



# Salt

a pastoral retreat

## GO AHEAD, PUSH THE BUTTON

With a cup of coffee in hand, I reflect on the years past and how God has woven this project together. Such a tapestry of people, each hand selected by the only One who would know their individual gifts, talents, wisdom and skill. Orchestrating from the heavens, the Lord who sees and provides — Jehovah-Jireh, brought each to Salt in His perfect timing. God has shown us not only His involvement in the project, but His faithfulness to answer prayer when it is consistent with His will.

As I look ahead and consider how God is leading us this year, it appears that this will be our busiest yet. As is His way at Salt, God directs our path by who He sends and what He provides. It is becoming apparent that He is directing us to complete the exterior of the building and then push on to finish the inside.

How cool would it be to see the project and people through God's eyes? The workers, both those that have yet to arrive and those who have labored long on the project, a team committed to the task. Like watching a movie on DVR, push the fast forward button and see the celebration of the building's completion and the intended purpose of the ministry getting underway. Push the button again and see what the finished project really looks like, what our Lord sees, not just the building but Jesus' grace and mercy alive at Salt. See Jesus cradling His chosen there, revitalizing them and calling them back to His service.



Fast forward one last time and see those same chosen few, rising up, overcoming the trials of being a preacher, a teacher and a messenger called by the Lord. They have been restored and once again are delivering His message of love. They are vital to His work and His people, *"for 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"*

Romans 10:13-16 NIV

The purpose of this ministry is clear—to deliver the healing touch of Jesus to those whom He has sent. Where is our remote control? We want to push that button! God has given us a vision, and we will press on until we finish the task. Jehovah-Jireh already sees, He knows the need of His people. Not just the need of a project completed; no, a need much greater — the fortifying of His chosen few who are sent to teach others in the knowledge of His great love. You can be a part of fulfilling this commission, this vision. Just show up here at Salt, and you too will witness how God can touch you through your service.

Your servant in Christ,  
Don



*Be a part of the vision . . . coming to light*

# Wildlife Recreation



## March 2016 Winter Mission Event



Our year started with six young, excited and energetic hearts from Corban University making their way from Salem Oregon. A group on fire for the Lord and how they might serve Him at Salt. This delightful band of helpers set about preparing the building for the beginnings of its stonework and doing what only the young at heart can and still have a good time, insulating the crawl space. We are pretty confident that none of this was quite what they had anticipated, but you could never tell. We simply gave a brief explanation of what needed to be done, pointed in that general direction and off to work they went. None of them had a clue what they were doing, but were pros at it when they were done!

The work wasn't glamorous or what most people would call an "excellent time". Each day was filled with the sound of hammers pounding, drills grinding and saws whining. But the best sound of all was that of their laughter. They made the best of what was often difficult, mostly tedious and dirty work.

When the week was finished they were tired and exhausted, but still joyful at heart. The Lord knew how much we needed their help. We hope they know how grateful we are for all they did. They laid the groundwork for the rest of the year. They made ready what was needed for the teams to follow. Because of them, everyone after was able to do their part.

Thank you Travis, Carley, Mattias, Celine, Becky and Jenna. We hope that after you have rested up, you will

join us again and marvel over all that God has accomplished by way of your hard work here at Salt.



## 5th Annual Spring Event

Many of those who attend the Spring Event return every year. They have a good grasp on where this project is going and have no doubt that it will eventually get there. This year they laid out the welcome mat for two new Board Members, celebrated our 4th Annual Pastor Appreciation Event and thanks to Laticrete International's generous and timely donation, began teaching themselves how to make rocks stick to walls.



It is truly amazing how our Lord is ever faithful to provide the tools, materials and the means to accomplish His work. Our job is simple, we just need to listen and follow His lead. This team has repeatedly remained faithful to forgo their own ideas of what to do next, in response to what God puts on the agenda. Just

a few weeks before this Event, and very unexpectedly, Laticrete International's shipment of materials arrived. This enabled us to begin the process of drying in the building. Not a single one of us had any idea how this was to be done, but we had a mind to do it right. So after a few attending the infamous school of "YouTube" we got straight to work. How exciting it was. Fred soon became recognized as the "Mix Master", the ladies "but-

tered" the stone, Don became the stone layer, and the rest of us filled in the gaps.

It is so clear that God has a plan here, He has us on a mission in every sense of the word. We need only to show up and do what we are able. Somehow that is always enough. We don't need to know how to do it, we just need to be willing and this team certainly is.





# Servanthood



## A TIME TO BUILD, TO SERVE

By Carole Harmon

A couple of years ago I caught the vision for the Salt Mountain Pastoral Retreat and have helped with various projects and chores at the main building. If I look at the big picture of all that needs to be done, I'm overwhelmed. So, like others working there, I look at what I can help with that needs doing now.

My first time at the retreat, on top of that mountain, I marveled at "forever" views of majestic mountain peaks, the unpolluted air, and the distinct silence that permeates that lookout. It is, indeed, a perfect location for a retreat center. I still enjoy the peacefulness found there.

After vacuuming the areas to be covered by the flooring, I've helped measure, cut, and lay a "jigsaw puzzle" of solid insulation sections. I've helped my husband and others load, haul, and stack firewood (that they sawed from a downed, dead tree at the base of the mountain). I've watched skilled workers attach thin, narrow strips of wood to a wall, creating a beautiful pattern; others anchor a mosaic of rocks to the outside walls; drill holes for electrical wires; string those electrical wires through the many holes; hang ceiling lights; sort and insert dozens of PVC plumbing pipes in various shapes and sizes; and so many other tasks that were mind-boggling to me.

Preparing food for the group of workers—that is something I feel capable of doing. Not by myself, mind you, and not including figuring the quantities of food needed or the menus. I'm the cook's aid. LaNette Harper creates mouth-watering, hearty meals from an assortment of foods, some "hiding" at the bottom of a box or cooler or in the back of the one refrigerator.

She crams boxes and boxes of food into her SUV and hauls them across the miles and up the mountain. LaNette is one of the few people I've met who can skillfully cook on a wood-burning stove, or, in the midst of summer heat, on a two-burner propane cook stove—and for 20-30 people! She looks forward to completion of the modern commercial kitchen.

It's a blessing to experience the camaraderie of a diverse group of volunteers as they work and eat together. A day at Salt Mountain always reminds me of the blessed unity we can experience with fellow believers, regardless of their backgrounds, their ages, their skills, or their regional accents. We share our experiences, our habits, our expertise or lack of it, and our common love for Jesus. We laugh, sigh, grumble, yell over the equipment noise, or lean back in silent contentment after a meal or in relief during a well-deserved break. I look forward from year to year to visit with some of the same workers who travel far and near to serve at Salt's retreat-in-the making.

God equips each of us to contribute to His work. Teresa and Don Wade, who are the local liaisons for this great undertaking, find something for each person to do, regardless of their skills or physical limitations. However, at Salt Mountain, the workers are too few and the many tasks seemingly endless. More workers would speed the completion of this great retreat center and usher it on to its purpose—to minister to the battle-scarred shepherd, counsel the weary counselor, and wash the feet of those called into God's service. Won't you join us for a few days or longer? You would be blessed, and so would we.

A special Event just for  
Pastors & their Families!

# PASTOR APPRECIATION EVENT

Lunch  
Bowling  
Family Fun



**IT'S FREE!!!**

**For You & Your Family**

**April 13, 2017**

**11am - 1pm**

**Salmon Strike Zone**

**215 South Church Street**

**Salmon, Idaho**

**(208) 756-2802**



# Encouragement

[www.saltmountain.org](http://www.saltmountain.org)



## Thanks To The Happy Home Rock Movers!

What do you do when you get a call and the familiar voice on the other end says, "We want to come to Salt, what can we do?"

That's just how it happened, LaNette and a few of the youth from Happy Home Community Church wanted to pay us an unexpected visit. Not knowing what else to do, we looked upward and said "What have You got in mind now?" Turns out it was finishing the fireplace! Who knew?



The tiny team of one adult and three youth arrived and set about gathering literally thousands of pounds of stone from the mountainside for the long awaited fireplace.

Take a minute and put this in perspective, this was no small undertaking (look at that fireplace, it's not only beautiful, it's mammoth!) Then as only God can arrange, Sergio, our stone mason just happened to have a void in his calendar that Salt was conveniently able to fill. With a little help from his family and friends, Sergio spent almost a month at Salt creating a masterpiece far beyond what we had ever hoped. His master skill became evident as he beat into shape each stone and nestled it in place. When he was done with the fireplace, he went to work on the entryway. We had an idea what it would look like. But again underestimated Sergio's true talent and skill. What a grand place the King has in mind. We are so blessed.



Do you remember this newsletter insert from just a few years ago? We never did make that donation goal, but whoever said a little thing like finances ever stopped our Almighty God? It certainly wasn't anyone from this organization! How's that Yiddish proverb go? "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans."

We truly must keep our Father in stitches as He watches us stumble around in search of His direction. We no sooner think the sign said turn left and He corrects us steering us right.

A good example is the heating of "The Great House". We thought we wanted radiant floor heat, He corrected us when he sent John Forsberg and Tracy Allen. Especially when they came complete with nearly all the radiators for the entire building generously donated by Consolidated Supply of Seattle, Washington.



This shaved literally thousands of \$\$ off of our budget. We are still lacking a few of the radiators needed to complete the project, but we have

learned we have nothing to worry about. Jehovah-Jireh has that under control too. In His timing they will arrive and it will be a testimony to someone watching from the sidelines. It seems that Salt

is His theater for proving His existence to those who doubt who He is and what He is doing here. It's so much fun to have a role on His stage.







[www.saltmountain.org](http://www.saltmountain.org)

# Focus



# Purpose



## September 2016 Summer Mission Event

The glow of progress was alive in the eyes of this team. Salt had made such a visible transformation since their last visit. All were excited to keep up the momentum. We had a good sized group, some masters in their craft and others there to assist them. Our normal way of doing things is to break into small groups, each with a particular project and a leader familiar with what needs to be done.



Ron and Skip continued in their on-going quest to finish the metal crafting. (It looks so good!) Teresa had decided on the final details of the window trim. Mark, Lindsey, Pam and Benny each furrowed their brows and went to work on that. Marcus picked up where he left off last trip; trying to shed some light on the place.



Eddie and Brian joined forces again

to try to wrap up the plumbing phase. Sandy and Paula tediously wrapped all the radiant heat piping to protect it from UV rays until it can be covered. Fred, and Bob with Don and Teresa continued with the ledger stone work. Then of course Chef Harper and her assistant Carole, had the most important job of all, feeding the crew. They do it so tastily too!

The fellowship at Salt was so warm and the sense of accomplishment so great, the end of our short week came all too soon. We can't wait to see what the place looks like when we join together again this summer.



## OUR NEXT MISSION IS JUST A FEW WEEKS AWAY

**April 8-15**

## PASTOR STRESS: BY THE NUMBERS



More than 8 out of 10 pastors agree they feel they must be "on-call" 24 hours a day.



53 percent of pastors say they are often concerned about the financial security of their family.



54 percent of pastors agree the role of pastor is frequently overwhelming.



More than 1 in 3 pastors agree ministry demands keep them from spending time with family.



## THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT MINISTRY



More than 9 in 10 married pastors agree their spouse has found a fulfilling ministry in their church. And 94 percent of married pastors agree their spouse is enthusiastic about life in ministry together.



1%

More than 9 in 10 pastors agree their families regularly receive genuine encouragement from their congregations.

About 1 percent of pastors a year leave the pastorate for non-ministry jobs or non-pastoral roles in ministry.

## PASTOR CARE LINE

**1-844-4PASTOR**  
(1-844-472-7867)

Available 8 a.m.-10 p.m. ET  
Provided by Focus on the Family.

*"Ye are the salt of the earth;  
but if the salt have lost his savour,  
wherewith shall it be salted?  
it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out,  
and to be trodden under foot of men." Matt 5:13*



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

*Salt*