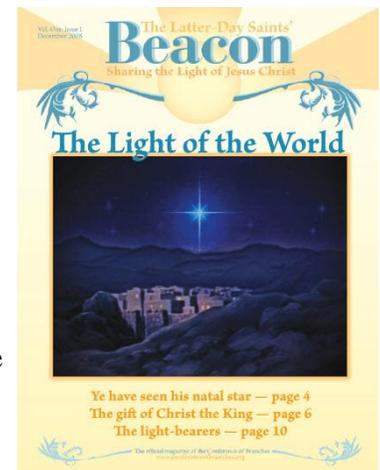

Date: **March 20, 2018**
From: **Gary Whiting**
Report: **The Latter Day Saints' Beacon**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with gratitude and thanksgiving to our Father in heaven and his son Jesus Christ that we bring you the report for *The Latter Day Saints' Beacon* for the past year. We wish to acknowledge, first of all, our indebtedness to the grace and power of God for supporting us in the publication of the magazine for the JCRB.

We, the staff of the *Beacon*, count it a privilege to be able to serve the community of the Saints of the Restoration and our Lord Jesus Christ through the vehicle of this magazine. Although there have been significant challenges to overcome in the past twelve months, the magazine continues and, we are happy to announce, that it has entered into its tenth year of publication.

The first issue of *The Latter Day Saints' Beacon* appeared in December 2008 as volume one, number one. Each December begins a new volume year making December 2017 – January 2018, volume 10 of the magazine. Throughout the years the magazine has been privileged to continue to grow in quality, both its content as well as the production quality. We have been pleased to be associated with aPrintis, Inc. over the past few years, who has been doing the print work which has helped make the magazine look and feel more professional. Combined with the hard work of the editorial and proofreading staff and the graphic design work of Sister Tara Broadway, the magazine has matured and become the useful means for educating and encouraging the Saints.



The Latter Day Saints' Beacon could not survive without the support of readership and of the General Conference. We have not been forced to ask for subscription fees due to the generosity of the Conference and the Saints who read the magazine. We appreciate the prayerful support of the Saints as well.

When we began planning and production of the magazine in 2008, many of us who were involved in the process had very little or no experience in the production of a magazine. There was, however, just enough prior experience to get us started and to train the inexperienced in the process. It is surprising to discover how many steps and how much work is involved in the process of collecting, writing, editing and preparing for publication a magazine such as the *Beacon*.

As the Chief Editor, I am very grateful to the diligent, consistent and faithful hard work of the editorial staff of the *Beacon* and of the proofreading staff. Over the years, they have always done what was required in order to produce a magazine. Granted, we sometimes are behind in our production schedule, but we have never allowed the schedule to interfere with our effort to produce the highest quality magazine possible. The continued prayerful support the staff of the *Beacon* to allow us to have the strength to continue the work and the wisdom to know how to reduce the magazine is very much needed and appreciated.

Over the past ten years the members of the editorial staff have changed significantly. Every person who has served on the staff has made a positive impression on the *Beacon*. These are the people who built the foundation of quality and integrity for the *Beacon*. The current staff has continued to meet the high standards which were established from the very beginning. The

current group of editors are talented and dedicated. They have all put in many hours of labor in an effort to produce each issue of the magazine. Listed below the names of the editorial staff, graphic designer and proofreading staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Gary R. Whiting
Hugh Caldwell
Barbra Jordison
Chad Nestman
Genie Simmons
H. Alan Smith

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Tara Broadway

PROOFREADERS:

Wendy Weiss
Genie Simmons
Sandy Crandall
Sandy Whiting
Sande Cromwell

We meet at least once a month for an hour or two to discuss matters regarding the production of the *Beacon*. We have had many excellent discussions and in many ways we become like family to one another in the relationship of working on the magazine. Our family has suffered significant losses due to death over the past twelve months. Last fall, Sister Joy Muir died. In December, another charter editor of the *Beacon*, Warren Bennett, also died.

Sister Muir was well known in the Center Place area as well as internationally. She was energetic, outgoing and loved to do whatever she could to encourage people to come to faith in Jesus Christ and stand faithful and true to the gospel which has been restored in the last days. She was the longtime author of the column, "This is My Joy," which appeared over several years in the *Beacon*. We will miss her contribution tremendously. Just before Conference this year, we learned of the death of Joy's husband, Richard. They were an inseparable couple in life and now, it appears, in death as well. Our sympathies and prayers for the comfort of the Lord to be upon the Muir family continue. Joy's daughter, Wendy Weiss, serves on the *Beacon* staff as a very good proofreader. Her contributions have been very significant over the years. We ask you to join us as we continue to pray for the peace of God to be with her and her family in this time of significant loss.

Brother Warren Bennett was an early part of the *Beacon* staff. He had a very curious and intelligent mind. He was constantly reading and investigating various aspects of the Scriptures. He especially enjoyed finding things related to the Book of Mormon. He continued on the *Beacon* staff for several years until he moved to Illinois to be closer to his family and it became increasingly difficult for him, because of age, to continue. Even after he left the *Beacon*, he continued to write short articles or point out discoveries that he made. Many of his articles have appeared in the *Beacon* over the years. He was a valuable friend and colleague in the magazine and his loss is acutely felt by those of us who knew him well. Our prayers go to his family and we hope for the comfort of the Lord to be with them in their loss.

We are always looking for individuals who have a desire to participate in the work of producing *The Latter Day Saints' Beacon*. We certainly could accept two or three additional individuals to assist us in the work that needs to be done. If you have any desire to assist in the work of the *Beacon* please contact us through beacon@conferencebranches.org.

A few months ago we began rotating the editorial responsibility for individual issues amongst the editors. This has helped to distribute the workload of production and hopefully will also instill some variety in the magazine that will allow you to sense some of the personalities, perhaps of the individual editors as they exert their influence and vision on particular issues.

Beginning with the April, 2018 *Beacon* we will begin with a survey of the Book of Mormon. The general theme for each of the next twelve issues will be based on a portion of the Book of Mormon. We intend to look at one book at a time, or in the case of the smaller books, a group of books. We believe that this will help to illuminate the importance of the Book of Mormon for the day in which we live, the work it must do in the restoration the house of Israel and the declaration of the plainness and the purity of the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is our pleasure to provide this service to the conference. May God's grace attend with us all as we strive to perform the important work of gospel in the last days.

In Gospel Bonds,

Gary Whiting, Editor in Chief, *The Latter Day Saints' Beacon*

Date: **March 20, 2018**
From: **Debbie Newman**
Report: **Restoration Women's Ministries (RWM)**

The RWM committee greets you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, with grateful hearts and a deep desire to serve Him.

The RWM Committee, from its origin, exists to provide ministry to women of all ages: from young ladies to mature women. Our mission is summed up in our moto: "***Working toward the Kingdom with a focus on Service, Education and Mentoring for women of all ages.***"

The Committee continues to support the JCRB when we meet for International Conference in April and for the U.S. National Conference in October. During the quorum sessions we have provided opportunity for women to gather in fellowship for worship and discussion of the conference topics and that which is upon the hearts of the women. We encourage women to engage in the conference discussions and activities. The Committee also has provided a Women's Banquet one night during the April conference. This gives opportunity for fellowship with women of many backgrounds as the invitation is for all women of the Restoration.

Upon request, the committee will respond to the invitation to travel and provide ministry to women both in the U.S. and though out the world. In the last year, Committee members have provided ministry in the following ways: taught classes locally; corresponded with the women of the restoration; the committee has supported the start of a Facebook page for widows and some individual members have given counseling to widows; supported a local branch involvement with the "Widow's Might" that gives support to the widows in Kenya; given support to women in forming a Women's Dept. in their local branch. When opportunity arises, as the Spirit leads we make efforts to fulfill the requests.

The Committee has developed another year of study: "Sowers of the Word – Lessons from the Seed." This study contains 10 lessons plus an Advent Fellowship service for December. Every year the Committee has striven to produce quality studies that promote women's spiritual growth and response to build up the Kingdom of God. This year makes the 10th women's study produced by the RWM Committee. In the future, the Committee will concentrate on updating all of the studies instead of writing new ones every year.

As in the past, we continue to write a column in the *Beacon* with the hope it strengthens our readers.

Even though we know there are many challenges that lay before us, we also know that God provides a way to meet them. Our desire is that we hear His calling and respond to the opportunities He presents us in bringing service and ministry to our kindred Sisters.

Respectfully submitted,
Restorations Women's Ministries

Term Ends April

Betty Vickery (2018)
Debbie Newman (2018)
Karen Bates (2019)
Chari Pederson (2019)

Lorrie Turner (2019)
Barbara Giertz (2020)
Rita Woolery (2020)



Date: **March 22, 2018**
From: **Janice Jordison**
Report: **JCRB Finance Office**

The most significant happening in the office this fiscal year has been the retirement of Sister Barbara Giertz, the office and facility manager. A retirement party in her honor was given December 31st. Sister Giertz was an outstanding manager, bringing a positive influence to all she came in contact with. She remains a resource person and has offered to volunteer when needed.

Janice Jordison has been named the new office and facility manager and she and Marilyn James work together to keep the office running as smoothly as possible.

Brother George Mefferd checks in to make sure the tracts offered are on the shelf or reprinted. There are some books that can be purchased. There is Stewardship information and tithing statements on hand and the Restoration Women's Committee has Women's Study books for sale.

Office personnel are also responsible for the mailing of the BEACON magazine and are aided by volunteers for some of the work.

The meeting room in the building provides a place for meetings as well as classes. It is also used for video conferences and on-line meetings held by various committees/quorums.

If you have questions or need information, we will be happy to assist you or direct you to the appropriate persons.

We invite you to stop by any time. Our office is open Monday-Thursday from 10:00am-4:00 pm.

Janice Jordison
JCRB Finance Office
1100 W Truman Road
Independence MO 64050
816-252-1457