships that are struggling—that all these things might be vanquished from our people. That we will have the power, and the strength and the courage to know that through You we can overcome all these things. To You will be the honor and the glory, forever and ever, In the name of Jesus we say—Amen, Amen, and Amen.

*This prayer was recorded as spoken to the people (with minor editing) in worship at the New Batayan Branch, 10/28/2018, and so was not written beforehand or produced from memory.

Philippines Missionary Trip 2018

By Jeff Stilwell
Independence, Missouri

In the middle of October 2018, Richard Neill and I travelled to the Philippines. It had been four years since I had been there and three years since Richard or anyone in our group had been there. Due to that extended length of time, there was a growing concern amongst the Filipino church people that perhaps we had forgotten them or no longer cared as much for them and their lives. Of course, this was not the case, but it was understandable from their viewpoint. Between funds being first needed for the SEAAM scholarship program and various personal life situations, none of us had been able to make it back. This trip was about healing that rift before it became a bigger problem.

Because of the generous donations of people here in the States, we were able to distribute aid to many members and even to purchase a plot of land in Maragusan for the branch's building there. But I feel the most important thing we were able to accomplish was all of the home visits and the opportunity to visit almost every branch we have there. We were able to visit with all of the leaders, if not also their branches. These visits were a blessing to all. We shared with them why it had been so long since any of us had been there, and it healed any doubts as well as strengthened the bonds between them and us, though we are so far apart physically.

The land in Maragusan that I mentioned was a great part of the trip. Our members there had already built a church building on some property the owner wasn't using at the time, but that owner had now needed to sell the land. If generous funds had not been given, we would not have been able to purchase that land for the Saints to keep their church building. Let me tell you, the members were very thankful for this blessing!

Another bright spot worth mentioning is that the SEAAM scholarship program that many of you have likely helped fund is beginning to bear fruit. We were able to visit with a number of graduates who never would have had the opportunity to get the education and jobs they now have or are able to apply for. There are families that would be homeless now if not for the help of having a graduate able to make enough to help pay rent and buy food. If you ever wondered if the program was worth investing in, we can tell you most assuredly, YES! It is! Lives are being changed, and these words are certainly not enough to express their thankfulness to you and God.





Seven people were baptized and confirmed while we were there, and one man named Richard Racel was ordained a priest and then elected as the first pastor of a newly formed branch whose organization we were blessed to witness.

Something we strongly took home with us from this trip was a renewed sense that we really are all connected in Jesus and are family, regardless of the miles that separate us. The relative shortness of one article is not enough to fully express the richness of blessings and happenings on this trip, but we also want you to know a little about the personal time Dyan was able to spend with her family for the first time since moving to the USA four years ago.

A Family Reunion by Dyan Stilwell

On August 25, 2014, I arrived in Independence with my daughter, Zelda, and was married to Jeff on the 30th. In the four years of living in the USA, I had not yet been able to visit my family in the Philippines. Every day I missed them so much, especially my parents. I was always hoping that someday I'd have the chance to visit again so they would be able to meet our son, Kalel, for the first time. Even though we see each other on the internet, it's not the same as being together in person.

Jeff was going to do the mission with Richard Neill, and we were finally able to purchase tickets for me and the kids to go see my family. I was so excited to be able to see them again! Sometimes I could not sleep from the excitement, and I am so thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ for allowing me and my family to come together again.

When we arrived in the Philippines, Pastor Jun and his wife, Karen, picked us up at the airport, and we went to my sister's house to see my family. I felt so nervous and could not help but cry. When my sister came out of the house, I cried so hard, finally able to see and hug her again. It felt so good in my heart to see my mom and dad again! We hugged for a long time and were so happy. I felt like my heavy heart was completely relieved. We talked, cried, and laughed. The kids were happy to see their lolo and lola (grandpa and grandma). The ten days we spent with my family were not a lot, but I treasure those days with them, especially my parents. Every morning my mom made me coffee and would not let me go. The kids loved their time there too. We were able to go to my parent's place in Maragusan in the mountains too. It was also fun to be able to speak my language all the time again. I will never forget the good time I was able to spend with them, and I will always treasure it.



Another Year, So What?

By High Priest Paul J. Gage
Independence, Missouri



A verse in the hymn “O God Our Help in Ages Past” states, “Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all its sons away; They fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.” While we can’t do anything about the passing of time, we can do much with the time that is given to us on earth. We know this time as a “time of probation.”

Someone once said, “Don’t count the days; make the days count.” What do we do with our time? We often hear and say ourselves, “I don’t or didn’t have time.” What we really mean is, we did not make the time for what we should have done. We each have twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. Everyone, of course, has to eat, sleep, and work, but how is it that some people seem to accomplish so much more than others? How was Earl Curry, for example, able to spend two hours a day in prayer for three months in preparing to petition God about the Endowment? Simple. He determined that was what he wanted to do and did it.

Arthur Oakman stated once to a group of priesthood who had been complaining about not having time to work at their ministry, “Brethren, those people you work with have time to go to the bars and so forth after they have worked all day. You have the same time to refine your ministry.”

Doctrine and Covenants 147:5a gives a good definition of stewardship as “the response of my people to the ministry of my Son and is

required alike of all those who seek to build the kingdom.” Perhaps we don’t think enough about our stewardship of time, but it is just as vital as our stewardship of money or anything else.

A person once did not feel as close to God as they would like, and so they ask God why. God told them to look at the scales of their life, which suddenly appeared before them. On one side of the scales was a sign which read, “Close to God.” On the other side, a sign read, “Distant from God.” The person asked God what it meant, and God said, “These two sides of the scales weigh all of the things you do each day of your life. God then reviewed the last twenty-four hours of the person’s life.

Reading the newspaper or a mystery novel:
sixty minutes.

Reading the scriptures: five minutes.

Talking about sports, etc. or gossiping:
seventy-two minutes.

Talking about the Lord: one minute.

Work for my employer: eight hours.

Work for God: four minutes.

And so the list went on. The person was ashamed and asked for forgiveness and saw the things on the distant side vanish. They and we know what we need to do to bring the Kingdom. We must be a good steward of our time and our life. We must do this so we will be ready when HE comes, or when our time on earth ends. Another one of our hymns is entitled, “Work for the Night Is Coming.” We are told in Doctrine and Covenants 32:1 d, given in 1830, “...and it is the eleventh hour...” Where that puts us in 2019, only God knows. The theme for the Elders Conference and In-town Family Reunion this year is, **“Be Ye Transformed.”** Let each of us start now. May He bless you most abundantly as you respond to Him.

Mission Trip to the Nepalese and India Saints in 2018

By Elder Bob and Sister Sheila Schrunk
Odessa, Missouri

We are always thankful to the Lord as we prepare to give and receive ministry from both the beloved Saints of Nepal and India. Elder Lyle Smith and Elder Bob Schrunk have been to Nepal many times and, in preparation with prayer and discussion, had the foreknowledge that the Saints of Nepal and India wanted a priesthood retreat and a couples retreat this past fall. Then Sister Sheila and Priest Aaron Presler and his wife, Sallie, were asked if they would be available to assist in these retreats.

Brother Lyle, Brother Aaron, and Sister Sallie were already going to be in Kenya sharing in a priesthood retreat, and Sister Sallie would be visiting the widowed women of the Kisumu area and other women she had met previously at a women's retreat. Brother Lyle and Brother Eric Odida had experienced grave illnesses in Kenya before the priesthood retreat and were both administered to by the elders. They both

received a great blessing of healing and were able to continue their ministry at the retreat. Brother Lyle testified more than once how he had never felt better while in Nepal helping out in ministry. Lyle planned the flights so they would fly directly from Kenya to Doha, Qatar, and meet us at the airport, and we all flew on to Kathmandu. We were excited to see and greet Brother Dil and Sister Rebeca Gurung at 1:30 a.m. after our long flights.

It was wonderful to see the rest of the Gurung family. It had been two to three years since we had seen them. After a day's rest, we repacked for our flight and trip to the India border where the retreats were being held. We traveled about three hours, getting to see a glimpse of the largest peaks of the Himalayan Mountain Range, including Mt. Everest. Brother Lyle said he believed he had never seen the mountain range so clear and beautiful. We were able to get many pictures. We think about the "Mountain of the Lord's House" (Isaiah 2:2) when we see these majestic peaks.

We arrived in Budhabare and took two vehicles to the area of Sikkim where there are miles and miles of tea gardens. We traveled up and down the foothills of the Himalayan Mt. Range for a couple of hours to a beautiful area of the resort. After the staff at the resort had carried our luggage about an eighth of a mile, we found out



Nepal Priesthood and Couples Retreat

that there were only very few cabins and one main open dorm for lodging. This housing and the open meeting tent were not going to meet our needs. After discussion, it was decided that the Phikal Restoration Church of Jesus Christ would be a good place for us to have our meetings and that we would find accommodations in the town where Brother Pushkal Gadal is the Pastor.

When we arrived in Phikal, we were excited to see all the Saints and rejoiced in being with them again and in making new acquaintances. Some of the Saints had traveled fourteen to eighteen hours by very packed buses or motorcycles to where the retreats were held. Pushkal's health had not been well for some time, and his wife, Radha, was uncertain if they could find someone to prepare the food for the retreat on such short notice. This was a burden for her the first day, and when Rebeca and Sheila were visiting with her, Sheila asked her if she would want the elders to administer to her. She did ask for administration and was greatly blessed by the Lord. She was able to find very good help and a great cook to provide meals. You could see the joy on her face and excitement the next day.

Both the priesthood and their wives sat in on all the classes together because of the time element and so the wives would also be able to gain learning of the Restoration topics. The emphasis for the classes was mainly on the Book of Mormon. The other class topics also used the Book of Mormon scriptures to show the plainness of the fullness of the gospel and included the Bible and the Doctrine and Covenants. Some of the class topics were "Repentance," "The Six Principles of the Gospel," "Opposition in All Things" (II Nephi 1), "Little Children are Alive in Christ," "Distinctives of the Restoration," "Feast Upon the Words of Christ," "Focus on Jesus," "Prayer" (II Nephi 3), "The Promises of the Book of Mormon," "Journey of the Nephites," "Becoming Sanctified," and "The Book of Mormon Overview."

Brother Peter Chettri was our interpreter through all of our classes, and we so appreciated his great

ability to help out in this capacity. Brother Bob had asked Brother Dil in advance to communicate with several of the India and Nepalese brethren to teach classes at the retreat. Brother John Chettri taught, and Brothers Dil and Pushkal were asked when they wanted to teach. They replied that they were not feeling well enough to teach. They both asked for administration and were richly blessed by the Lord to be able to function well for the rest of the retreat.

Brother Francis Harper had sent enough of his latest book titled *In the Shadows of the Himalayans* with the team so that each family was given a copy.



Nepal with Francis Harper's Book

The Saints were so excited to see their pictures and read the testimony of their conversion to the Lord, Jesus Christ.

After four days of wonderful fellowship, spirit-filled worship, and good comradery, we all gathered and prayed in a circle one at a time for the person's request on our left. As we held hands and offered heart-felt prayers, we were thankful that everyone participated, even a new convert who had not prayed in public yet. Brother Lyle then had a closing prayer of safety and God's blessings for His kingdom's work in their part of the vineyard. We took lots of pictures and hugged each one as we said our farewells.

We made our way back to Kathmandu and prepared for worship and a youth retreat on Saturday—Nepal's worship day—after church. We felt so blessed to see the dedicated Saints at church. The two branches, Sinamangal and Satdobato, met together and sang beautifully for several minutes and then had a period of time of reading out loud in Nepalese from the Book of Mormon. Brothers Bob, Lyle, and Aaron were asked to share scriptures and testimonies. Pastor Prakash prepared the Lord's Table for Sacrament

and conducted the beautiful service. Almost all the Saints stayed and enjoyed boxed dinners which had been bought for everyone.

We began the youth retreat with singing and rejoicing. Brother Bob and Sister Sheila Schrunk realized that many of the youth they had been meeting with over the years had remained faithful to the Lord and His Church. It was a great blessing to have three of the youth we had known for years to be our interpreters. They did a fantastic job in serving the Lord.



Nepal Younger Children at Youth Retreat

Brother Aaron taught the six Principles of the Gospel using an object lesson with rocks and an umbrella. Brother Lyle taught a Book of Mormon Overview class in English to the older youth while Sister Sallie and Sister Sheila had the younger children in another room, teaching them Bible stories of Jesus's life. The children also really enjoyed playing games in the courtyard. Sister Sallie and Brother Aaron then had the children act out scripture stories while the rest of us figured out what the story was. Aaron drew a mural of Peter walking on the water for the youth. The youth were a true blessing to us, and we are sure the Lord is well-pleased with their devotion to Him.

The women had asked that we might meet with them for a women's retreat on the next day, which was Sunday. We gathered at the Sinamangal Branch later in the morning to begin with singing the praises of the Lord. Sister Sheila taught a



Nepal Women's Retreat

class on "Being Chosen Vessels of the Lord." We shared in a carry-in lunch. It was a treat for the women to be served. Sister Sallie then shared her wonderful experiences and testimonies of Kenya using a power point of recent pictures, especially those including the dear widowed Saints. She had so enjoyed being able to walk with other sisters in the faith to their homes and share in singing and worship with them. It was a very short retreat because the women needed to get home for children coming home from school, but we were blessed with the Spirit of the Lord in our fellowship.

As we left Nepal, we were greatly encouraged by the commitment and devotion of the priesthood, women, and youth of both countries who we have been blessed to know and love over the years.

Brother Bob and Sister Sheila had a different flight home than the rest of the team, causing them to have a fourteen-hour layover in Doha, Qatar. Bob wanted to stay overnight outside the airport, but Sheila didn't like the idea of leaving the airport in a Middle East country. Sheila agreed to his plans but prayed to the Lord for peace of mind and safety as they traveled to and from their hotel by cab. When they awoke very early to get back to the airport, they had a cab driver who had beautiful Christian music playing, which Sheila believed was an African song. She said how much she appreciated the song and asked if he was from Africa. He said, "Yes," that he was from Ghana. There was a very peaceful spirit in the car that blessed them immensely as they continued their travels.

God is so good, and He knows the desire of our hearts! Thank you, Lord, for a blessed trip.

Easter Thoughts

By Elder Garry Piatt
Grain Valley Restoration Branch

Easter to me, living in the Center Place, is grass turning green, trees putting on their leaves, flowers blooming, the air turning warm, and the resurrection from the death of winter to the beautiful spring in progress everywhere. This turns my heart to the Lord and His Son, Jesus Christ. With a thankful heart, I go to Him to offer praise and thanksgiving for the blessing of life and the opportunity of knowing Him and His Son, Jesus. Then comes the praise and thanks for Joseph Smith Jr., a prophet of the Lord, who through the gift and power of the Holy Ghost translated the Book of Mormon, corrected the Bible by the same gift of the Spirit, restored the Church of Jesus Christ, and gave us the Doctrine and Covenants, all under the same Holy Spirit of Promise. He accomplished this in less than twenty years because his life was cut short.

Easter is the time I review the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ, His life, His teachings, the people He gathered around Him, and the lives He touched. Also, the twelve men who would be with Him during His ministry, the sermon on the mount, the parables and how they taught the true principles of the gospel, and how one of these men betrayed Him with a kiss. We wonder how one of the twelve apostles, who witnessed firsthand the miracles of Jesus, could have betrayed Him. Yet don't investigate my life too closely. Remember, remember that to whom much is given, much is required. May we all stay on the narrow path and hold tight to the Rod of Iron which will lead us to the Tree of Life and the Beautiful Fruit.

We know the Easter or "Resurrection" stories in the four gospels, but what about the Book of Mormon? What is its Easter story? Just as Adam and Eve were taught in Genesis 4:4-9 "...and they

heard the voice of the Lord, from the way towards the garden of Eden, speaking unto them, and they saw him not; for they were shut out from his presence. And he gave unto them

Christ is Risen!

commandments, that they should worship the Lord their God; and should offer the firstlings of their flocks for an offering unto the Lord. And Adam was obedient unto the commandments of the Lord. And after many days, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Adam, saying, Why dost thou offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said unto him, I know not, save the Lord commanded me. And then the angel spake, saying, **This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father, which is full of grace and truth; Wherefore, thou shalt do all that thou doest, in the name of the Son. And thou shalt repent, and call upon God, in the name of the Son for evermore.** And in that day, the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam, which beareth record of the Father and the Son, saying, I am the Only Begotten of the Father from the beginning, henceforth and forever; that, as thou hast fallen, thou mayest be redeemed, and all mankind, **even as many as will.**"

We have a parallel in the Book of Mormon in 1 Nephi 3, where Lehi taught his people about the coming of a Messiah or, in other words, a Savior of the world. Then Nephi went to the Lord in prayer and asked that he might also see the same vision his father had. His prayer was answered with even more detail. 1 Nephi 3:192-197: "And the angel spake unto me, saying, These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; And shall make known to all kindreds, tongues and people, **that the Lamb of God is the son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come**

unto him or they can not be saved; And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; And the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; Wherefore, they both shall be established in one; For there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth;"

We find that the Nephites were not kept in the dark about the Savior coming in the medium of time. Of course, this knowledge was known even before they left Jerusalem. Not many years later, Nephi was told in 2 Nephi 11:36 by an angel that **"his name shall be Jesus Christ, the Son of God."** Those living in the promised land had knowledge about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, but also had knowledge about what would happen to Him while ministering in Jerusalem. The fact that He must die for the sins of the world and overcome death so that all mankind could be resurrected and come into the presence of Jesus to be judged.

This knowledge, contained on the Brass plates, filtered down to the Nephites and Lamanites until almost six hundred years had passed since they had been led out of Jerusalem to the Promised Land. The ups and downs in their combined history is a sad one indeed. Consider all the light they had brought from Jerusalem plus all that they received in this land, yet large groups would become proud and turn away from God and almost be totally destroyed before returning once more to God. This happened again and again. Then in one of their downward descents, at a time that many Lamanites were more righteous than the Nephites, Helaman 5:54-57 says "... that Samuel, the Lamanite, did prophesy a great many more things which can not be written. And

behold, he said unto them, Behold, I give unto you a sign: for five years more cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem **all those who shall believe on his name**. And behold, this will I give unto you for a sign at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh, there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day; Therefore there shall be one day and a night, and a day, as if it were one day, and there were no night; and this shall be unto you for a sign; for ye shall know of the rising of the sun, and also of its setting."



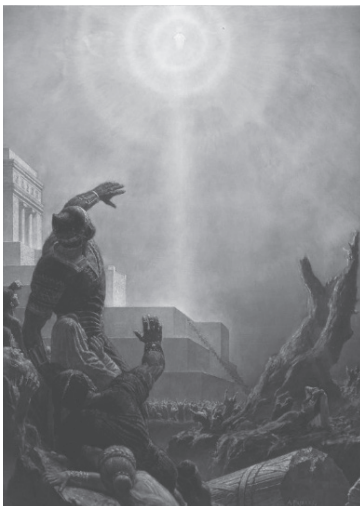
Then Samuel, after giving a sign for the birth of Christ, also gave a sign for the death of Christ in Helaman 5:75-77: "... another sign, a sign of his death, behold, in that day that he shall suffer death, the sun shall be darkened and refuse to give his light unto you; and also the moon, and the stars; And there shall be no light upon the face of

this land, even from the time that he shall suffer death, for the space of three days, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead; Yea, at the time that he shall yield up the ghost, there shall be thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours, and the earth shall shake and tremble, and the rocks which are upon the face of the earth, which are both above the earth and beneath, which ye know at this time is solid, or the more part of it is one solid mass, shall be broken up."

The stage was now set in the Promised Land. The Nephites and Lamanites had been given signs of Jesus's birth and signs for His death. The Easter celebration was now set in the new world, and they had to wait about thirty-eight years for Jesus's death to celebrate His Resurrection and the First Easter. The appointed time of the night, not getting dark, came, and many were baptized

into the Church when there was no night. Time moved on and many church members became proud and fell away, they broke up into tribes again, they had wars, and robbers became active again, till there was no peace in the land. There were some bright spots in the Church. Nephi—son of Nephi, son of Helaman—and his brother, Timothy, preached and baptized into the Church. Timothy was stoned to death and was raised from the dead by the power of the Spirit in his brother, Nephi, which angered those non-believers. What was happening in this land was only somewhat better than what happened in Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified.

When Jesus died in Jerusalem, all the prophecies given by Samuel the Lamanite to those in the Promised Land were fulfilled. Cities and people were destroyed by whirlwinds, earthquakes, buried, burned, covered with water, lightning like had never been seen before, and darkness. A fire could not be lit; no light could shine to light their way. The people cried for their love ones, and they wished they had repented before it was too late. There was crying in all the land. After a few hours, the whirlwinds and earthquakes stopped, and all that could be heard was the crying of the survivors, those that were more righteous.



3 Nephi 4: 26-27: “And it came to pass that there was a voice heard among all the inhabitants of the earth upon all the face of this land, crying, Wo, wo, wo unto this people; wo unto the inhabitants of the whole earth, except they shall repent, For the devil laugheth, and his angels rejoice,

because of the slain of the fair sons and daughters of my people; and it is because of their iniquity and abominations that they are fallen.”

3 Nephi 4: 41-45, 51, 53-54: “O all ye that are spared, because ye were more righteous than they, will

ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you? Yea, verily I say unto you, If ye will come unto me, ye shall have eternal life. Behold, mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and whosoever will come, him will I receive; and blessed are those who come unto me. Behold I am Jesus Christ, the son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are. I was with the Father from the beginning. I am in the Father, and the Father in me; **and in me hath the Father glorified his name.**...Behold, I have come unto the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin: therefore whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive; for of such is the kingdom of God...And now behold, it came to pass that all the people of the land did hear these sayings; and did witness of it. And after these sayings there was silence in the land for the space of many hours.”

A voice was heard out of heaven. It wasn't a loud voice, but it pierced their hearts to the very core. Two times the voice spoke, but the people couldn't understand. Then the third time it spoke, their ears were opened, and the voice said (3 Nephi 5:8) unto them, “Behold, my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, **in whom I have glorified my name**, hear ye him.”

God, the Father, had just introduced His Son, Jesus Christ, to those standing around the temple in the land Bountiful. Who knows how many times God has introduced His Son, but this was the first time he was able to include “**in whom I have glorified my name.**” (See Matthew 3:46, 17:4; Mark 9:5; Luke 9:35; 3 Nephi 5:8; Church History vol. 1, page 9) Now the resurrected Christ was going to stand and teach and heal the people of this land. He would not accept animal sacrifices any more. He would only accept a broken and contrite heart.

3 Nephi 4:48-50: “I am the light and the life of the world. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. And ye shall offer up unto me no more the shedding of blood; yea, your sacrifices and your burnt offerings shall be done away, **for I will accept none of your sacrifices and your burnt offerings; and ye shall offer for a sacrifice**

unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, **him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost**, even as the Lamanites, because of their faith in me, at the time of their conversion, were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and they knew it not."

Remember how Thomas doubted because he wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them in Jerusalem? Later when Jesus appeared to them, when the door was closed, he told Thomas to thrust his hand into Jesus side and be believing. (John 20:24-29) When Jesus came down to the Nephites, the first thing He did was introduce Himself (His Father had already done that). The second thing was to have everyone present at the temple to come forward, one by one, to thrust their hands into His side and to be believing. (3 Nephi 5:11-17)



This Easter, let us join together and thrust our hands into Jesus's side and be believing. He truly has risen. He suffered for my sins and yours. You and I must stand before Him and receive a righteous judgement. Our book of life is not closed yet. Let us remember that we are His sheep, the sheep of His pasture. We are members of His Church, restored through the power of the Holy Ghost through the person of Joseph Smith Jr. in these latter days. We may become one through Jesus, not because we are members of a Restoration Branch, but because we are members of His Church. May 2019 become the year of oneness with our Savior in His Church is my prayer.

Youth Missionary Corps

Elder Tom Mitchell
Independence, Missouri

The Youth Missionary Corps was an organization started in the 1990s to facilitate the opportunity for youth to witness and share their testimony of Jesus. The young missionaries received training and traveled to different places throughout this country, sometimes overseas, working with local groups of Saints. Activities were varied. There were opportunities for home visiting, preaching if applicable, teaching classes, working with youth groups, serving at retreats and camps, and many other things. Two youth were chosen to serve as a team. This was also an opportunity to come apart from the world for a season, usually a year, and spend time in fasting, prayer, and scripture study. There were a number of youth who took advantage of this program and received much benefit, and testimonies have been shared that those experiences changed the course of their lives.

The Coordinating Council, by a unanimous vote, has proposed to resurrect the program contingent upon approval by the Conference of Restoration Elders in June. The Council is working to appropriate funds to launch this program, and some donations are already promised. A committee of past youth missionaries, now leaders in their own branches, are meeting together as part of the Youth Missionary Corps to revise guidelines for the YMC, to search for strong mentors for the teams and prospective sites where there is a nucleus of Saints and, and to prepare applicants to go out in the fall of 2019. A link to the online preliminary application is below. There are a few youth who already have expressed interest, and we are inviting them to share in the development of this process.

We invite all in the Restoration Branches to join us in prayer and preparation and invite youth within the Restoration Branch movement who are out of high school, ages 18-28, to consider this opportunity to strengthen your faith and make an impact on the lives of others. Please watch the Tidings of Zion for further information for this nine to twelve month experience. This link will connect interested youth to apply for this opportunity.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YMC-ApplicationForm>

If you have further questions you may contact Tom Mitchell (mitchell@ucmo.edu) or Mike Barrett (mmmbarrett@gmail.com).

East Africa Update

By Elder Doug Smith
Odessa, Missouri

The work continues to go forward in East Africa, with several missionary trips having taken place recently. Elder Eric Woolery was able to meet with the Saints in Tanzania for three weeks in November and December. Elders Chris Capps, B.J. Schultz, and Peter Cornish were able to visit the Saints in Rwanda for two weeks in December. Both countries have seen growth and numbers, as well as spiritual growth amongst the members. The missionaries were blessed in their sharing.

Over the last year, the Saints in Africa have been working on a program which they have called "Family Steps Toward Zion." There was a recognition that there was a need for all the members of each family to see and understand their part in the work of the Kingdom, so they have had retreats throughout the year for the older men, older women, younger men, younger women, youth, and the priesthood. The desire was to help each member to see how their participation works in the family, the congregation, and the church as a whole, and to learn how to work together for that goal. The results of this effort have been miraculous, as families have been reunited, husbands and wives have recommitted to their marriages and families, polygamous situations have been rectified, and whole communities

have responded to the healings they have seen in individual lives and in families.

Lyle Smith and Aaron and Sally Pressler were able to attend the priesthood retreat in the fall. Doug Smith, Andrew Smith, and Aaron Sindt were able to attend the youth retreat in December.

I will share some highlights from the youth retreat. The December retreat was for the youth from all over East Africa, which included members from Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya. There were 150 in attendance, with 130 youth. There were definitely challenges, such as the fact that the facility had been rented out to three different groups that weekend. That meant that the staff, instead of cooking in the kitchen, had to cook over an open campfire to make three meals a day for 150 people. By the Lord's strength, they were able to do that, and everyone was well-fed. Because of the noise from a wedding, classes were held under a tree, and again the Lord blessed us with good weather and no problems with noise. As with almost any retreat, many of the youth and staff expressed the sentiment that this was the "best youth camp ever," but to me, the quality of the ministry received was seen at the final commitment service. Some of the staff voiced their concerns that the youth might not be willing or comfortable with sharing their commitments out loud, but in the Spirit of that service, almost every one of the youth participated in the service, which lasted over three hours. The Lord is surely blessing His people as they seek first the Kingdom of God, even according to His promise. The Saints in Africa send their greetings to you and their continued thanks for your prayers and support of the work in Africa.



A New Day for the Church in Kenya

“Bind Yourselves with a Covenant”

By Elder Eric Odida
Kenya, Africa

The 2018 CRE Conference was different. The presence of the Holy Spirit was strong. I guess it is because the Saints came in the attitude of humility with a real desire to be instructed. The Lord reminded us that this Church has no reason for existence outside of the redemption of Zion. The highlights were everywhere. For me, the crowning statement that caught the spirit of the entire conference was made by Elder Brian Mundy at the closing service when he said that *we have come to a crossroads* and therefore urgently need to make a choice. The choice to either turn the direction of Zion or of the world. It was clear that we cannot continue in this path any longer—part Zion, part worldly. It was a week that witnessed the Lord addressing the Church in powerful ways through different speakers, powerful classes, and sermons that were placed before the congregation. The Lord asked, “Where are the *giants* of this day?” He said this day calls for a rising up of *wild* men/women/youth as was in the days of Enoch. Nothing else will help the Saints to change directions.

I desire to know what the other Church branches are doing in response to the charges the Lord placed before us at the conference. I think this would help the body see what the different parts are dealing with and how the Lord is working with them as they respond to His charge.



Through prayers, the Church in Kenya sought which direction to take considering the new thrust brought upon us at the conference. It became clear to the local priesthood that we needed to adopt a new approach of teaching and learning to respond to the urgent need to take a realistic step toward making the cause of Zion a reality for us.

The Lord directed us to sanctify ourselves, to sanctify our marriages and our families to be fit to be laborers for Zion. Our marriages and families were not of the covenant standard but were after the standards of the world and could not, at their very best, qualify as vessels and implements of work for the establishment of the cause of Zion. Our traditional, cultural family structure, including the extended family, used to be strong and sound in supporting parents and children, but now it is fast losing its place and relevance in the face of the age of modern communication, media, and migration to the cities to look for work. This leaves the parents with very little support to raise up their children in the right way, and instead, the children learn from their peers and the media. Questions arose such as what roles do grandparents and in-laws actively play in the family today? In the face



of the diminishing roles of the extended family, the Church family structure is God-given and should be given its rightful place in the covenant life of the family.

In these steps, the Lord directed us to the scriptures and materials that address the origination and ordination of marriages and families. These materials answered the questions: Who is a husband and who is a wife according to God's plan? Who is a father, a mother, a grandchild, and a grandparent? and What is a family under God? We recognized that our marriages and families, as presently understood and practiced, are after the manner of the fallen man, which is below the covenant standard set for the Church of Jesus Christ and therefore not suitable for the redemption of Zion.

The Spirit of the Lord led us to adopt an approach that emphasizes practical application of the learned lessons. In the past, we have been taught enough lessons that should have brought us to the doors of Zion today, but we have little to show for it. We need to move beyond being good hearers of the Word to being *doers* of the word. Our children and the world around us learn better when they see us do than when we tell them to do without showing them how to with our works. From the months of September to December 2018, the Church in Kenya held a series of retreats for different groups, isolating the women and the men of different age groups and their family and marriage ages to impart the lessons to them. The teaching emphasized practical steps of implementation of lessons by the members.

A group of elderly men and women with strong testimonies have been set apart to assist the



priesthood by visiting different families at family levels to obtain testimonies from the families of the challenges they undergo in trying to implement the desired changes. Apart from obtaining testimonies of challenges from couples, they also share with them success testimonies from other families to encourage those faced with difficulties. This information is fed back to the leadership who then determines the next course of action to assist the struggling families or to encourage the succeeding marriages. Those with strong testimonies of determination to succeed are also sent to other families and branches to share their experiences with the Saints. This program and process continues with the next level being that of joint retreats for the couples of different age groups.

These programs have brought energy and excitement to the body of Saints in Kenya. The Lord's Spirit has blessed our retreats with strong presence. The Saints have been freed to speak freely and share in their past errors and re-dedicate themselves to the covenant standards.

The Lord's Spirit has led us to the next step with this program, which is to teach, learn, and practice the Word of Wisdom, Stewardship, and Keeping the Sabbath Day Holy by following the same order of practical approach.

Below are a few comments from the members who have attended these retreats:

Priest Austin Odicco: This time you have got it right and on the spot. This time round, we are removing the maggot with all its casings.



Mzee Dishon Okeyo: I was baptized into the Church years back, but I was not yet converted. Today I am converted. I know I am converted today because of the way I feel and the things I have come to understand. I return to my wife and to my family a new husband, a new father and grandfather. I have been calling my wife “this woman,” and she calls me “this man.” I am going home to change that.

Goretti Obala: This is the Gospel that came to Kenya in the 90s. It was different from what the other churches taught, and with power. It is back.

Ezekiel Agolla: I am returning home to wash my wife’s feet. To call her with the special name *rambanya* (a girl with a beautiful gap in her tooth) that I used to call her when I first met her.

Elder Joshua Honga: My wife already attended a similar retreat for women, and she is a changed woman. She insisted that I attend this retreat. I am returning home to ask her to forgive me, and to assist my older sons in building their homes.

John Abuto: I have spoken harsh words to my drunken sons. I return home to ask for forgiveness from them and to start praying for and assisting them as much as I can to change.

Mzee Joseph Owinyo: I have lived in polygamous marriage for many years and had resigned to living outside the covenant all my life. But today I have made a decision to return to the wife of my youth and make a covenant with her as my only wife. I am returning home to have a meeting with my two wives to declare to them that I have to start a life that will allow me to make the covenant of baptism.

Joseph Sangoro: It is not easy for me to speak words of love, but I am returning home to speak them to my wife.

Elder Caleb Dimire: I am returning home to establish a family altar for the daily family worship of our God.

John Akello (nonmember married to a member): I am a member and a regular attendant of the Catholic Church, but nothing prepared me for what I have experienced here. I don’t think that there is any other church teaching even close to what I have found here today.

Mrs. Rose Atieno Agolla: I was separating my children from their father, making them see him as a bad father. I have caused my family injury. I will return home to ask for forgiveness and to return my children’s recognition and respect to their father.

Mrs. Oselu: I can see that I have contributed to the difficulties that my marriage has sometimes gone through. I will return home to respect my husband and to be a helper to him and a good example to my children the way the covenant requires it.

Mrs. Sangoro: It is not going to be easy to start doing what I have never done in my marriage before, more so with my neighbors, daughters-in-law, and children watching, but I am going to try, and with prayers, I will manage.

The Lord has been so good to us. The Saints have responded with excitement. Some of them have gone through difficulties while trying to implement the covenant requirements. We pray for them and encourage them.

We labor for each marriage, family, and the Body of Christ in the Church to bind themselves with the covenant. Till Zion we redeem.



D&C 102:10c-d: *There has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing; and let those be chosen that are worthy...and they shall be sanctified; and inasmuch as they follow the counsel which they receive, they shall have power after many days to accomplish all things pertaining to Zion.*

Tanzania and Kenya Travels

November–December 2018

By Elder Eric Woolery
Brookfield, Missouri

There had been some doubt as to whether this trip would be made at this time due to the unavailability of another qualified elder who was familiar with the ministry going on in Tanzania. And yet through prayer and fasting by the ARM board members and also others in Kenya and Tanzania, the impress of the Spirit was to continue with the mission. The Lord certainly blessed me with the power and presence of His Spirit during my time of ministry in Tanzania and Kenya.

I arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, on November 28, 2018, and was greeted by Elders Eric Odida and Mishael Onyiego. The next day, Brother Onyiego and I traveled to his home in Nyabigege where there is also an active branch of the Church. I was able to minister there until December 4 and also in Kehancha, which is two hours travel from Nyabigege. While in



Saints in Sudi, Tanzania

these two locations, I was able to teach several classes and share some of my testimonies. Some of the classes I shared were: Jesus, Other Sheep; Life after Death and the Glories; Who were the Wise Men that came to see the Christ Child and Where did They Come From? (using the Book of Mormon as a reference); What did Jesus Teach? The Kingdom of God; How do You know that You are Reconciled with Someone; and Being the Body of Christ—A standard of Sainthood: Stewardship Emphasizing the Importance of Tithing.

Much of the teaching was done to small groups or with individuals. I was able to bring personal ministry through counseling and encouragement in the hope of Jesus Christ during this time also. I assisted Brother Mishael in several administrations while in Nyabigege, with one of those dealing with a young woman who felt that Satan was trying to destroy her by condemning her. Before we laid hands on her head, I could see the fear in her eyes and feel the tension within her. As we conducted a class with her and some others later, she was much more relaxed, and the fear was gone from her eyes. I praise the Lord for His goodness and mercy.

Brother Onyiego and I traveled to Tanzania on December 4th where we met Elder Paul Makawiti at the border of the two countries. Brother Paul and I continued on to Mwanza and his home. I was to be in Mwanza for several days to share with the saints. Again classes were held with small groups or individuals. Some of those classes were:

The Three Kinds of Christian Churches; Baptism (referring to II Nephi 13); Temptation; What did



*Elder Albert Okumu
preaching at a Communion
service in Sudi, Tanzania*

Jesus Teach?; Who were the Wise Men? (using the Book of Mormon); How do You know that You are Reconciled with Someone; Lessons from Creston, Iowa, The City of Enoch, 4th Nephi Church, and the Book of Acts Church; Priesthood (Deacon – Elder); Repentance; and Joseph Smith’s Testimony.

One young man, after several of the classes, remarked that he had learned three things. First, that it is very important that we reconcile with someone that we have had difficulty with. Second, that it is important to hunger and thirst after righteousness. And third, that we can trust God in all things. It is always a wonderful thing when you find that someone was really listening and remembered what was shared.

I had many opportunities to share testimonies such as my healing from a stroke while in Kenya in 2017, how God revealed His love to me when I was twelve, my testimony of the truthfulness of Book of Mormon which came by the power of the Holy Ghost, and a healing from an eye injury when I was a boy.

Brother Gershom Odacks and I left Mwanza on December 11th to go to the villages of Utegi,



Young woman receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost by Elder Albert Okumu assisted by Elder Eric Woolery

Nyamasieki, and Sudi. There are established branches of the Church in Utegi and Sudi, while Nyamasieki is a new area that Elder Albert Okumu has been working in recently. He shared with me that there

are about fifteen to twenty in Nyamasieki who desire baptism. He plans to return there in January to perform that ordinance. While in these villages, we taught many of the same classes mentioned before and also had some new ones. We discussed the authority and responsibilities of an elder, the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, repentance and forgiveness, why we don’t “wash” feet before partaking of the sacrament, why we don’t kneel when we pray, when Jesus appeared to the people in the Americas, why we use three books of scripture, why we bless babies instead of baptizing them, and why we remember Jesus Christ. We consecrated a bottle of olive oil for Brother Albert to use and did several administrations.

While at Sudi, Brother Albert and I confirmed nine young people who had been baptized in 2016 when my wife Rita and I had been there. It was a very joyous occasion. We then shared together in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper with old and new members alike. Sudi had not had the sacrament for some time because there is no priest or elder close by. I believe that the Lord will soon take care of that problem.

One of the joys of God’s creation is to behold a cloudless night sky with its infinite number of stars, some of which are very big and bright. I have never seen the night sky so clearly and beautifully as I have on two occasions while in Tanzania. One of these times was on the morning that Brother Gershom and I were to return to Mwanza. Upon our arrival, we were met by Barack Odoro’s wife, Mwamini, and then later Barack himself. Barack is Paul Makawiti’s brother. It was good to see them once again. I had last seen them in 2016 when Paul and I confirmed Mwamini into the Body of Christ, bestowing upon her the gift of the Holy Ghost. I was able to do several classes with Mwamini over the next few days before I left for home on December 22nd. There were many joys, challenges, and blessings from God during this time.

Rwanda Visit and Retreat 2018

By Priest Samuel Jordison
Lamoni, Iowa



This past July, I had the chance to travel to Rwanda with five other wonderful people: Elder Doug Smith, Elder Eric Woolery and his wife Rita, Nicole Capps, and Monica Moreland. The purpose of the trip was to meet with recently baptized members and strengthen them in their walk, while also assisting the local priesthood in any way they needed.

We landed in the capital city, Kigali, and were picked up from the airport by Elder Francis Baganizi and Priest Jean de Deiu. For years, Francis has been the only priesthood member in Rwanda. This has made it difficult in terms of organization, meeting, and the general sharing of the gospel in Rwanda. Recently, Jean de Deiu and Michel Nzayisenga were both ordained to the office of priest. This has benefited the church greatly, and in the last nine months, over thirty people have been baptized.

With our first day on the ground, we traveled to

the village of Giseki to meet with some newly baptized members. With both Doug and Eric there, one of the things we hoped to accomplish was the baptism of fire for those saints who hadn't yet received it.

Each of our group was able to share that first day with the saints in Giseki, where we had close to twenty people in one house. Several had already been baptized with water, but many in the home were hearing the gospel for the first time. We had lunch with them, and questions were asked. We were able to answer them all, sometimes in the form of a class if the question was broad enough or if multiple people were wondering the same thing.

The next day, our group split up, and Francis took Eric and Rita to the home of his daughter, Sada, for the laying on of hands. While I wasn't with them on this day, Eric and Rita were able to be a great blessing to Sada and her family.

The rest of our group went back to Giseki for a second day with the members there. The intent of our visit was to strengthen the current members of the church, so we wanted to make sure those who had been baptized had a solid foundation to keep building upon. Some more classes were taught, and afterward, Doug baptized nine of the members there with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Doug would do the prayer in English, and Jean de

Deiu would translate it into Ki Rwandan. It was a wonderful spirit there in the home, and some very direct messages were given to certain individuals.

A couple days later, we took a bus out to a lake for some baptisms. Saints came from all over Rwanda to witness the covenant three people planned





to make. They had asked me the night before to assist with a baptism, and I was happy to do so. When we got to the lake and were planning the service, two more names were added to the list, bringing the total to five who wanted to be baptized.

I baptized the first two, and I count it a great blessing that I was asked to help out with the service. When we walked into the water for the first baptism, those on the shore sang songs. They didn't stop until after all the baptisms were done. It was a very joyous occasion, and they celebrated the new life their brothers and sisters had in Christ.

At the very end, Jean de Deiu asked if anyone else would like to be baptized, and another man decided he would like to as well, so at the end of the day, there were six baptisms.

The next thing we had was a women's retreat, as well as a youth retreat, in the city of Gisenyi. It was chosen as the site for the retreat because it is right on the border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or DRC, so the saints from the DRC could come over for the retreat.

The retreat brought in a total of seventy-two people. We had classes,

worship, prayer services, and activities. One of the activities we did was to use tin foil and wrap someone in "armor" to represent the armor of God. That got a lot of laughs. Another activity that was extremely popular was jumping rope. Everyone jumped with the jump ropes, and in between classes, it was a race outside to use them.

While I wasn't present in all of the classes, I know that the individuals who were baptized and confirmed while we were there showed great interest in learning everything they could about this gospel. Some came to the retreat as nonmembers but sat and talked for hours after class about the Book of Mormon and what it was.

I did not have a certain experience or moment where I felt God was working with me in particular during the trip. In fact, I felt like an observer for most of the trip. An observer of the good things going on in Rwanda and God already working with the people there, from how Jean de Deiu and Michel knew their scriptures and the work they've already done to the way the saints treat each other with love and strive for the Kingdom just like we do over here in the states.



God Opens Doors

By Monica Moreland
Battle Ground, Washington



With great excitement, I set off on July 31st to Rwanda for a two-week missionary trip. It would take four airplanes to get there, and I would meet up with three members of our team in Qatar, in the Middle East. Doug Smith, Sam Jordison, and Nicole Capps were waiting for me, and we ventured on to Rwanda together. When we arrived, everyone was able to get their bag except me. My bag had not made the trip from Qatar, and it would arrive the next day around 4 p.m. God has used missing bags as disguised blessings before, so I did not get discouraged. The four of us met up with Elder Francis Baganizi and Priest Jean de Dieu outside the airport. Brother Jean took our small group on a wild adventure on hired motorbikes with our luggage—this was one time I was thankful not to have mine—to our rented house. Brother Francis stayed behind at the airport to meet up with our final two members, Eric and Rita Woolery.

That night, I was informed that I would not be joining the group as they went visiting the next day in Gaseke. I would stay behind with Brother Francis's daughter, Phionah, and adopted daughter—because of the genocide—Sada. They would help me get to the airport to get my bag. Brother Francis shared how Phionah had been struggling with her faith and involvement in church and how Sada was of the Catholic faith. He

hoped that the one-on-one time would be a good time for me to share my faith and testimonies. I prayed about that opportunity and that God would give me wisdom. The next morning before they left, the whole group was helping me get flipbooks ready for my Plan of Salvation class during the retreat later in our trip. After they left, Phionah and Sada came in to see what I was doing. I took the opportunity to share with them all about the books. They were very interested, and they each asked to keep one. I made them promise they would share what they had learned in exchange for keeping a book. They both have kept their promises. Two days later, Sada surprised us all by asking to be baptized, and her husband, whom she shared the book with, was baptized in



December when another missionary team went to visit. I was thankful for my missing bag because God used that situation to open up an opportunity to share with those ladies and, through them, their families.

Our baptismal service that first week started out with three candidates, but in the end, six people were baptized. Right before

Sam Jordison got in the water to perform the first baptism, an eel stuck its head out of the water and bore a big toothy smile. Everyone's eyes were huge, and especially Sam's. We instantly took to prayer for the protection of each member that got into the water. All went very smoothly...praise the Lord! The thirty people or so who were in attendance gathered by the water's edge and sang praises as the priesthood and the first candidate got in the water. Sam waited for them to stop singing so he could say the prayer over the baptism. They did not stop, and Doug gave Sam the go-ahead to baptize. Those watching sang praises to the Lord throughout the entire time that all six candidates were baptized. It was a new experience, but one that showed great joy!

We had the chance to meet up with several groups during the first week, and we had many confirmations. Priest Jean de



Dieu and Priest Michal Nzaisenga have been busy with Brother Francis sharing the gospel and baptizing. Since there is only one elder in Rwanda, they wait until missionaries come to confirm people as members. We were able to travel quite a bit around Rwanda, meeting different groups. Rwanda is such a beautiful place. It is known for its thousands of hills, and I was greatly impressed and moved by the people that were working hard every day to deliver goods up and down those steep hills to provide for their families. I was also concerned and amazed by the children, as young as 3, that had to walk miles to go fetch water for their families. They are an amazing people!

For the second week, we had a women's retreat and youth retreat at the same location. We took turns teaching at each retreat. We had saints and friends from Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, and the Congo attending, and our total number at the retreat was over seventy people. It was fun learning their traditional songs of worship in their different languages. After teaching my Plan of Salvation class, I gave each person a flip book, and I loved watching them practice teaching each slide in small groups. I could just see the possibilities of the gospel going forth to every people in their own language. It was all such an amazing experience,



and I am truly thankful to my Lord and Savior for opening that door and allowing me to be a part of His work. May God continue to bless my new friends and the work in that part of His vineyard!

We Are Made One: Kenya and Uganda Mission 2018

By Elder Brian Herren
Salem, Oregon

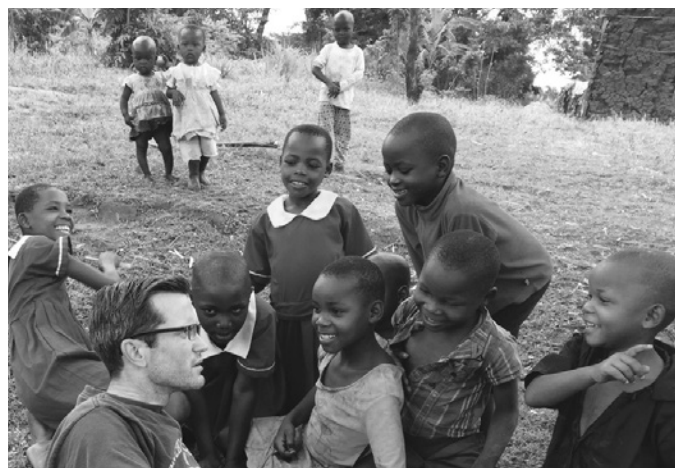
In writing here, we praise the living God for His tender mercies and for the everlasting covenant whereby Christ is given for men and men for Christ. We are so blessed that doubt now arises as to whether our frail memories will serve the occasion of our testimony but for the Spirit which gives promise of His witness.

Five of us traveled from Salem, Oregon, to serve in Uganda and Kenya in the latter part of October and the early part of November 2018: Brothers Ron Herren, Kevin Herren, Jim Clark, Travis Clark, and myself. The mission was one of service, to give aid where we might through manual labor and service projects. The team from the United States helped construct a church building in Bumageni, Uganda, and served various assignments in western Kenya.

Several of the men in Salem had grown in a righteous desire to show forth the gospel in deed, as well as in word. They were not all priesthood members, and some felt that there was little they could offer by way of teaching and preaching, but how could they withhold while they had yet strength to give? They wanted to give that which they had...hands to carry, backs to bear, arms to lift, and countenances to cheer. It was our common prayer that the Saints in Africa would feel our love for them as we mingled our own blood and sweat with theirs. The gospel would put us shoulder to



Brother Brian Herren showing the children tug-of-war at Bumageni



Brother Brian Herren with children at Bumageni, Uganda

shoulder and side by side. Their projects would be our projects, and their labors would be our labors. I had been to East Africa several times before...but not like this. Next to our slacks and ties, we packed work boots and leather gloves. God opened the doors before us, and we rejoiced in the fellowship that followed. Our testimony is that God continues to reveal His Son to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ, we are one. Paul wrote to the Galatians, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." So it is in His church today.

On one of our final evenings in Kenya, while at Sori Bay near Tanzania, we feasted, celebrating in thanksgiving for the angel message conveyed in Spirit and truth, that God had restored His only true and living Church to the earth on April 6, 1830, that He would gather Israel for His glory, and that man had, in fact, received a second witness of Christ in the Book of Mormon by the hand of the angel Moroni. We received the feast with much thanksgiving. Our hosts explained that such was their custom for those drawn together in bonds of friendship and love, never to forget one another

and never to part from the Spirit which held us bound. We dipped our hands together. We need to do that in the Church.

In addition to the service projects, the Lord opened the door to many wonderful spiritual opportunities. We were made glad to see men and women alike receiving the restored Gospel for the first time. More than a few of them were diligent students with genuine questions and pure desires. We felt that the Good Shepherd had specifically placed His hand upon several and brought them before us with a wise purpose beyond our full comprehension. A young Catholic woman was with us for two days and brought forth many good and earnest questions to which the Spirit supplied immediate answer in chapter and verse. Who can deny this Word of God?! Who can withstand His presence?!

Our Father has given the bread of life and the



Congregation at Lissana, Kenya

living water. We felt the loving ministry of the Holy Ghost and the presence of our Intercessor in those hills clothed by green pastures. Surely, the Lord is multiplying His flocks and bringing forth in abundance.

The missionaries traveled atop piles of gravel in the back of a dump truck, on motorcycles through the jungle, pressed together in matatu, and by foot. We carried trees, stacked bricks, mixed cement, and shoveled stone. It was a sight to see. In the homes of our brothers, we found our respite. At the tables of our sisters, we renewed our hope. It was hard to maintain a joyful countenance in our departure. Though we were returning home, we realized that it required leaving that which had been made home by God Himself through many mysteries. It hurt to leave our brothers and sisters there.

Through the touch of our Master, our eyes have been opened again. By new perspective and occasionally through involuntary deprivation, many or all of us had lost the appetite for the vanities formerly treasured. Men speak of giving all for Christ, which speech we find easy, especially when salted with the assurance of every comfort waiting, but in Spirit, we found nothing lacking where we had only God. In truth, the very comforts that were once our friends seem now a snare laid before us. While some beneficiaries of God's generous provision languish, there are those upon this earth who have nothing but the testimony of God's great and marvelous work in Christ Jesus. They have the testimony of Christ's restored Church. These are the rich. In Christ, we are made rich. In Christ, we are made one.



*Brothers Brian, Kevin, and Ron Herren
at Jakaranda Branch in Nairobi*

2018 Missions

By Elder Brian Mundy
Independence, Missouri



What an exciting year we just completed! As I sit back and reflect on this past year, I'm excited to see all the blessings the Lord has performed. I'd like to share with you some of the ways that the Lord has blessed myself and others this past year.

Shortly after 2018 began, Elder Joe Hale and I went to England and shared with Rob and Rachel Willoughby. We spent many hours sharing the gospel and strengthening Rob and Rachel's testimony and walk with the Lord. During this trip, we also received revelation that Rob had a call to the office of priest. We ordained him and instructed him in his office.



Elders Joe Hale and Brian Mundy after we ordained Rob.

February took me to Germany where we continued teaching the Saints there. One of the highlights we had was serving Sacrament. They only get to partake in Sacrament once or twice a year, so it is truly a blessing and joy for them.

In April, Elder Dave Joyce and I went to Maine for a preaching series and a regional gathering. We were able to share in so many homes, including several nonmembers.

June took me to Michigan and Canada. While in Canada, I spent time with the Lavigne and Mahoney

families. I honestly don't think I have ever been with people that hungered and thirsted for righteousness and the Kingdom more than these good Saints in Canada. I met up with Dave and Kristy Joyce for a regional gathering held in Oakwood, Michigan. We had ten of the twelve branches represented. Toward the end of the gathering, God blessed us with many things that were shared specifically for the group gathered. It was wonderful to stay in the homes and share with the Saints and to help Shaun and Michelle Turner prepare their home to sell so they could gather to Zion.

June and July were filled with the Elder's Conference and Reunion, as well as the Temple Grove Reunion. Both of these reunions brought many blessings to those in attendance. I also was blessed to be able to baptize my granddaughter. Ministering to our family, friends, and neighbors is just as important as ministering in distant lands.

August took Stephen Henson and myself back to Germany. So many testimonies took place during this trip, including sharing with a beautiful group of people from the Philippines in a church service where



Priest Stephen Henson and Doris Adomeit in Germany

we made many new contacts. You always have to be looking for opportunities to be a witness for Jesus. You have no idea where you will be or when someone might ask you a question. This happened to us one evening. Jorg and Andrea Barsch invited some friends over. Everyone left but one couple. We were just sitting outside, visiting, when out of left field this lady began talking to Andrea and me, sharing about her thirty-three-year-old son's health issues and that the doctors couldn't do anything for him. Then she shared when she was sixteen years old, her mom fell over dead. She asked us, "How can there be a God when these kinds of things happen?" Stephen was leaving to stay at another home, so I asked him to pray for me. Not knowing

what I was going to say, I opened my mouth, and God began to fill it with things to share with her. We cried together, prayed together, and the Lord blessed her and her husband abundantly. He also blessed me, too. Another evening, we administered to a nonmember lady in her thirties who has an incurable disease. Oh, the faith and trust that night! The power of the Spirit was so strong during her administration!



Andrea in Germany

September and October were filled with ministering six weeks in Maine. We had a youth retreat and multiple preaching and teaching assignments. The Saints in Maine are strong and are working together to support one another.

We need to remember that even though we don't have answers for tough questions that are asked of us, God always does. It doesn't matter if you are on a cruise ship where a young man dies and you are called on to provide ministry (yes, even that has happened, and it is another testimony!), sitting in a foreign land, or out to dinner with your family, He will always give you the words, scriptures, and testimonies to share at the right time. This is how the Holy Ghost works in our lives as we listen to Him. I can bear testimony that it doesn't matter if you are sharing while splitting and stacking wood for the winter, working on fixing a bathroom, having a meal together, or standing behind the pulpit... when you allow God to work in your life, when you ask Him and then listen for His direction, He is always there. Don't listen to the voice that says you are inadequate or you aren't smart enough. Listen to the voice that says you can do ALL things through Christ! He truly strengthens me, as I know He will, and does, strengthen you too.

In closing: Be a PINEAPPLE! Stand tall, wear a crown, and be sweet on the inside! 2018 was a great year for the Church and His people. It is my prayer that 2019 will be even better and that His Kingdom might roll forth, that Zion might be a reality!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CENTRAL MISSOURI RESTORATION BRANCHES (CMRB)

2019 ALL-BRANCH GATHERINGS: (All start at 6:00 p.m.)

April 7: Worship service (Odessa RB)

May 5: CMRB Committee elections meeting & fellowship (Colbern Road RB)

September 8: Worship service (Oak Grove RB)

Priesthood education: Date and place yet to be determined

CENTRAL MISSOURI 2019 SPRING YOUTH RETREATS at Odessa Hills Campgrounds,

Odessa, MO Theme: "I am the bread of life" John 6:35

All retreats start at 7:00p.m. on Friday and conclude at 1:00p.m. on Sunday, except Junior Retreat which will start at 9:00a.m. at Saturday and conclude at 1:00p.m. Sunday.

March 8-10: Senior High (grades 10-12)

March 15-17: Junior High (grades 7-9)

March 22-24: Older Youth (college age)

March 30-31: Juniors (grades 4-6)

OHIO/WEST VIRGINIA

April 13: Women's Retreat and Youth Retreat at Parkersburg, WV Restoration Branch

April 14: Regional Gathering at Parkersburg, WV Restoration Branch

SAVE THE DATE

April 13: Spring Women's Retreat at Colbern Road Restoration Branch.

Registration begins at 8:30 am. The theme is "Choose Joy."

September 14-15: CRE Kirtland Priesthood Trip

2019 Restoration Camps

MISSOURI

CENTRAL MISSOURI RESTORATION BRANCHES CAMPS

ODESSA HILLS, MISSOURI "I am the Vine, ye are the branches" John 15:5

May 19-25 Older Youth (College age/unmarried)

June 2-6 Junior Camp (Grades 4-7)

June 16-22 SR High Camp (Grades 10-12)

June 23-29 JR High Camp (Grades 7-9)

Grades are for
the upcoming
school year.

RCI CAMPING registration opens February 15th. Go to www.rcicamps.org to find out more.

Register early for a discount.

Jun 22-28 Mountain (Grades 10-13)

Director: Mike Moores

Colorado

Jul 6-12 Leadership (Grades 10-14)

Director: Aaron Bailey

Odessa Hills

Jul 7-13 Bountiful (Grades 7-9)

Directors: Albert & Charity Esquivel

Odessa Hills

Jul 14-20 Mammoth (Grades 9-13)

Directors: Chip & Jill Gowan

Lake of the Ozarks

Jul 21-24 Tiona (Girls Grades 4-7)

Director: Tiffany Brennan

Odessa Hills

Jul 24-27 Liahona (Boys Grades 4-7)

Directors: Brett & Nannette Smith

Odessa Hills

Jul 29-Aug 2 Walk the Talk (Grades 10-13) Director: Cara Smith

Living Hope RB

TEXAS

July 3-7 2000 Strong Adventure Camp

Contact: Jerry Skotak 214-574-3051

Camp begins at 5 PM on July 3 and concludes on Sunday July 7. There are two camps held concurrently. A youth camp for ages 8-18 and a young adult camp for ages 18-25. The camps are at the Collin County Adventure 1180 W. Houston St. Anna, TX. www.2000strong.us

MICHIGAN-GREAT LAKES REGION

July 7-13 JR High/SR High Camp

July 14-20 Children's Camp (Grades 3-7) Eric Beach, ON CANADA SIDE

WASHINGTON

Aug 4-9 Northwest Regional Youth Camp (Grades 6-12) Yacolt, Washington
Contact: Kevin Herren 523-562-9384

2019 Restoration Branch Reunions

June 2-8 Zion's Ridge, Independence, Missouri
Contact: Ray Lane 816-650-6573

June 8-15 Central Missouri at Odessa Hills, Odessa, MO
Contact: Judi Smith 816-633-4199 or odessahills.com 816-230-4000
Theme: "I am the Vine, ye are the branches." John 15:5

June 23-28 Restoration Branch Family Reunion and Conference of Restoration Elders
Sponsored by the CRE and Pastors of Zion (POZ)
Waldo Avenue RB/Center Place Restoration School in Independence, Missouri
Contact: CRE Office 816-836-3421

Jun 9-15 South Crysler Restoration Branch Reunion, Baker University in Baldwin, Kansas
Contact: Paul & Lynette Davis: Lynette: 816-795-0703; Paul 816-739-2795
lynettedavis2400@gmail.com or pauldavislaw@yahoo.com

June 29-July 6 Buckner RB, Odessa Hills Campgrounds in Odessa, Missouri
Contact: Eric Baker 816-765-8802

July 21-27 Woodbine Reunion at Little Sioux, Iowa
Contact: Alan Ronk 712-592-1977

July 22-28 Great Lakes Regional Reunion, Vassar, Michigan
Contact: Helene Danicki 248-651-3208

July 27- Aug 2 Kirtland Area Family Runion, Temple Grove, Transfer, Pennsylvania
Contact: Renee Webster 440-622-5837

July 27-Aug 3 Maine Reunion, Brooksville, Maine
Contact: Frank Shephard 207-460-0976

July 29-Aug 4 Northwest Regional Reunion, Vancouver, Washington
Contact: Brian Herren 503-949-2484

*If any corrections
need to be made,
contact: CRE Office
816-836-3421*

Announcements:

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please notify the CRE of **any changes** in your mailing address, phone number, email address, church or marital status, etc. All contact information is on the inside front cover of each *Tidings of Zion*.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

There is a great need for additional help in funding the *Tidings of Zion*. *Tidings of Zion* currently goes into 4400 homes around the world, including 48 states of the USA as well as Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, the Philippines, Russia, and the United Kingdom.


As far as circulation, the *Tidings of Zion* probably reaches more homes than any other Restoration magazine. **If every family that receives the *Tidings of Zion* would donate \$20.00 each year, it would easily cover the cost for *Tidings of Zion*.** Some individuals are already doing this, and it is VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. Checks can be made out to the CRE and in the memo line, write, "Tidings of Zion." Mailing information is inside the front cover.

LIVE STREAMING of SERVICES:

Belton, MO RB	http://sermon.net/beltonrestorationbranch
Buckner, MO RB	www.bucknerrb.org
Central Florida RB	centralfloridarestoration.com
Garden City, MI RB	gardencityrestorationbranch.org
Oak Grove, MO RB	http://www.ogrb.org/video.html
Oakwood, MI RB	www.oakwoodrestorationbranch.org/mobile.html
Waldo Avenue RB	http://www.waldoavenuerestorationbranch.org

Restoration Campus Ministries

*Established in 1997 to bring the light of
Jesus Christ to the University of Central Missouri.*

When: Every Tuesday at 7 pm.
 Our first meeting of the Spring 2019 semester will be Tuesday, January 15th.

Where: 134 W Pine St., Warrensburg, MO 64093

2018-19 Theme Scripture: Romans 12:2

Our organization is open to any older youth in the Warrensburg area who wish to further their walk with Christ in fellowship with other Saints. We have guest speakers visit regularly, and we would also like to establish Scripture study groups. There will also be plenty of fun social activities such as movie and game nights—and food! Matthew 18:20 says that where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Please come expecting to be blessed!

If you have any questions about RCM or would like to be a guest speaker, please contact Rachel Mann, President, at (816) 982-5082.

SHARE WITH US!

Please send your articles, testimonies, branch news, youth activities, regional events, etc. Send to the CRE c/o Publication Council. Contact information is on the inside front cover of each *Tidings of Zion*.

***** **NOTICE: THE CRE OFFICE HAS BEEN MOVED** *****

TO 1551 N. COURTNEY ROAD, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64050.

This is 3-4 miles north of CPRS/Waldo via Liberty St. and Kentucky Road.

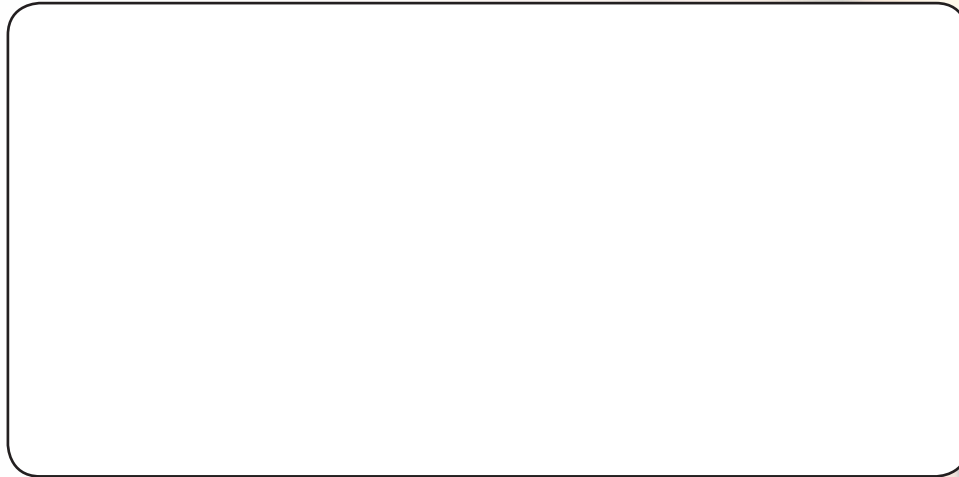
CONTACT VIM HORN OR RICHARD NEILL FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Domestic Outreach

By Elder Brian Mundy, Independence, Missouri

Since our last issue, I have had requests for preaching, teaching, and pastoral ministry. There have also been requests for assistance in youth camps and retreats, as well as women's and men's retreats. For some of these, I will be reaching out to the various councils for their input. On others, I will be sending people or going myself.

However, I need workers. This is the purpose of this article. If you are interested in traveling domestically and to Canada, you are very much needed. Even if you are not a priesthood member but have a desire in your heart to help, you can be of service. Please let me know by sending me an e-mail or a text. You can also go to eldersconference.org and fill out the "Domestic Outreach Form." I need to know where you can travel, how long you can be gone, what ministries you are gifted in or have experience with, and any other pertinent information.

I look forward to being flooded with volunteers! You can e-mail me at bmundy@bradlech.com or call/text me at 816-668-4521.

Greetings from Mexico

By Seventy Juan Reyes, Saltillo, Mexico

Hello, Dear Saints. We are planning on coming to the Restoration Branch Family Reunion and Conference of Restoration Elders in June this year if our Lord is so willing.

In February of 2019, my wife, Tina, and I were in Jojutla, Morelos, for thirteen days of missionary work among that good people. We enjoyed teaching and preaching among them all, and the Spirit of the Lord was always present in our church activities.

