



Joint Conference of
Restoration Branches

November 2006

JCRB NEWS AND UPDATES

One People with ... One Priesthood having ... One Voice

Volume 1, Number 3

Inside this issue:

From Conference President	2
Winter Gathering Announcement	3
New Conference Center Opens	5
Finance Committee Report	9
Testimonies from the field	10 11
Calendar	12

JCRB News and Updates is designed as an aid to those supporting or interested in the JCRB. It is published by the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches in Independence Missouri.

Developed by the Publicity Sub-committee of the Logistics Committee.

Visions of Zion

The Fall Gathering was held at the home of the Center Place Restoration School (CPRS) and the Waldo Restoration Branch. It began on Friday evening, October 27 and ended on Saturday evening, October 28, 2006. The event was sponsored by a number of Restoration organizations. Among the sponsors were the Conference of Restoration Elders and the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches.

FRIDAY EVENING

A worship of drama,

music and scripture opened the Fall Gathering. A drama troop from Central Missouri State University performed a brief act that dramatized the events of Psalm 137. The exiled, captive Jews never forgot Jerusalem or the city of Zion, during their long years of captivity. They remembered Zion, as must we.

Elder Dayn Cederstrom read a series of scriptures and quotes from famous personalities about Zion. The readings introduced and augmented several songs presented by various groups and individuals who sang. The sing-

ing ministry was provided by *Kindred Spirit*, *The Restoration Chorale*, *The McLean Family Singers* and Holly McLean. Two young ladies read a series of testimonies from members of the church from Kenya, Belize, Mexico, Nepal and the United States. The testimonies helped all to understand that Zion is a dream implanted in the heart of the Saints by the Holy Spirit.

The drama, readings, testimonies and music were very nicely organ-

(Continued on page 4)

Men's Retreat

The only thing better than a good idea is a good idea fulfilled. I had the pleasure of being a part of such an experience in September while attending the Restoration Men's Retreat at Colbern Road Restoration Branch. Oddly enough, the idea originated with the inspirational thoughts of a young woman, Sara Buckles. After many hours of planning the end result was a wonderfully spirit filled experience of worship, classes, and fellowship topped

of with a cornucopia of good food.

The day began with a song service and a season of prayer that led to dining and fellowship. Old friendships were re-acquainted and new friendships were formed. Following lunch, Priest Nathan Reed lead the group of 43 men in a class on strengthening your personal relationship with God. There were many factors discussed, including

(Continued on page 3)

From the Conference President's Desk

Some personal thoughts ...

Greetings saints in the name of the Lord Jesus to whom this great and marvelous work belongs. We are coming up on the third conference of the JCRB. In so doing, I have pondered much about the many subjects and views that have come to my attention directly and indirectly over the past several months.

I want to take this opportunity to share some of my personal observations, thoughts, and beliefs on many of the subjects now publicly discussed among the saints. Please remember the things I share are from my heart. Some of these questions and comments are:

- **Are you the prophet/president of the church?** No, nor do I have any desire to be. Sooner or later, perhaps next April, another will be elected to preside at the JCRB.
- **Are you starting a new church?** No, nor do I have any interest in such a thing. In fact, the JCRB is not a legally registered entity. The corporate attorney recommended we function only as a "religious organization" for tax purposes. This was good news to us since we didn't want to give any perception of starting a new church because of corporate registrations, etc.
- **Are the Seventy organizing the higher quorums of the church?** No, at the last JCRB they gave a presentation stating the need for a "large majority" of the branches and a "large majority" of the membership to be required for them to consider such action. You can view their presentation on

Are you starting a new church?
No, nor do I have any interest in such a thing.

this subject at the Restoration Seventy website or the JCRB website. Consequently, at the last JCRB in April 2006, I ruled "out of order" all the pending resolutions pertaining to the Seventy concerning these matters.

- **Has the JCRB established "the" bishop of the Church?** No, this has not happened in spite of the many views on the subject. Brother Carl Cederstrom, the only bishop currently sustained by the JCRB, has clearly stated he is not "the" bishop of the church but only functioning as "a" bishop, just as he has done for many years in an existing Restoration Branch. His ministry as bishop has never been called into question at the branch to which he belongs or among the wider body of saints.
- **What are traveling elders?** The last JCRB voted to sustain traveling elders in order to send them into the field with funds and support from the JCRB. The Seventy and the Evangelism Committee of the JCRB are responsible for obtaining the names of the elders who have an interest in providing ministry both near and far. They have created an application to be completed by those interested in providing ministry as traveling elders sent by the JCRB. It can be found on the JCRB website.
- **What is the relationship of the saints in Honduras with the JCRB?** You have probably read some of the many emails and Internet discussions on this subject. The Seventy are sharing with the saints in Honduras, as are other brethren not associated with the JCRB. The officers have not sent the Seventy to Honduras to convince the saints to support the JCRB. I think we would all agree the saints in Honduras have the right to choose their response to the issues of the church and their relationship to any person or organization. This is the way it should

(Continued on page 7)

Joint Conference of Restoration Branches Winter Gathering Preliminary Schedule

Date: February 23 & 24, 2006

Location: Colbern Road Branch

Friday

7:00pm Evening Preaching Service
(Youth Activity Following Service)

Saturday

8:00am – 9:30am Prayer Service

9:45am – 10:45am Class (Book of Mormon class) Youth class to be provided

11:00am – 12:00pm Class (Missionary Work, Financial Law, & JCRB – How they tie together) Youth class to be provided

12:00pm – 1:30pm Lunch Break

1:30pm – 2:30pm Class (Succession Report)

2:45pm – 3:45pm Pre-Legislative Discussions

4:00pm – 5:00pm Pre-Legislative Discussions

5:00pm – 6:30pm Dinner Break

6:30pm – 7:00pm Song Service

7:00pm Evening Preaching Service

() = Tentative Class Topics



Men's Retreat

(Continued from page 1)

prayer and fasting and the study of the scriptures, which would facilitate a more rewarding and dynamic relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The later afternoon brought more avenues of spiritual discover through the lessons taught specific to single men, newlyweds/young children, men with teens to empty-nesters, and retirees. These classes were taught respectively by Dayn Cederstrom, David Bates, Alan Smith, and Jack Hagensen. Each class developed around the unique perspectives of those in attendance to ad-

dress particular as well as general concerns about individual and familial spiritual growth.

The day ended with a presentation by Priest Roy Wilson on finding your niche. The discussion centered on developing an individual plan of participation in the church - personally, at home, and within the branch. All in all the day was a resounding success and I hope to see more ventures in this arena in the future.

By Elder David Bates

Visions of Zion

(Continued from page 1)

ized and presented in a manner that lifted before those assembled, the beauty, promise and need for Zion in our day. The image of the glorious city was drawn in the hearts and imaginations of the congregation through this stirring and effective worship.

SATURDAY MORNING

Patriarchs Vernon Darling and Mike Ballantyne led a brief worship that began at 9:00am on Saturday, October 28. The two ministers split the time from 9:20 am until 10:45 am, each speaking on the topic of the Spiritual Aspects of Zion.

Brother Darling spoke first. He spoke of various aspects of what could be called the spiritual aspects of Zion. This included the importance of being a Christ centered church. "At the core of the Restoration is a person-Jesus Christ." With Peter and Paul as examples, Brother Darling reviewed how the Lord Jesus Christ took these two personalities and crafted useful, powerful ministers and witness of the truth. We must be as ready as they were to be trained and used by Jesus for the cause of Zion. He spoke of the need for spiritual discipline and empha-

sized the need for personal worship and solitude with God so that the relationship with God can be fostered and matured. Real spiritual growth, he said, "means that it leads to helping others." The gifts of God to the Saints are received only by surrender to God.

Brother Ballantyne continued the discussion and directed the congregation to look forward to the time of Zion. He referenced the Vision of Zion given by Elder A. White as recorded in *Infallible Proofs*. He said the Saints ought to begin now to consider the needs of those who will be gathering into the place of Zion from the disintegrating world around them. Housing, storehouse supplies and support with a holy, disciplined and ready church and priesthood to minister the Bread of Life and the Living Waters to these people. Are we preparing?

Elder Bill and Saralee Rhoades spoke about the efforts of Restoration Camping, Inc. To minister to the youth of the church. Their testimony was augmented by a very well done video presentation on the Mammoth Camp, presenting two of these camps. The first was SimZion, where the campers were challenged to work together to plan for and organize the building of the city of Zion.

The second camp presented was Zionopoly. Based on the game Monopoly, campers were challenged to work together to develop spiritual character and holiness by working together by sacrifice to overcome their sinful weaknesses.

LUNCH

A soup and salad lunch was provided by the Women's Department of the Waldo Branch. It was an excellent lunch with plenty of good food and desserts to choose from.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The singing group, *Saints Alive* provided about 45 minutes of gospel singing and music in the sanctuary after lunch. This helped provide a spirit of wakefulness after lunch. The group sang a variety of numbers that stimulated worship and joy.

Elder Timothy Johns presented a passionate discussion of the storehouse. He briefly described the effort at a functioning storehouse now a reality. He also used scripture and testimony to invite all to grow in knowledge and obedience of the stewardship principles.

Bishop Carl Cederstrom closed the afternoon with a thought provoking tale of "future fiction." After reading from Section 83:13a, he spoke to the attendees as if he had been a resident of Zion for many years. His narrative described a town of peace and

(Continued on page 6)



Bishop Carl Cederstrom speaking at the Fall Gathering 2006

Conference Center Available to JCRB

The Joint Conference of Restoration Branches now has a "Conference Center." It is approximately a 3,000 square foot facility which has six small offices, a large conference room / sanctuary, reception area, two bathrooms, and a half basement.

The Conference Center will be manned with volunteers and open for business on Monday November 20th. The JCRB Conference Center is located at 1100 W Truman Road not far from the intersection of River and Truman Road.



**JCRB Conference Center and Faith Restoration Branch
1100 W. Truman Road, Independence, MO**

The starting Conference hours will be from 10:00AM to 2:00PM central standard time. The phone number is (816) 252-1457.

This facility will allow the Conference to have a Central Office to operate, host large committee meetings, provide support to the missionary effort, mailers, officers' offices, and do the general work of Christ's church.

The JCRB Conference Center is supported by Faith Restoration Branch which shares the building with the Conference. Currently Faith Restoration Branch is in the process of renovating the building and completing the unfinished portion of the building for use.

(Continued on page 6)

JCRB Conference / Faith Restoration Branch Facility Renovation	
Description of work needed.	Estimated Cost
Finish Masonry work in the Conference Room / Sanctuary	\$1,200.00
Roof Work	\$11,500.00
Furnace / AC unit in Conference Room / Sanctuary	\$3,000.00
Carpet for Sanctuary	\$3,500.00
Electrical work in Sanctuary	\$700.00
Light fixtures and associated hardware	\$900.00
Drop Ceiling in Conference Room / Sanctuary	\$2,000.00
Walls for Conference Room / Sanctuary	\$1,500.00
Demolition of Wall, Carpet and Ceiling	\$4,000.00
Paint for entire facility	\$1,000.00
Chairs Conference Room / Sanctuary	\$5,000.00
Ceiling Structural Support	\$800.00

Visions of Zion

(Continued from page 4)

worship. A place where the Saints worked together easily and quickly to accomplish the work required. In this "vision" this resident of Zion saw that the elements of daily life were redeemed. It was concluded by a wonderful invitation to be the friends of Jesus Christ.

SATURDAY EVENING

The final worship period of the weekend was preceded by a period of hymn singing. Teacher Jeff Anger led the hymns. This was followed by a

preaching service. Elder Danny Hight presided in the service. Elder Aaron Smith brought a rousing, Spirit blessed sermon that challenged the Saints to seek the fullness of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Using Moses, Isaiah and the Brother of Jared as examples, Elder Smith pointed out that true worship requires a price to be paid. That price is willingness to serve and sacrifice. The willingness to pay the price is directly related to the faith of the individual in Jesus Christ and His word. If the testimony

that God is a personal, faithful and true God has been given place in the heart of the believer, that person will respond with a readiness and a sacrificial spirit. These are the people who will be the Zion Builders. Brother Smith closed with the affirmation that Zion will be! There is still an opportunity for us to respond. Are you willing to pay that price?

By Elder Gary Whiting

For thus saith the Lord, *I, the Lord*, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and *delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end;* (Section 76:2a *emphasis added*)

JCRB Conference Center

(Continued from page 5)

History of Faith Restoration Branch.

For sometime several families have shared the vision of starting small restoration branches in local neighborhoods in the Center Place. We also shared the desire to help the bruised and broken hearted both in and outside the church. We moved out in faith a short while ago and we had others who joined us that shared that same vision.

We had previously been meeting in homes looking for a building eventually to worship in. At the same time a Bishop in the Restoration was approached about a building that the owner felt led should be used for the JCRB. The problem was that the JCRB at that time could not commit to financially sustaining a building since there was no conference action to approve funds. The Saints of Faith Restoration Branch desired for the Conference to have a building to use for their offices and since we needed a place of our own to worship, we desired

to share the building. Faith Restoration Branch has made the JCRB conference building a part of our ministry.

Please note that this listing of items is in no particular order and only major work needed is listed. The total estimated cost of renovation is \$32,150. If you would like to help in this endeavor, please make out your check to Conference of Restoration Branches and mark your contribution for JCRB Conference Center. Please mail to The Joint Conference of Restoration Branches, P. O. BOX 3310, Independence, MO 64055, Attn: Eldon Anderson, Conference Treasurer.

Elder Jim Vun Cannon

**Conference Office Phone Number
816-252-1457**

From the Conference President's Desk

(Continued from page 2)

be and the way it will ultimately be resolved. They are perfectly capable of doing so.

- **Is the JCRB pursuing the RLDS name of the church?** No, the JCRB has not authorized any such action. There are a few individuals and branches that are expressing an interest in this course of action on their own. They can follow their convictions. They certainly have the right to bring this subject to the JCRB for future discussion, as does everyone else, but there is no existing relationship between their personal interests and the JCRB.
- **Will the JCRB come under the umbrella of the COC?** There has been no discussion to consider this action in any meeting that I have attended. The JCRB has authorized no such initiative. I have no personal interest in considering this question. For me, the doctrinal differences between the two organizations are wide and diverse.
- **Why does the JCRB allow members of any church to participate in the JCRB as long as they can trace their authoritative baptism to the RLDS church?** This is a subject with differing views among the people at the JCRB. Time will tell as to how this affects the JCRB going forward. I believe it will be a defining issue for some of the saints in deciding their future participation in the JCRB.
- **What about all that legislation on the JCRB agenda?** All the branches and members have a right to submit legislation for consideration. It may not get discussed at the next conference and it may or may not reflect the desires of the conference. The people deliberate, reason together and decide the outcome of the legislation. The JCRB minutes are published and the voting results of the legislation can be easily reviewed. I encourage everyone to

take the time to do so. I often hear comments about the negatives of pending legislation as if it had already been passed. I'm hoping we will try to keep separate the legislation that is pending and the legislation that is already passed when considering our position on the subjects.

- **What about the contention we are seeing in emails, letters, Internet discussions, magazines, etc.?** I do not believe the Lord is pleased with such behavior in spite of the views and positions held by the participants. It is a sign of spiritual immaturity and pride within the body of Christ. I have seen it on all sides of the issues and inside and outside of every organization and conference in the Restoration. There is an interesting observation that is made concerning this dilemma. I will use the word "we" since I believe these apply to us all. Whenever we use words such as "unfaithful", "divergent beliefs", "priestcraft", "iniquity", etc. we seem to be always referring to someone else. When we use words such as "faithful", "defenders of the faith", "watchmen of Zion", "righteous", etc. we seem to be always referring to ourselves. What a mystery this is to me as I see the fruits of pride and arrogance widely sapping the strength of the church. What we are seeing among us, disguised in all the different forms of contention, are simply outward symptoms of a much larger problem. This larger problem has been called the "root of all sin" and the scriptures identify it as pride. I believe that unless we repent and come down into the depths of humility, it will prove our destruction no matter what our views on these many subjects. I also believe, speaking collectively and not individually, it is impossible for us to be who we claim to be as long as these things are among us.
- **What is the JCRB's relationship with the Conference of Restoration Elders (CRE)?** Without casting blame or identifying specific reasons for either conference, I simply feel the relationship

(Continued on page 8)

From the Conference President's Desk

(Continued from page 7)

could be much better. Let me describe it as needing more passion for success. I believe the CRE and JCRB provide the potential to nurture a special relationship between the priesthood and the people as they both exercise their voice and vote. I'm hoping that good fruit will grow over time between the conferences but time will tell if that will be so. I will not be surprised to hear both conferences speak on the subject in the upcoming April business sessions.

- **What is the common vision of the church?**

I believe the common vision of the church is not found in emphasis on organization and structure but in the prophetic calling for a covenant people. Obviously, some disagree with me on this topic. The Lord tells us clearly in D&C 83:1b the following:

yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his Saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem;

The church is established to be the instrument in the hands of God to accomplish this common vision and the Book of Mormon is the tool restored for this very purpose. We are also called to prepare for the gathering of the house of Israel to the places appointed. I could write much more on this important subject but for now just trust the good Spirit to speak to your heart on this truth.

- **Why do you participate in the JCRB?** I came to the JCRB for one reason. I do not

believe the common vision of the church can be achieved without a special relationship between all the priesthood and all the people. For me, after so many years, I saw the potential for the people to come together and say with one voice; this is the desire of our heart. This is still my hope and prayer. Time will tell as to whether the people and the priesthood of the church will collectively embrace this pressing need.

- **Are we living in the latter days?** I believe the signs point more clearly to this reality than ever before. As we call ourselves latter day saints, it is a mystery to me as to why we have to be convinced we are living in the latter days. I am not yet persuaded our collective actions reflect the reality of that belief.
- **Why did you speak to the "whole church" last April 9, 2006?** The Lord gave an inspired message to the "whole church" that stands on its own merits. It can be found on the JCRB website. Each person will have to determine how they feel about it. As I reflect on the words, I believe the Lord is giving us all a warning. Perhaps it is our last warning before He raises up from stones the seed of Abraham. I believe one of the most arrogant qualities we can possess is to think the Lord has no other options besides us to accomplish His will. Time will tell how this unfolds.
- **How can all the people come together?** Perhaps this is the most important paragraph of this letter so please prayerfully consider it's content. I have never felt that just being against something is an acceptable answer by itself. If we believe the Lord requires us to become one and have a common vision of the work, then we must also be willing to publicly present what we will accept and do to bring it to pass. Disagreement alone bears no good fruit in unifying the body of Christ. Thus far, those who disagree with me have not shared what they are willing

(Continued on page 10)

Treasurers Report

Dear Saints,

Great is our God and His Son Jesus Christ! There is so much for which we can be thankful. Consider, over the next 30 days, thanking Him each day for something for which you have never before thanked Him.

I am continually thankful for your generous response to the needs of the Conference and the missionary work. Your response has been significant. Thank you for sharing His resources with the Conference.

	General	Missionary
Income	\$39,846.61	\$118,494.77
Expenses	<u>\$24,732.14</u>	<u>\$ 32,016.46</u>
Balance	\$15,114.47	\$ 86,478.31

You have read in this issue about our Conference Center. The JCRB was offered the use of the building after the April '06 Conference. There is no line item in the JCRB budget for the maintenance and upgrading of this building. Therefore, no General or Missionary funds will be used for the Center at this time.

The officers of the Conference felt it was a blessing to be offered the use of this building and we agreed temporarily, until the April 2007 Conference gives direction about moving forward with the use of this building.

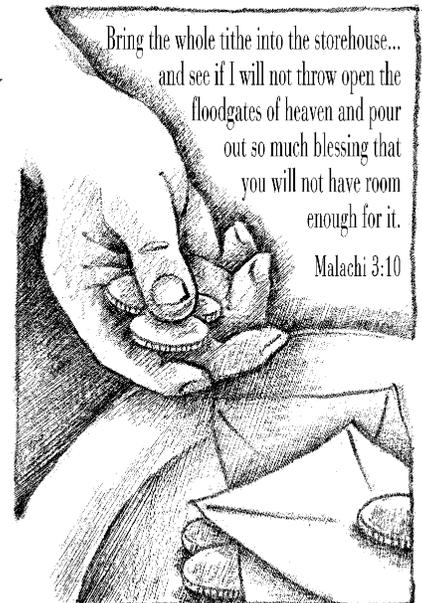
Faith Restoration Branch is using much of this facility as their house of worship. Faith Restoration Branch has no ownership or control over the building, which is similar to situation between the Waldo Restoration Branch and the CPRS. Faith Restoration Branch is paying the utilities and they are the work force for renovation. They are doing this as a ministry for the Conference and we thank them for their good efforts.

From their article (page 5), you can see that much work is needed to bring this building to a higher standard of use. If you choose to donate to this effort, please note on your check memo: JCRB Conference Center. At the April 2007 Conference, the body will

be asked to give direction regarding further use and funding of this Center.

As you consider your response to His work, I'd like to share with you a portion of a Conference of Restoration Elders article entitled *Stewardship for the Celestial Kingdom*.

"If Zion can only be built up by the principles of the law of the Celestial Kingdom, when will God's people earnestly seek for higher Ground? Does the disorder in Christ's Church prevent us from obedience to the Celestial law, or does our disobedience of the celestial law further delay the Lord from setting His Church in order? [Sec. 102:2c] and Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself. The main emphasis that the Lord placed on the fact that Zion had not been redeemed was three-fold (See Section 102:2a-b)



- They have not learned to be obedient to the things I require at their hands
- Do not impart of their substance as becometh Saints
- Are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom"

Please ponder your "whole-souled response" to the ministry of Jesus. I invite you to attend the Winter Gathering to learn more about our stewardship response to the call of the Kingdom. God bless you in your efforts to be found doing what you can for Him.

Your brother in His work,
Eldon Anderson, Treasurer

From the Conference President's Desk

(Continued from page 8)

to do to bring the people together into oneness with a common vision. I know the answer must reside within each person because I believe all of us, whether we agree or not, have a love of the Lord, the people and the work. It can only happen if we want it more than anything else. The Lord described it as: if you have desire you are called to the work.

Please consider this. What would happen if every Restoration group, organization, association, branch, and individual came together to do nothing else but discuss what we would agree upon to bring the priesthood and people of the church together with a common vision? What would it look like? What could be accomplished? Would the Lord return to

such a people? The obvious question is: are we willing to meet for such a discussion?

Would we be willing to give up all we possess and to forsake our kingdoms to know this joy? I extend this invitation to all the priesthood and people in order to hear your response. Please let me know your thoughts on this subject. My email address is: mguin@kc.rr.com or you can get it from the JCRB website. You can also mail me a letter at: 304 SE Battery Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.

For all the saints, whether you agree or disagree with me, I truly consider it a privilege to call you my brothers and sisters in Christ. My prayers are for you daily.

God bless and keep you.

High Priest Marlin Guin



Dunning and Gross Minister in India

The Lord God over all things continues to bless His Gospel in all parts of the world. Elder Val Gross and I (Elder Jim Dunning) experienced marvelous blessings, while sharing the fullness of the salvation message, during a recent trip to India and Nepal.

I was contacted by a minister who lives 80 miles west of Calcutta, India. His name is Brother Ephraim. He contacted me via the internet after finding the Restoration website. This connection was a remarkable God-led experience for both of us. Our relationship shows that by small means the Lord does accomplish great works.

We began corresponding as brothers in Christ. Later he invited us to his small village and to observe his ministry. He asked us to share with him and his flock concerning Christ's teachings and

ministerial gifts. When we arrived, we discovered that God had anointed him with the gift of healing. Ephraim had spent four years praying, studying and fasting 6 hours a night. We attended services in his humble church building and witnessed people who had been totally blind, lame, and in liver failure healed. The people are now able to see and walk. All of these things were done in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of His sacrifice and shed blood on the cross. Praise God that he is no respecter of persons and sees to the needs of his children, even in the far reaches of his vineyard.

We ministered with Brother Ephraim for nine days. We witnessed many healings, did much counseling, cast out many evil spirits, sang many praises to Jesus Christ, prayed often, and enjoyed great fellowship. Brother Gross and I shared the Book of Mor-

mon and the gospel story with our brother. We are praying for and waiting for God to confirm the truthfulness of God's revelation in the Book of Mormon. We are confident in the promise God gave to all who seek to know the truth about the Book of Mormon.

We will return to visit Brother Ephraim, as God provides. We hope to share in the fullness of God's latter day work with this Spirit filled servant of the Most High God. Ephraim is an evangelist who has a burning desire to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout India. Please pray we can all come together, experience the fullness of the gospel, and have the means to work together to accomplish this worthy goal.

In Jesus Christ's abundant love,
Elder Jim Dunning, Nov. 20, 2006

Meet Roque Gutierrez

In the mountains of Abancay, Peru lives a teacher in the Restoration named Roque. He found the gospel in January, 2005, through a co-worker named Hugo Flores, an elder in the Restoration Branches. Roque had served the Lord in different churches for years, including the Mormon church. At his baptism, the visiting ministers received evidence that he was called to the office of teacher. Steady jobs are scarce in Peru. Roque is now a taxi driver for the night shift.

A few months ago his niece needed 130 soles (Peruvian money) in one night's work for his niece to be able to take her test at school the next day. Roque was able to start 45 minutes early on his shift. He knew that the Lord needed to especially bless him for his niece's sake. The Lord provided a steady flow of passengers. When he would let one fare off, another rider would be close by. He didn't stop for 8 hours. He noted that many other taxis were sitting idle. In the end, he made exactly the amount of money for his niece's need. They praised the Lord.

Earlier, when Roque was without work, he and his sister fasted for four days for God's help. On the last day, while praying, Roque was contacted by Hugo Flores to meet someone who might employ him in Abancay. While waiting for his appointment, Roque met a man who needed assistance. Roque helped him get to several places around town. When Roque said he needed to leave to meet a man, the man said he also had an appointment. As they talked, they realized that they were to meet each other! The man had no intention of giving work to persons in Abancay, but when he saw the usefulness and integrity of Roque, he invited him to apply, and Roque was

given work that night! Praise God for His mercy and power.

Roque also did some work last year for the government in preparing villages for the voting process. He had to walk miles and miles in the Andes mountains without roads or maps to get to these villages.

Once while traveling to one of these places, it rained and he was very cold. He found limited shelter for the night. The next morning as he began to walk, he saw the clouds in the sky and knew that it would soon rain. He cried out to the Lord to hold the rain, fearing that if he got wet again, he would get pneumonia. The clouds soon parted and when Roque arrived at the village, he was asked if he was a religious man. They had seen the clouds part. This allowed him to preach the gospel to a group of men that day.

He left there with directions to get to the next village...some 5 days walk over various summits. As he walked, he saw a dove fly before him and knew God was leading him. The next night as he slept, he dreamed that God said, "I have protected you from dangers on one side and evil persons on the other." He awakened and praised God. On the third day he became very tired and laid down to rest. During that time, a young man hurried to catch up with him. He was sent from the last village to warn him that he was in danger. When Roque awoke, the young man was at his feet. Soon after, men on horseback appeared, wearing guns and grenades. They asked them where they were going, and Roque showed his government credentials and his purpose, and the young man was his assistant.

The men asked the two to come to their "camp" in the mountains. When Roque began to explain the process to a group of some 200 men gathered there, he witnessed the killing of 9 persons. One man stood up and said to Roque, "What is your defense?" (As if to say you've seen all this, and why should you live.) Roque stated boldly, "I am a child of God and have no need to fear and no need for a defense. Another man came forward and said, "Say more about that."

Roque preached the gospel for several hours and some 90 persons came forward, bowed down on their knees and cried out with tears unto the Lord, for forgiveness. The next day the men carried Roque and the young man to the next town on horseback and they arrived a day early! Glory to God.

The seeds of truth were planted and we praise God that the gospel was preached and hearts were touched by the boldness of our brother Roque.

The young man was so touched by the power of God that he continues to visit our brother when he passes through Abancay.

Roque has a list of some 17 villages where he has planted the seed many times – with more than 150 persons in all. With more watering, he believes many will believe in the fullness of the gospel.

Pray for the work in Peru and for the Lord to bring continued ministry to prepare him for greater service and strengthening to the rest of the saints in Peru. May the Lord of the harvest bring forth workers and raise up the harvest in Peru. Has he called you to assist?

By Elder Gary Metzger

**THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF
RESTORATION BRANCHES**

**P. O. BOX 3310
INDEPENDENCE, MO
64055-8310**

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If your branch has a person willing to function as a contact resource please let the JCRB know. An e-mail and telephone number with a mailing address will greatly help us to keep the saints informed. Please write or e-mail us with this information.

2007 JCRB Schedule

- **All Branch Worship – January 21, 2007 at Colbern Road Restoration Branch.**
Theme: The Great and Marvelous Work: Testimonies from the Field.
- **Winter Gathering – February 23-24, 2007 at Colbern Road Restoration Branch**
See details on page 3 of this newsletter
- **Conference Week – April 1-April 8, 2007**
Conference of Restoration Elders meeting from April 1-April 4 (ends at noon)
Joint Conference of Restoration Branches meeting from 1pm April 4–April 8.
Both Conferences will meet at the Center Place Restoration School/Waldo
Restoration Branch facility

Check the Website for more details: www.conferenceofbranches.org