



# Pulse of the Congregation

October, 2015

## Compilation of Articles for Odessa Youth Camp

*Compiled by Sister Cessaries Galusha*

*Not pictured: Sydni Williams*



A total of eleven souls were able to attend the Odessa Senior High camp this year from Salem, Oregon, and all were blessed in tremendous measure by the gifts of God. Michael Livingston, Sydni Williams, Melissa Clark and Vitaliy Surov were the four youth attending as campers, and below is a compilation of their shared testimonies from this blessed week.

It is always a pleasure to be able to attend the Odessa Hills Sr. High camp in Missouri. This year our youth made more efforts in preparation than in previous years, and I truly believe that we were blessed by it. This youth camp was probably one of the best youth camps I have been to. My first testimony from camp was seeing my good friend Marley who had previously been unable to attend due to foot surgery. I was very thankful to God in answering my prayers. I really felt that the whole

camp was unified early on and I knew it was going to be a great week. In one of Brian Herren's classes, we were taught that we have anchors to the world and how it keeps us from the fullness of God. He then had us tie a rope with a golf ball on the end around our ankles representing our sins as anchors to the world. We had to wear them 24/7 until the evening chats the next night. These golf balls soon became our worst enemies, and we realized how ridiculous it is to keep our sins. Either we make the sin fit into our lives or we complain about those around us and how their sin gets in our way when we have our own to worry about behind us. We also came to the realization of how dirty sin could make us feel. That Tuesday evening chats could not have come quicker, and we all quietly went one by one to pray with a counselor and get our anchors of the world cut off from us. We then made our way to the pool, which was the fullness, where Brian told us the time is now and we must not procrastinate any longer he said, "Now jump in and fully give yourself to God, come as you are." At first, I thought that he was joking but after he said that I saw Robert Gillam just dive in, then Brian jumped in and right after, I followed clothes and all, and then we all jumped in. We had not been told to prepare to be wet so we were all in our normal clothing, but that is what made it so awesome. When I came up, I literally felt as light as a feather. It felt amazing. This experience has taught me what it feels like to be forgiven. I will always remember this because I personally always want to feel that way. I learned so much from that experience and it furthered the unity of the camp very early in the week, and it only built from there.

We also had the wonderful blessing of having our sister Lauren White be able to attend. Lauren had cancer, which almost took her before camp, but her heart yearned to be there and because of the prayers that were offered up on her behalf, God allowed her to come one last time. Lauren was able to share her testimony before she had to leave due to her weakening body, and I felt in my heart that it would be the last time I saw her. She then passed on to her reward a few days later, but I will never forget the power of prayer or her testimony that will live on.

*...continued on page 2*

### Upcoming Events:

- October 24: Youth Harvest Party
- November 7-8: Lyle and Sherrie Smith visit
- November 8: Ladies Relief Society meeting
- November 13-15: YAG Retreat
- Nov 19-21, 23-24, 30, Dec 1: Wreaths 5:30-9:00 pm
- November 22: Missionary Presentation

## Compilation of Articles for Odessa Youth Camp

*...continued from page 1*

There is a special place on the Odessa Hills Campground that I was introduced to. It is a place where God abides when those who gather prepare themselves. It is a simple youth chapel. Not a fancy cathedral, just a basic, wooden youth chapel. Yet, this chapel is where the Lord abided. During the week, this chapel was a place of prayer and fasting, and it was treated with reverence and sensitivity. This place is where I wept when I could not feel Him. This place is where I prayed when I was in fear. This place is where I poured my heart out to Him and He comforted me. In one worship service for the men, we sang with all our hearts and might, and there were those that sang with us that I could not see with my eyes. The sheer power felt in that youth chapel as we were accompanied might only be understood to be the angels from the heavens above. "If that is the way that we will sing praises in heaven, I would not be disappointed," said a man afterwards. I know that God can be felt anywhere and that His presence is not confined to a few places, but just as one man said, "I believe that there are places upon this earth, which have been made special by His presence and remain to be governed by His heavenly courts and the mandates of His Majesty", and I was introduced to one of those places on the Odessa Hills campground.

It was very sad to say our goodbyes when that last day finally came, but we all were anchored in Christ and ready to be brighter lights in the world. The next day, we were able to share testimonies from camp to the Colburn Road congregation, and that evening we were able to attend Waldo to hear Brian Herren preach. The Lord really blessed us there and the Spirit could be felt all around. As I looked around the sanctuary, I noticed many familiar faces, like Eric and Pam Odida, Lyle Smith, the Websters from Ohio and Francis Harper. I thought to myself, this must be what Zion will be like: a time to worship together with friends from all around the world where time does not exist. Our time in Missouri was filled with so many blessings and I am very grateful for all who made our way possible, and especially to our Heavenly Father for keeping us safe and pouring His blessings upon us. I look forward to the day when I can be reunited with those brothers and sisters again.

### Junior High Camp in Missouri

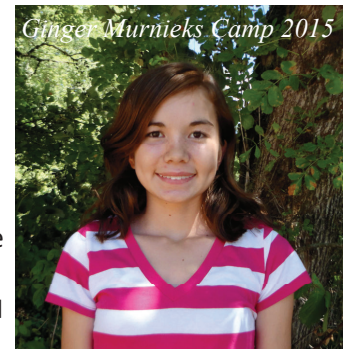
*by Sister Ginger Murnieks*

God is so good! I feel so blessed to have been able to attend both Jr. High Camp and Reunion in Missouri this year. It is such a joy to bask in the Lord's Spirit while in fellowship with his children. God's planning is perfect; each service, spiritual activity, and class worked perfectly to bring glory to God and understanding to the listener. The theme for the camp was "Anchored in Christ" and our theme scripture was Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" During the week we explored different elements of the verse.

In addition to the all camp class which focused solely on the theme each camper was privileged to choose a religious elective class. One important thing I learned from my elective class is the difference between trials, afflictions, and troubles. I learned that trials are placed upon us by God and are designed to help us grow. Afflictions are inflicted upon us by an outside source and while they can be painful we must not allow them to turn into troubles. Troubles inhabit our minds. They often follow a trial or an affliction but they are imposed upon us by us. They can be easily avoided if we will but control our minds. In all of these things God will always help us to overcome!

I also thoroughly enjoyed our virtue walk activity. On Wednesday night we met in the tabernacle for a short prayer and testimony service after which commenced the virtue walk. We went in small groups to different stations where we learned about various virtues. At each station, after an explorative talk was offered, we were granted the opportunity to accept a bead that represented the virtue of choice as a pledge that in the next year that camper would strive to apply that virtue in his or her life. This activity really helped me to see the areas in my life that I can improve upon.

I have been very privileged to be able to attend camp every year. But this camp was especially meaningful to me. I feel invigorated and reenergized to go forward and bear record of my Creator in all that I do. "Therefore, it must needs be sanctified from all unrighteousness, that it may be prepared for the celestial glory; for after it hath filled the measure of its creation, it shall be crowned with glory, even with the presence of God the Father." (Doctrine and Covenants 85:4c) God is so good to me!!!





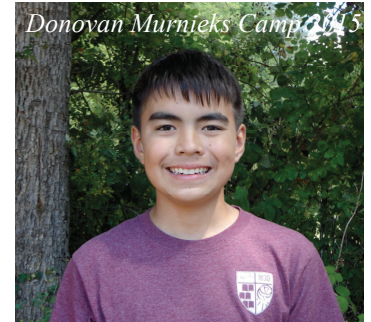
## South Chrysler Reunion

by Brother Donovan Murnieks

I was blessed to be able to attend the SCRB Reunion at Graceland University from June 12th to the 19th. South Chrysler is a group of wonderful people. I definitely enjoyed the Prayer and Testimony services and the campfires. I felt that everything was Spirit lead and the Lord was with us during the week.

The theme of Reunion was, "We Would See Jesus," with a different focus every day. Every evening service was on the theme of that day. My favorite theme was on Friday, "We Would See Jesus; As We Ascend the Mountain."

The Graceland staff is very helpful and kind. I enjoyed worshipping with my friends as well as playing basketball with them, and of course, all the ice cream was great too. To top it all off, the Lord gave a message in the final service. I loved the whole week and can't wait to go back.



Donovan Murnieks Camp 2015



Sister Traci Scuito

## 2015 Garage Sale

by Sister Traci Scuito

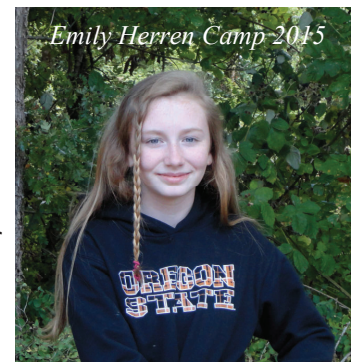
On Thursday morning, July 16, Ron, Dorothy, Gary, Carla, Michael and myself collected and labeled our items. The process took time but with perseverance we were done by noon. The fun part started on Friday and went thru Saturday. We were blessed with beautiful weather and shoppers, and also GREAT help. We were able to raise \$601 which will go towards our Mesoamerica trip this December. Thank you all for your hard work. I want to thank the Lord most of all for His blessings and for our success.

## Around the World Progressive Dinner

by Sister Emily Herren

On July 18<sup>th</sup> all the Builders went to different parts of the world. While we were there, we stopped and ate some awesome food. First, we went to France (Melissa and Brian Herren's house). Our main dish was "escargot", which are snails. Next we flew to Kenya (Jim and Dianna Clark's house) and ate Sukuma wiki, which is like cooked spinach or lettuce almost, and ugali, which is doughy corn meal, and then we had African doughnuts.

After that we flew to Morocco (Ron and Dorothy Herren's house) and we had chicken B'stila and you could only use 3 fingers. It was Grandpa's birthday so we had cupcakes after. Lastly, we went to Chuck and Deanne Murnieks' house (Latvia) and had Latvian pie and some cheesecake. All of the food was amazing and I want to thank Chuck, Deanne, Ginger, Donovan, Ben, Daniel, Melissa Herren, Brian Herren, Ron, Dorothy, Jim, Dianna, and Travis for allowing us Builders come to your house and eat, but more than that, being able to bond with one another!



Emily Herren Camp 2015





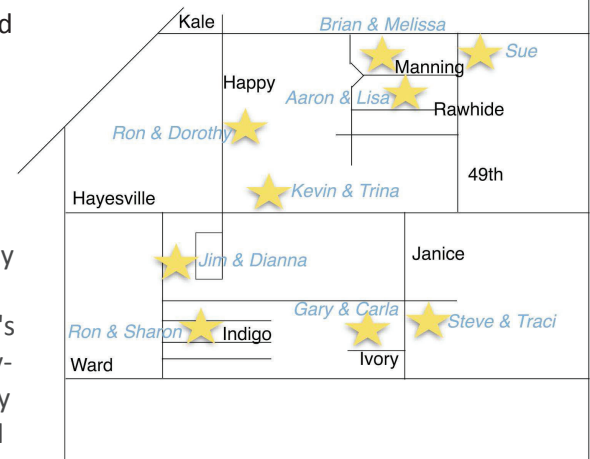
## Saints Gather to Zionit

by Brother Jim Clark

Ron and Dorothy Herren recently decided to sell their home in West Salem and move closer to many of the Saints. Offering their home for sale just as Reunion commenced, four days later it was sold. They have purchased a home on Happy Way N.E., and will be moving very soon. Our Heavenly Father has blessed them in this decision and process, and they are excited to get settled in. I along with all the Saints congratulate them on their new home, and I welcome their being closer to many of the Saints. Nine families now live one quarter of a mile between each home as a crow flies. All of them thus living within one third of a square mile. Our Heavenly Father has blessed us tremendously! We continue to rejoice as He moves in particular ways within all of our lives, strengthening our congregational and spiritual bonds.



the neighborhood affectionately known as Zionit

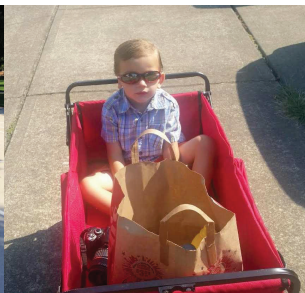


Saints in fellowship at the congregational picnic

## Congregational Picnic

by Brother Robert Ellison

On Saturday September 12, 2015 the Salem congregation gathered together at Hood Veiw Park for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual potluck and fellowship. Many people brought great food and desserts that provided more than enough food for everyone. The saints all sat down and ate and enjoyed each other's company. After our stomachs were full some of the youth went to the playground and played on the structures in the park while others stayed to play some "knock out" basketball or continue in conversation. The weather and the company could not have been better. After our short time there people slowly went their separate ways, but we knew it would not be long before we would be back together again.



## Summer Youth Campfires

by Sister Cessaries Galusha

Campfire services are a blessed way to gather in worship and praise while enjoying the beautiful summer evenings and starry skies with the warmth of the campfire. While the older youth have been a part of many campfires at camps and other gatherings, it is a new experience for some of the younger youth, who have not had the opportunity to learn the beloved songs and hear the ministry in this way. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, to start the summer off, the Lambs had a special campfire service to especially work on learning some campfire songs and receive the ministry in this setting by Brother Kevin Herren. They were very enthused to learn the new songs, and they soon found much use for them as the summer held lots of opportunities of worship.

To conclude the summer and help prepare for the new school year, the Builders and Climbers also had a special campfire service with devotion, petitioning and prayers on behalf of the students and how they might keep themselves from the world as they return to worldly environments. Brothers Kevin Herren and Gary Livingston brought a very valuable ministry to them with counsel and wisdom and encouragement so the youth may know that with God, all things truly are possible.



## Six Souls are Born Into the Kingdom

*by Brother Brian Herren*

On August 30, 2015, six youth witnessed their covenant in the waters of baptism at Larwood Wayside park at the convergence of Crabtree Creek and Roaring River in Scio, Oregon. Each of the youth had completed pre-baptismal classes and decided to commit themselves in covenant to keep God's commandments and serve Him forever (Mosiah 9:41, 174). On the evening of August 30th, the six souls who had entered the waters of baptism that morning were confirmed members of Christ's Church and born into the kingdom of God by the laying on of hands for the Holy Ghost (D/C 17:8c, Genesis 6:62, John 3:3, Acts 8:15-17, Acts 19:2-6). The six youth who were baptized were Emily Herren, Kaitlin Herren, Noah Pieratt, SiAna Pearson, Anahi Pearson, and Daniel Herren. Brother Brian Herren baptized in water and each of the Melchisedec priesthood members participated in the confirmations, including Brother Bill Curtis, Brother John Henderson, Brother Gary Livingston, and Brother Brian Herren. Brother Jim Clark and Brother Kevin Herren also served. Surely the heavens rejoice in fulfillment of God's will for all man in the waters of baptism, and remind us of the infinite atonement whereby such sacred covenants are given meaning in that great and perfect sacrifice. Having passed through the gate of repentance and baptism (II Nephi 13:24) we now press forward together as one body. Praise God for such blessings, and the old, old path into which these six have entered with joy. May they be blessed forever in their walk with the Lord, and may the clarion call never fade: "repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ..." (Acts 2:38).

*Sister Kaitlin Herren*



*Sister Anahi Pearson*



*Brother Noah Pieratt*



*Brother Daniel Herren*



*Sister Emily Herren*



*Sister SiAna Pearson*





# RESTORED CHURCH OF CHRIST YOUTH COMMISSION

Kevin Herren 503.562.9384  
Trina Herren 503.931.2545

Deanne Murnieks 719.439.1332  
Cessaries Galusha 319.594.2341

Dear Parents and Guardians!

September 13, 2015

We rejoice greatly in the blessings that God has worked in the youth group as we have watched them grow leaps and bounds in the ways of the Lord! We look forward to another exciting year of opportunities for worship, service and fellowship with them, and we pray to be guided by the Holy Spirit always.

Some of our great blessings include the opportunities to send our youth to summer camps both regionally and in the Midwest. Over the past few years, our youth group has grown tremendously, and more and more are investing their labors to be able to attend camps in Missouri. As these blessings continue to unfold, we hope to improve communication and organization for everyone involved. In this effort, the youth commission has adopted a series of policies that we will keep as a standard for the coming year(s) in order to continue these great opportunities God has afforded us. Please read the following document carefully, and ask any one of us if you have questions or concerns. We hope these policies will make fundraising efforts and preparations smoother and help keep everyone informed!

We are so thankful for the young souls we have in our midst, whose faith and virtues develop in great ways, including leadership. We also wish to thank you for raising them in the manner that God has desired. It is truly a privilege and honor to serve your children, and we are blessed to know each and every one of them. We love them as our own, and we welcome any concerns you might have in our leadership or the activities we provide. We are your servants, and we pray for God's blessing, as we work together as one body in His Church.

Your Servants in Christ,

SALEM YOUTH COMMISSION

*Congratulations!*



Congratulations Sister Nancy for the first place prize on her beautiful quilt shown at the State Fair! We marvel at the gifts given to our beloved sister, and the long hours of labor and love she measures into these fine masterpieces!

## 2016 Elected Officers

Please support the following officers which were elected or appointed September 13th at the local business meeting:

Pastor:	Elder Brian Herren
Counselors to Pastor:	High Priest Bill Curtis Elder Gary Livingston
Local Treasurer:	Priest Jim Clark
Local Secretary:	Sister Dianna Clark
Local Recorder:	Sister Melissa Herren
Youth Commission:	Teacher Kevin Herren Sister Deanne Murnieks Sister Cessaries Galusha Brother Charles Murnieks
Auditor:	
Regional Missionary	
Board Representative:	Brother Ron Herren



## **Youth Commission Policies 2015**

*by the 2015 Youth Commission, subject to change by future commissions*

### *Funding youth camps:*

- ◆ Regional camps are the first priority to support and raise funds for.
- ◆ Outside camps are a special privilege, an additional opportunity after committing to attend the regional camp.
- ◆ Funds raised for outside camps will only go towards 1 senior high camp, 1 junior high camp or 1 junior camp that has previously been approved and supported by the youth commission.
- ◆ Outside junior high and junior camps require an adult chaperone to accompany them.
- ◆ Funds will be raised in an effort to help ease the burden of airfare and camp costs, but we do not necessarily expect to cover all costs for outside camps.
- ◆ Money is ultimately the responsibility of the parents.

### *How money is disbursed from fundraisers:*

- ◆ Funds are awarded to campers according to their individual labor.
- ◆ Most activities include an hourly rate determined from the total funds raised at that event (after any costs are subtracted).
- ◆ Records of each camper's hours of participation are kept and calculated for each event.
- ◆ Some events may not require an hourly rate and funds may be distributed evenly.
- ◆ When camp funds are met for a particular camper, they are expected and encouraged to continue participating in all fundraising events, but their earnings will no longer be calculated.
- ◆ Any funds made in excess beyond camp needs will be left to Pastoral discretion, and not redistributed to individuals.

### *Dates and Deadlines:*

- ◆ Records of individual earnings, dates for all available (approved) camps, and estimated costs will be given to each family by February 1<sup>st</sup> so each family knows the current standing of their children's earnings.
- ◆ Commitment to attend regional and outside camps must be made clear to the youth commission by March 1<sup>st</sup>, as at that time plane tickets will be bought for outside camps.
- ◆ Fundraising events will continue through May each year to offset as much cost as possible and will be added to the records of each camper.
- ◆ All payment for camps not fully funded is due on June 1<sup>st</sup> to the Branch Treasurer. Questions and concerns may be brought to the Branch Pastor.

### *Camper participation guidelines:*

- ◆ Lambs of Zion ages range from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ◆ Builders and Climbers ages range from 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduates through the summer of their high school graduating year.
- ◆ 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to fundraise throughout the year with the Builders and Climbers in order to fund camps they are eligible to attend after they graduate the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ◆ Graduating seniors are welcome to attend camps and participate in youth activities through the summer after they graduate.



# YAG RETREAT 2015

**Theme: Stay Focused!**

“...if therefore thine eye be single to the glory of God, thy whole body shall be full of light.”  
- Matthew 6:22

**FRIDAY:**

7:30 Dinner  
Afterward Song Service and Prayers

**SATURDAY:**


6:30 Sunrise Service  
8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Class - Deacon Dustin Mason  
Class - Teacher Kevin Herren  
Afterward Lunch  
After Lunch Awesome Activity (Travis and Robert)  
5:00 Dinner  
7:30 Campfire - Bonfire on the beach

**SUNDAY**

8:00 Breakfast  
8:45 Worship - Brother Travis Clark  
Afterward Service - Elder Brian Herren


**Meal Assignments:**

Friday Supper: Pizza  
Saturday breakfast: Dustin and his crew  
Saturday lunch: Kevin and Trina  
Saturday dinner: Brian and Melissa  
Sunday breakfast: Travis and Maddy  
Dr. Pepper: Robert Ellison



**Help spread  
the word!**

**Builders and Climbers  
Regional Fall Youth Retreat at  
Pacific City: December 4-6, 2015**



**Theme: I Corinthians 16:14:**  
“Let all your things be done with charity.”  
**Cost: \$35-per camper - please notify Brother Kevin of your intent to attend ASAP:**  
**pxkevinherren@gmail.com or (503) 562-9384.**

## Christmas Choir and Caroling!

Let us enter into the holiday season with singing! Choir practice for the Christmas Choir ministry of music will start November 1st and continue every week meeting at the church at 8:45am. All are invited to come to praise God in song and rejoicing in fellowship and music! Do not worry about what your voice sounds like, we come to give God our best, and improve ourselves where we can, but most importantly to praise Him in this glorious season!

Another opportunity we have for singing is our yearly Christmas Caroling, which will be held on December 19th. We will meet at Brother and Sister Brian and Melissa Herren's house at 6pm for warm chocolate, and carol about the neighborhood of Zionit! Please come and join in the fellowship and witnessing of our Saviour's birth!

*Sing praises to the Lord, which dwelleth in Zion; declare among the people his doings. I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.*

Psalm 9:11, 13:6