

Remnant Family Reunion

May 15th-17th 2015

Grand Mesa Area-Colorado



Friends in Christ,

The following packet of information is provided for those families who have signed up for the upcoming “Remnant Family Reunion.”

It is our hope that this summary will help you and your family prepare spiritually for the gathering ahead and also provide you with the practical details you need to make your trip a success.

Included here are some statements concerning the purpose of the retreat, a rough draft schedule of what we have planned, and some practical “nuts and bolts” type of information—so that you can plan out the details in a way that best fits your family.

As always we encourage you to follow the Holy Spirit when determining whether this gathering is right for you. For those who do feel led to come, various spiritual options will be provided so that you can determine how to best use your time in this area and at the retreat.

In addition, because many individuals are still deciding whether the Lord would have them attend this event and because not everyone following the developments of this conference have sincere intentions or pure motives, we offer the following summary for clarification.

The Purpose of the Retreat:

First, the Lord Jesus Christ directed that the Remnant Family Reunion occur. This gathering is one small part of His great Latter Day work and the Lord Himself, in harmony with our repentance and free agency, will decide what is to be accomplished before and during the retreat.

With that acknowledged, the theme or spirit of the gathering is to remember and reclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as taught by the Prophet Joseph Smith during the initial Restoration. All that is scheduled and planned centers around deepening our own personal repentance, that in Christ, we might yet become a Zion people.

In 1832, many of the Saints were praying vocally to know the will of the Lord in relation to the building up of Zion. In response, the Lord provided this revelation through the Prophet Joseph Smith. (D&C 88:74-84). Today we remember this scripture, first because many throughout the world now cry out for their *Messiah*, and second, because it relates to this gathering.

And I give unto you, who are the first laborers in this last kingdom, a commandment that you assemble yourselves together, and organize yourselves, and prepare yourselves, and sanctify yourselves; yea, purify your hearts, and cleanse your hands and your feet before me, that I may make you clean; That I may testify unto your Father, and your God, and my God, that you are clean from the blood of this wicked generation; that I may fulfil this promise, this great and last promise, which I have made unto you, when I will. Also, I give unto you a commandment that ye shall continue in prayer and fasting from this time forth. And I give unto you a commandment that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom. Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand; Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms – That ye may be prepared in all things when I shall send you again to magnify the calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with which I have commissioned you. Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor. Therefore, they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads. He that seeketh me early shall find me, and shall not be forsaken. Therefore, tarry ye, and labor diligently, that you may be perfected in your ministry to go forth among the Gentiles for the last time, as many as the mouth of the Lord shall name, to bind up the law and seal up the testimony, and to prepare the saints for the hour of judgment which is to come;

– D&C 88: 74-84

One of the challenges, when explaining the retreat to others, centers around how to explain the gathering in a way that neither minimizes nor overstates the purpose of the gathering. And so we simply say: “Yes, the purpose of this gathering is prepare ourselves spiritually for Christ, that in Him, we might yet contribute to the literal building of Latter Day Zion. In addition, scripture promises that those who look forward to the *great day of the Lord* (D&C 45:39) and become *pure in heart* will indeed see God. (Matthew 5:8) And so at this key time in the spiritual progression of the earth, we now support and proclaim the truth that God is at work and is actively involved in sanctifying a broken and humble people throughout the earth. In truth, these souls are mingled throughout the earth, but they do not imagine themselves “worthy.” Rather they continue to seek a day when they might yet fall at the feet of the Master and be received of Him in the flesh.

In that spirit, we proclaim that the question is not whether Jesus Christ will return, but to whom will He return?

If the Lord and His angels do find souls that can be gathered unto Zion before and during the destruction, how encompassing might His harvest be?

Let it be clearly stated: Prophecy will be fulfilled. Scripture will be enacted. It is only a matter of choice for us, whether we will repent in "sackcloth and ashes," to the degree that we might yet contribute in some small way to His Victory...Unto the Father.... Forevermore.

This initial gathering in May is about teaching the doctrines of the kingdom, as provided through the Prophet Joseph Smith and in scripture, that we might yet be able to warn all who will listen of the impending calamities ahead. This conference is also about preparing for a real Zion, instead of pretending it already exists.

To support this sacred cause, like-minded people are choosing to gather and worship God. During the conference there will be instruction, testimony, praise, dance, worship, and symbolism.

In addition to the collective purposes of the conference, each family is encouraged to **determine their own specific reasons** for attending the retreat.

In the end, what you experience in May will mostly be between you and the Lord. We have simply provided some structure for you to plan your spiritual retreat around. Many who have contacted me to sign up for the retreat have let me know that they intend to carry out some of the sacred desires which the Lord has planted in their hearts. And so for some this gathering may be an environment to enact those special desires with other like-minded souls. Due to this reality, time has been allotted for both larger group events-as well as individual and/or small-group activities.

In summary, the Remnant Family Reunion is a chance for "like-minded" individuals to talk, testify, and celebrate their Lord together. People are coming from all over the United States and even some from other countries. I attribute this response to the fact that many souls have a strong spiritual hunger to commune with those who love God and seek a true fullness of the Gospel. This event is one opportunity to meet, greet, talk, laugh, and find unity with others who seek to become clean from the blood and sins of this generation.

When pondering the conference, one inspired woman summarized the event in this way: "To enter into the Lord's presence requires three knocks and the Lord's approval to "let that person enter." "This gathering on the Mesa is like the "first knock." I appreciate this simple and profound summary – because it doesn't minimize or maximize what is occurring at the Retreat. Whether this retreat is the way the Lord would have you and your family offer a "first knock," is between you and Him.

Spiritual Clarification: (What the gathering is not)

The Remnant gathering is NOT an attempt to begin another church. Most of the participants attending this event have had all of the "organized religion" they can stomach and have no desire to control or oppress or lead in any manner. As a prophet of God has said, "we don't need another church," and so instead we seek to gather as an informal

community of believers to teach, explore, and practice the Zion principles necessary for true salvation. (D&C 105:1-6).

The Reunion is also NOT a formal or literal attempt to build Zion. Although one faithful participant said with humor that He wanted to set up his tent on the Mesa and never go home...this is a temporary gathering to practice and prepare for the Lord's Zion ahead. Let us remember that no group or person can bring about a literal Latter Day Zion. Only the Lord Jesus Christ and His angels can enact and accomplish so great a work! At this time in history, it remains our privilege to support the Lord's purposes by individually repenting, that by strengthening our families in Him, we might one day be blessed to contribute to what the Lord will accomplish in His way and in His time.

The Reunion is also NOT about another apostate ego trip, anyone being a strongman, an attempt to gain fame or influence, a subtle plan to deceive, or some type of "break off" from the LDS Church.

The Reunion is also NOT about racing up the mountain to be devoured by the Beast. Recently, there have been some who have determined this conference represents "rushing up the pass." This is an amazing conclusion – due to the fact that we have not even released the details of the retreat. A person can only wonder how we will ever become a united Zion people with so many assumptions being made without correct knowledge!

Hopefully, this summary will provide a more accurate view of what the Lord has directed, but regardless of rumor and gossip, we encourage all to go directly to the Lord and then follow His guidance with exactness. (Which for some will include coming, and for others it will include not coming). Those who do feel led to come may resonate with the comment of one woman who said, "Just because we shouldn't run up the mountain – doesn't mean we shouldn't do anything."

The bottom line is this: the Lord directs, and we obey. If anything good is to occur in May, it will be because of Him. Encouraging anything that represents "running up the pass" is not part of our intention or agenda.

Finally, please know this retreat is NOT about polluting a sacred area. Many on both sides of the veil, (and on both sides of this spiritual war), understand that the Grand Mesa has a special potential yet to be realized. In truth, there is great possibility surrounding this area – but it is just that, "a possibility." We would be wise to not make assumptions about how the Lord will fulfill Latter Day Prophecy, and so to those souls who are concerned about hundreds of people corrupting something that could one day be used for sacred purposes, we state emphatically that the purpose of the event is not to pollute, or get ahead of the Lord, but instead to contribute to the **Light and Holiness to the area**. It is our intention to be wise and obedient, only enacting that which the Lord directs. It is true that the organizers of this event cannot control the individual agency of every person who attends the retreat, but each element of the gathering has been organized in a way to honor what the Lord honors, and respect what He respects. He is the miracle. He is the Way. None of us "owns the Mesa" and we should all remember that He is in charge of *All Things* – including the Mesa and its future purpose.

Those who continue to have hesitations or concerns about this retreat should respect their internal guidance and not participate. Only those who are at peace with attending are encouraged to come. Those who come to the retreat out of curiosity, or to find-fault, will find plenty of error and human weaknesses to confirm their fear-based assumptions. Those who come with doubt and bitterness in their hearts will have all of their criticisms confirmed, not

because it has to be that way, but because the adversary will support you in calling “evil good and good evil.” (Isaiah 5:20).

Believing in Unbelief

“How vital, therefore, for us to know the realities: There is a plan of salvation; there was an apostasy; and now there has been a restoration. God has given man moral agency, leaving him free to believe or disbelieve, or to disregard the divine and spiritual evidence. Thus an incredible irony emerges: As people become less believing there are fewer spiritual experiences, and this is twisted by the disbeliever into confirmation of his premises.”

—Neal A. Maxwell, *Men and Women of Christ*

In comparison, those who come to experience Jesus Christ, depending on Him alone, will experience the Lord and His Zion to the exact degree their spiritual preparation allows. This is the Promise. He is the miracle. In truth, each of us decides our own experience and our own destiny. This spiritual fact is applicable to all of life—and also in relation to this gathering. Those who are expecting another person, speaker, or event to satisfy their spiritual hunger will be disappointed. For there is only ONE who will never fail you, never disappoint you, and never accidentally hurt you. So let us turn to Him and have Him heal us from our fears, traumas and false assumptions.

In summary, this conference is NOT about the rumors and assumptions going around the Internet, but it is about preparing for Jesus Christ and His Zion. Nothing more. Nothing less.

To those who are Undecided about the Conference:

Most of the people who have signed up for the conference have done so because the Spirit of the Lord suggested they come and participate. In addition to this growing group, there are many others who have contacted me out of curiosity-and are now considering whether or not they should come.

This is my response and suggestion:

If the Lord does not personally direct you to come to this gathering, then let the idea pass, and work to serve Him in a different way as He directs. Each of us has our own unique errand from the Lord, and what is most important is that we do His will in relation to our specific life assignments.

With that said, I have written a simple test for you to conduct—right here, right now—even as you read this letter, to help you decide about coming to the retreat.

Here is the test...I am going to type on this page a short message that the Lord has suggested I deliver to those who are coming to the retreat. **When you read this short phrase notice whether you feel or hear the Lord leading you to come.** If you do, then you might feel an overall peace about this conference. If you do not, then that should help you move forward in a different direction. Please understand, the message offered here is not the primary point, but only a method for obtaining clarify from God.

Here is what He told me:

To the remnant of my God, and to the remnant of Jacob, and to all the House of Israel, both to the repentant Gentiles, and to the bloodline of my family, Let it be said:

Fear not and receive the peace of Christ.

For in me, the harvest is great.

And the soul finds a bounty – amongst a lost and starving world.

I am the Way. My Father is the Truth.

I am the Christ, and He is our God.

If you will come unto Me as never before, I will lead you home and provide an escape from this lone and dreary world of sin.

Come, come my friends. Hear my voice and let us go forward into the wilderness of Zion.

Do you hear His voice? Do you feel His power and love? If so, then let Him lead you in relation to this gathering and in relation to *All Things*.

And if you do not hear His voice, or feel His presence, but instead feel doubtful or uneasy, then let this conference idea go. And instead of coming, go and serve Him in the way in which He specifically assigns you. What matters is that we each please Him in our unique assignments. Coming to a place that does not fit your spiritual path will not bring fruit in Him for you...so go in peace.

And to those who are coming, this verse:

Joseph's response to a question from Elias Higbee:

"Put on thy strength, O Zion... – and what people had Isaiah reference to? He had reference to those whom God should call in the last days, who should hold the power of priesthood to bring again Zion, and the redemption of Israel; and to put on her strength is to put on the authority of the priesthood, which she, Zion, has a right to by lineage; also to return to that power which she had lost."

– D&C 113:7-8

Opposition, Rumors, Gossip, and Human Interpretation:

Whenever the Lord commands something to occur, dark forces make various attempts to thwart and derail the purposes of God.

In the end, all that Satan and Lucifer have attempted will be seen as futile, but because we currently live on enemy ground, and because this is a world full of corruption and imperfect souls, each of us must consistently work to bind and cast out the effect that opposition tries to impose upon our lives.

In relation to this conference, we in a spirit of collective faith, command by the power of Messiah: “Let darkness flee.” Furthermore, in the Power and Holiness of Jesus Christ, and within the realm of His eternal dominion, we rebuke evil – casting out the effect of various lies, distortions, rumors, and misleading messages which have gone forth attempting to create havoc, division, and disruption. **In His power we also invoke a blessing of protection and clarity upon all those who have pure motives and desire to attend the retreat. At this time, and in the name of Jesus Christ, we invoke a spirit of peace and protection upon you and your family.** Even though we have not met most of you, we bless you in Him. And if it His will that you come to the gathering, then we rebuke anything that is attempting to stand in opposition to God and His will concerning your family. Let His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

So as to empower this blessing, and let it reign supreme within the realm of personal agency, let all of us prepare by repenting more fully, that in casting out the enemy of our own soul, we can assist Jesus Christ in moving His work forward.

In summary, if you have been led by God and His Holy Spirit to attend the retreat – then we suggest that you do not let anything or anyone, get in the way of you joining us in May. In addition, please know that if you need spiritual or practical help in arriving at the retreat, please turn to the Lord for strength and then also contact us and let us know what assistance you need to make this possible. It is our goal to help every family who wants to come, arrive safely and with all of their needs met. (Zion practice for real!)

And finally, in relation to the personal and collective opposition that always manifests when something is of God, let us remember that there are many things none of us can control in this world, but what we can control is our own heart in relation to God. Those who come to the Mesa in Christ, will experience Him to the same degree they have individually and collectively prepared. No amount of ignorance or opposition staged against you can control your internal connection with the Divine...and so it is. For today –

We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

– The Prophet Joseph Smith, Article of Faith #11

Spiritual Preparation:

Recently someone asked me “who is coming to the gathering?” The response that came to my mind was, “those who have experienced a broken heart, a contrite spirit, and are now seeking Jesus Christ and His Zion.”

Over the past two months, I have been blessed to read the emails people have sent me about this retreat and their lives. There have been many times I sat at the computer screen and cried at their stories. I will just tell you that there has already been a great deal of heartache, sacrifice, and persecution experienced by those who will be attending. I personally am very excited to meet the people coming to the gathering, as they are the type of disciples I want to be around when latter-day prophecy is fulfilled.

In addition to the social aspects, this conference is also another opportunity for all of us to take that broken and flawed heart within us and deepen our sanctification in Jesus Christ. Similar to how we are required to repent before we are baptized, we all now have four

months until this event occurs. Each of us could utilize that time to deepen our personal consecration unto God. We could work to purge any remaining darkness and sin from our hearts. As stated, what you and your family experience, as well as what we collectively experience, is even now being spiritually chosen. Because all things are organized spiritually before they manifest physically, how we use our personal and collective agency right now will determine in degree how the conference goes in May. Let us sanctify ourselves now, that we might rejoice in May. Let us be wise in creating unity now, that we might not let pride and division pollute our souls and corrupt what could have been. And let us seek His face right now, that by changing our hearts, we might see and feel Him and His angels to the greatest degree possible.

When the Lord directed that this gathering be organized, I was surprised that He was giving such clear direction six months in advance. Since that time I have realized He did this in part so that we could prepare ourselves spiritually, both as families, and as a growing people. I was then reminded of the following scripture:

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

– Jeremiah 31:31-34

In accepting this truth, let us prepare ourselves by deepening our sacrifice, increasing our knowledge, purifying our desires, and releasing all that is required onto the altar of faith. Let us also sacrifice any personal agenda we may have in our hearts and simply follow His voice.

In summary, I cannot specifically tell you how to individually prepare for the spring – but He can. As the facilitator of this event, what I can promise you is that there are hundreds of other Saints excited to gather and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ without bureaucratic restraint and the false philosophies of men mingled with scripture. If you are hoping to meet like-minded Saints, then you will not be disappointed. And if you are hoping something even greater might happen privately – then seek the Lord and work out that special occurrence with Him on a personal basis.

Here in Colorado, we will do everything we can to provide the structure needed to create “sacred space,” but in the end, the only “sacred space” that really matters is the “Holy of Holies” deep within your own soul. In truth, it is you that decides with the Lord what this conference will include for you. So please prepare spiritually in every way that the Lord directs – and then come that we might all celebrate Him and His purposes together!

Choices for Children:

Most of the activities planned are for adults and those teens who are spiritually mature. Because so many families are making a great sacrifice to come to this gathering, and because it would not be realistic to “prepare for Zion” without the purity of children, we have tried to make accommodations for both teen-agers (ages 12-18) as well as young children (ages 3-11).

In relation to children and families, our goal is to provide physical space where parents can place their children and then be free to participate and feel the Holy Spirit. Parents are encouraged to follow the Spirit and use wisdom when determining how to plan for the unique needs of the children who are attending.

Currently there are approximately 100 families signed up for the retreat. This is a good place to mention that people are coming from Idaho, the Northwest, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Ohio, Wisconsin, New York, Virginia, two families from Canada and one brave soul from Europe. Out of those 100 families, about 60 of those families are bringing children. To help maintain a quiet atmosphere for the presentations, parents are talking about using a variety of approaches to meet the needs of their children and still honor the needs of the group. Ideas include placing their children for some of the events at host family sites or at their hotels. It is anticipated that some families will use older siblings to watch younger children for some of the time. We also know many families will want their children close and involved as much as possible. And so to help make the Retreat spiritual and education for the children too, we are working to provide spiritual and educational experiences for them also. As noted on the schedule below, we already have several plans in place – and more details will probably come out in early May. For now, if you have special needs in relation to children please let us know so we can make accommodations for your family. And if you feel led to contribute volunteer time on Friday night or on Saturday in relation to child care, please notify Samantha Corbridge at s.corbridge@mail.com.

In relation to family plans and safety concerns, please understand there is only random cell coverage in Cedaredge and on the Grand Mesa, so you will want to have personal family plans that are not completely dependent on cell phone coverage. Feel free to contact me about any concerns you may have. Our current plan in relation to communications is to find someone coming who has a satellite phone, so that communication on the Mesa is more secure if contact is needed by those down in the valley.

Before May, several adult volunteers will be chosen and identified. Families leaving their younger children at the Community Center will have all of the information needed concerning adult-to-children ratios, safety plans, the details of the activities ahead, and the other LDS volunteers who will be watching the children. Anyone who feels led to volunteer time for the children during part of the conference is encouraged to sign up for a few hours. (We want to share and spread out this responsibility so that parents are free to attend the events – and still contribute to child care needs if possible for a few hours).

*Please understand, final details on childcare are all subject to change in relation to how many children actually come and the number of volunteers available to help.

Personal and Family Time:

We understand that many people are coming a long distance to participate in this retreat. We also know that many of you have been led by the Lord to carry out your own personal assignments. Please know that the schedule we have put together intentionally leaves Friday open in the day until 5:30 P.M. and also leaves all of Sunday free after the 12:00 potluck. In addition to these open spaces, the Saturday night family dance is part of the retreat that we expect some will choose to attend, while others will choose to use their time in a different way. The rough-draft schedule that follows may be slightly changed and improved before May arrives, but we at least wanted to provide this approximate outline now, so that you can make plans for your own personal, family, and group schedule.

Speakers and Participants:

The Lord has directed that there are to be several main speakers who share during the Conference. All of these faithful men and women have been, or will be, chosen by Him. There will also be two large-group testimony meetings; one on Saturday afternoon, and the other on Sunday morning, so anyone who feels led by God to testify will certainly have the opportunity to do so.

When I was directed in November to organize this event, the Lord informed me that I was *not* one of those speakers. My role in the conference is to organize and facilitate. There are no leaders or “strongmen” controlling this event. For clarification, and to avoid future accusations, I will be opening the conference with some brief introductory thoughts, but the key spiritual messages will be provided by others whom the Lord has chosen. All of those speaking wish to remain anonymous so that we can avoid some of the hoopla and drama that comes from this type of event.

In addition, many wonderful people have offered to speak and share the word of God, and for this we are truly grateful. In response to these kind offers, let us all remember that this gathering is about the Lord Jesus Christ and His Zion, not any particular person. He is setting the agenda and if we follow Him with exactness He will smile on this event.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Please understand that we will do everything possible to adhere to this rough-draft schedule. As the retreat draws closer there will inevitably be some minor changes made for the good of the overall event. Some final decisions will also be made in relation to the weather, but we wanted to provide this information now so you could make the best plans for your family. Dress for every part of the gathering is casual – but please dress with warm clothes especially on Saturday.

Friday May 15th:

Friday morning until 5:30 P.M: Private family time for travel and/or spiritual events-as chosen individually and by family.

5:30-9:45 Children Activities start at Community Center in Cedaredge Colorado for children ages 3-11. All children are asked to bring a sack lunch for dinner. Children must be picked up by 9:45 so clean up can occur and the Community Center is closed by 10:00. Siblings 12 and over are asked to go to the Community Center to help with younger siblings, or attend the adult presentations as parents so determine. No teenager activities are planned for Friday night. Location Address of Community Center: 235 West Main Street, Cedaredge, CO, 81413.

Directions to Community Center: Drive North on Hwy 65 until you enter into the town of Cedaredge. As you enter partially into town, you will see S. E Independence road on the right (that is the road that goes to Cedaredge High School) at that corner stay on Hwy 65 and go 0.7 more miles north. At the only stop light in town-turn left onto West Main. Go 0.2 miles and make an immediate right onto NW 2nd. The Community Center is on the left by the police station. (Park on the West Side as needed).

6:00- 9:30 Family Reunion Opening Ceremony for adults and spiritually mature teens.
Location: Cedaredge High School. 575 SE Deer Creek Dr, Cedaredge, CO 81413

Directions to High School: On the corner of Hwy 50 and Hwy 92 in Delta Colorado, there is a Maverik store on the North East Corner. From that point-Head East on Hwy 92 for 3.8 miles. Look for a sign that says Grand Mesa and Cedaredge and then turn left onto hwy 65 heading North towards Cedaredge (watch for slow speed limits). Travel into Cedaredge (Mormon church on the left) until you have gone 9.9 miles and then turn Right onto S.E. Independence Avenue. Go 0.4 miles and then veer left onto Deer Creek Road. Go past the Middle school to the Cedaredge High School.

- Band-room to be used as mothers/fathers lounge-for infants and children under three.
- Water provided for participants, but no food. (so eat dinner ahead of time)
- This location is friendly for all who may have physical limitations.

6:00: Welcome and Invocation of Light

Spiritual Thought and Sacred Dance

Speaker #1

Song: How Great Thou Art

Speaker #2-Group Singing

Group Break

Speaker #3

Review Details, Plans, Questions for the Next Day.

Closing Prayer by 9:40 to pick up children and clean up space.

Saturday May 16th:

9:00: Opening Ceremony at Cedaredge Community Center (all adults and all children)

Prayer, Meditation, Moment of Silence and Revelation.

Explain retreat activities and choices for the Day:

Due to spiritual factors and also the question of weather. What will be provided here at this time is only a summary of options for the day. Final plans and locations will be announced Saturday morning at the Retreat, but here is an overview of what is being considered for Saturday.

Morning Activities: (to be finalized that morning as led by the Spirit)

Gospel Speakers

Presentations by Topic: (Christ, Faith, Zion, United Order, etc)

Possible gathering by groups (geographical areas and Young Single Adults)

Adult and Teen Activities: After final plans are determined, and the morning activities are completed, adults and teens are invited to carpool up to the Mesa for the day's activities. The exact locations of the various events, and maps to those areas will be given out at the Community Center on Saturday morning. (This is being handled in this manner so that last minute choices can be made based on weather, and to maintain the sanctity of the Mesa). From the Community Center to the top of the Mesa is approximately a 45-minute drive.

Afternoon Activities:

Lunch on own – possibly at a campground or other location. Bring food and supplies needed to possibly eat and/or cook lunch on the Mesa. Locations utilized will probably have fire-pits for cooking. Average temperature on the Mesa in May is 50 degrees. (Families will want to expect patches of snow and wet-marshy ground.)

Breakout Groups men, women and teenagers.

Men's Breakout: Short mountain hike-and/or alternative activity
(For those who don't hike, another choice will be provided)

Women's Breakout: Worship, Sacred Activities, Zion Unity.

Teenager Breakout: Last Days simulations, games, activities.

4:00? All return and/or gather for Group Testimony Meeting on Mesa. (Sunset on May 16th is at 8:18. By meeting at 4:00 we are all gathering close to the warmest part of the day). Again, final details will all be given on Saturday morning. Assuming the weather is good, the testimony meeting will be on the Mesa with campfires. If the weather is poor, an alternative indoor location will be chosen at that time and announced.

Good Weather-Testimony Meeting on the Mesa with Campfires.
Bad Weather- Testimony Meeting announced indoor location.

6:00: Break for Dinner by Family and pick up younger children at Community Center.

7:30: Youth and Family Dance at Community Center. Simple Dance Lessons on Country Swing and Waltz will be provided. There may also be some group spiritual dances offered for everyone. Some individuals and families will also use Saturday night for individual plans and purposes.

Children Activities for Saturday: Children ages 3-11 are welcome to stay at the Community Center in Cedaredge, according to parents' preferences. Activities at the Community Center may include: Crafts and pottery, acting simulations based on scripture scenarios, snacks, playing at the park, various lessons, a wholesome movie in the afternoon, lots of play time with friends, and possibly some games. Activities will be age appropriate and some volunteers will be needed to assist in meeting the children's needs. It is anticipated that the adults and teens will be leaving the center around 10:00 A.M. and that most will be returning to the Center around 6:00 P.M. or sooner depending on final plans. This schedule is in rough-draft form and those families who are bringing children will be contacted later with more details and requests for assistance. Samantha Corbridge and those who volunteer, have agreed to lead up the children's activities for the day, and they will be contacting you in the future. **To secure space for your children, and to help with planning child care, we ask that you please email the names and ages of the children who will be attending to Samantha Corbridge at s.corbridge@mail.com**

Sunday May 17th:

Location and Time: 9:00 at Confluence Park in Delta Colorado

Good Weather: Arbor Circle at Confluence Park

Bad Weather: Lions Pavilion at Confluence Park

Directions: From Grand Junction-Heading South on Hwy 50, turn West onto Confluence Blvd. Go 0.4 miles and then turn right onto Palmer Street. Weave right and go 0.2 miles until at the stop sign you turn left. The Pavilion is on the right, and just past that is the Arbor with the circular wood design. Both of these locations are right next to each other on the right side of the park across from Bill Heddles Recreation Center.

9:00 Welcome/prayer/message

Opening Song:

Sacred events as directed:

Spiritual Message:

Open Group Testimony Meeting:

Final Speaker:

Closing Ceremony:

12:00 Potluck Lunch for All.

Concerning the potluck-we know this is a little complicated because it is Sunday and almost everyone will be from out of town. Please consider and decide for yourself if the “ox is in the mire,” but also know that we here in the local area will do our best to provide all of the utensils and supplies needed – so participants only need to worry about the food itself. Those who choose to contribute food to the group can obtain that on Saturday or Sunday at the City Market grocery store which is less than a ½ mile from the park. (there are also several local restaurants, Walmart, and a Safeway deli close by). So just pitch in whatever you can.

In summary, everything possible will be done to honor the Sabbath and still send people home with a full stomach! Smiles...

1:00....Travel and/or Individual Family Spiritual Events as Chosen.

Retreat Details and Options:

Hotels:

For those who want to stay in hotels for the retreat, I wish I could tell you there were unlimited options, but in our small towns here are your best chances for finding a clean room.

Delta, Colorado Hotels: (20 Minutes from the Retreat and 1 hour from the top of Mesa—**Make sure you reserve Delta, Colorado, and NOT Delta, Utah!)**

Days Inn: Nice Breakfast— Close to Retreat
903 Main Street, Delta, CO 81416
(970) 874-9781

Comfort Inn: Nicest Hotel in Town and close to Retreat
180 Gunnison River Drive, Delta, CO 81416
(970) 874-1000

Rodeway Inn: Reviews not good, but close to Retreat
2124 South Main Street, Delta, CO 81416
(970) 874-9726

- In Delta, the Comfort Inn is the nicest hotel in town.
- In Delta the Days Inn is also nice and has a good breakfast. There are also several other “mom and pop” types of places in town, which may be more affordable, but not as new.

Montrose, Colorado Hotels: (50 Minutes from retreat and 1 ½ hours from top of Mesa)

The Hampton Inn is on the North end of Town and easy for the commute:
1980 North Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 252-3300

The Holiday Inn Express is very nice at 1391 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 240-1800

Days Inn-Montrose. Nice pool for family swimming. 970) 642-3564 – 50 minutes from Retreat.

Cedaredge Hotels: 5 Minutes from Retreat

- The Affordable Inn is likely sold-out, but you could check back in case there are cancelations: Contact Information: 530 S. Grand Mesa Dr. Cedaredge, CO 81413

Contact: phone 970-856-7824; fax 970-856-782. There are also a couple of other small motels in Cedaredge but I don't know enough to list them.

- Tri-R Motel. This motel is on the main hwy 65 up to the Mesa. I just barely noticed this hotel – it's not fancy, but it's 4 minutes from the Retreat area. Apparently a few of the rooms have kitchenettes. 885 South Grand Mesa Drive, Cedaredge, CO 81413 (970) 856-2357.
- Grand Mesa Lodge-literally on the Mesa. 25861 Colorado 65, Cedaredge, CO 81413 (970) 856-3250. 40 minutes from the Retreat area.

Grand Junction Hotels: (1 hour from the Retreat and 2 hours from top of Mesa)

- Numerous hotels approximately 60-70 minutes each way from the Retreat location. If you book a hotel in Grand Junction, try to find one on the south end of town close to Hwy 50.

R.V. Parks: We have been told that several families are coming down together in an R.V. I wish I could give better advice on where to stay, but here are the R.V. parks I found on Google. I do have a local source that could give you more information – so if you have specific questions please contact me at bret@77truths.com

Cedaredge R.V. Parks:

Shady Creek RV Park
www.shadycreekcolorado.com
205 North Grand Mesa Drive
Cedaredge, CO
(970) 856-7522

Aspen Trails Campground
www.aspentrailscamp.com
19991 Colorado 65
Cedaredge, CO
(970) 856-6321

Delta, Colorado R.V. Parks

Link: <http://www.valleysunsetrvranchdelta.com/>

Link: http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g33387-d125865-Reviews-Riverwood_Inn_and_RV_Park_Llc-Delta_Colorado.html

Camping Options:

Colorado has amazing camping facilities and many families have said that they plan to camp out in the valley. For those who are brave enough to rough it by camping, there are

some links provided here to so you can reserve your spots to camp. Most of the parks and camping sites cost \$17 a night, and some of the more remote areas are free.

For those who are debating about camping out, please understand that the Mesa itself is over 11,000 feet and may still be full of snow in May. The lows up top on the Mesa at night will be around 20 degrees, with the highs in the day possibly around 50 or 60. Down in the valley, camping will be much more comfortable with the highs around 70. (If the weather is good) and the lows in the 40's. (typing this summary makes me feel like the weather man). If you do choose to camp, the state of Colorado request that you do NOT bring any firewood with you, so as to control insect problems. You can obtain firewood locally.

Colorado State Camping:

Link: <http://www.colorado.com/articles/camping-colorado-basics>

Link for Campsites and Dispersed Camping. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/recreation/camping/>

Grand Mesa Camping:

Link: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/gmug/recreation/camping-cabins/?recid=32366&actid=29>

The Grand Mesa Visitors Center phone number is 970-856-4153 but the center doesn't open until the end of May. If you have questions about the Mesa, you may be able to get information at 970-268-5579, 970-874-6600 or 970-242-8211.

Cedaredge Camping: (Ten Minutes from Retreat)

Link: <http://www.forestcamping.com/dow/rockymtn/gmsa.htm>

Hotchkiss and Paonia Camping: (90 Minutes from Retreat)

PAONIA STATE PARK-Contact Information

P.O. BOX 147

CRAWFORD CO 81415

Phone Number: Information: (970) 921-5721

Host Family Possibilities: When the word went out about the retreat in November, at least 15 families responded that they would come if they found a way to pay for the trip. In response, several local families have said they would be willing to host families that need a place to stay. For these local families to offer this service, is in harmony with Zion principles, and also provides a fun way to meet new people and stay up late talking Gospel! If anyone else reading this summary in the Western Slope would like to be a "Host family" please contact me and I will add you to the list.

And for the many families who could use a free place to sleep—so as to make the trip financially possible, contact me at bret@77truths.com and I will work out the arrangements with your host family. Due to the fact that 90% of the participants are coming from out of state, my personal view is that helping people in this manner is at the heart of how we should be preparing for Zion. Let us all practice giving and receiving in oneness and love!

Meals and Food:

Each family is responsible to take care of their own meal arrangements. When sack lunches, or sack dinners would be helpful for the children, we have noted it on the master schedule. The only exception to each family taking care of its own meals will be our closing Sunday Pot-Luck. Sometime around noon (whenever we have finished our morning worship) we will have a group lunch for everyone in attendance.

Here is a summary of the meal plans, as well as some general information about where to get food.

Friday Night: Please eat dinner before the conference begins at 6:00. For children staying at the Community Center there will be a simple snack provided—but no dinner. Please email Samantha if you are willing to help with some of the snack.

Saturday: On Saturday young children will need a sack lunch for their activities at the Community Center. Snacks will also be provided during the day. Adults and teens who are going up on the Mesa will want to prepare ahead, either by bringing sack lunch and snacks, or having the supplies needed to cook a lunch on the Mesa. It will likely be cool, but there will be fire pits in the area where we gather for testimony meeting.

Sunday: Families are on their own for breakfast and then everyone will gather for a closing potluck lunch. Plates, cups, and utensils will be provided, so just bring the food you want for your family and others.

Grocery Stores: The most affordable local grocery store is City Market in Delta. The store is on the West side of Hwy 50 as you enter town from Grand Junction. City Market is a “Kroger/Smiths” company and utilizes a nationwide member card that many of you may already have. For those who don’t have one of these discount cards, you can usually just ask the cashier if they have one you can use. There is also a Safeway down by Walmart on Hwy 92. In Cedaredge there is also one small grocery store that costs a little more, but it does have a tasty Deli for quick lunches.

Beautiful Locations to Visit:

If you happen to be coming early before the conference, or staying late to have a family vacation, Colorado has some beautiful and amazing ways to have family fun. Here are a few of the recreational choices we like.

If you google these areas, you will find great information. If you want more specifics, or have a certain cause in mind, please feel free to contact me by email.

Grand Mesa Hiking and Lakes: The Mesa is 11,332 feet, has over 300 lakes and can provide elk and fish for survival. Link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Mesa

Crawford Needle Rock: Link: <http://www.summitpost.org/needle-rock/310143>

Paonia Campground and Reservoir.

<http://coloradostateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/paonia-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=CO&parkId=50034>

Ragged Mountain Range and Church Camp. This link shows the Ragged Mountain range that separates this valley from Denver Colorado. At the base of that mountain range is an LDS affiliated church camp. Link: <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/paonia>

Drost Chocolates. If you love Chocolate and icecream, this place is a lot of fun! After turning off of Hwy 92 in Delta and heading North onto Hwy 65- go 6. 1 miles and Drost Chocolates will be on the left hand side of the road. Link: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/drosts-chocolates-eckert>

Black Canyon-Montrose: The canyon is like a “little Grand Canyon” and makes for a nice drive and picnic. \$15 entrance fee if the gate is open. Link: <http://www.nps.gov/blca/index.htm>

Official National Parks. Located near **Montrose**, CO. 970-641-2337.

Ouray Hot Springs. Ouray is called “little switzerland” because the small town is nestled between three huge mountain ranges. There are some really fun shops, a park, and a huge hot springs that has three different temperature pools. Especially at night the hot springs are magical. Cost is \$10-\$12 for adults and \$8 for kids. Children under 3 are free. Delta to Ouray is a 90-minute drive.

Telluride Gondola: To get to Telluride requires that you travel South on hwy 50 and then head West at Ridgeway. From Delta it takes about 2 hours to arrive in Telluride. The food there is very expensive, but the fifteen minute Gondola ride is free and beautiful.

Accommodations and Special Needs:

We intend to be mindful of any special needs or physical limitations that participants may have. We have done our best to pick locations that are easy to get to, while also providing alternative activities for those with physical limitations. When certain activities require intense physical movement (such as a short mountain hike planned for Saturday) alternative activities will be offered. If you require help in any way, please contact me at bret@77truths.com and I will do my very best to make this trip convenient. To help everyone is the spirit of Zion, and we look forward to helping in any way that we can.

Weather:

In May, the average High in Cedaredge is 74 degrees and the average low is 38. Average rainfall in May is 1.06 inches. For all who are planning to visit, and/or possibly camp on the

Mesa, you need to lower those numbers by at least 15-20 degrees. So on a good day the high on the Mesa will be about 60, and for those crazy souls who want to sleep on the Mesa, the low at night will be below freezing at about 20 degrees. Please be wise and safe. Camping in the Valley will be a lot warmer, and camping in a hotel is indeed very warm! Gratefully, it doesn't historically snow in May, but there will likely be some left-over snow on the Mesa that has not yet melted. So please make plans based on what you intend to experience during your trip.

Financial Assistance: During the sign up process, approximately 15 families, (to this point) have mentioned they would come if they could gather the finances needed to accomplish the trip. At the same time they expressed this need, approximately 15 other families mentioned a desire to help financially if needed. In harmony with Zion principles, I have thought it would be wise to connect these families so that more souls can attend the retreat.

Two Options to help other families financially attend the retreat.

- 1) A fund has been established in which anyone can donate money to help other families get to the retreat. All monies sent to this fund will ONLY be used to help other families with travel expenses. Other expenses connected to this retreat have been paid privately and **none** of the money donated to help other families will go towards covering other retreat expenses. I am trying to be direct and transparent about this issue, because money issues often lead to problems and accusations that I want to avoid.
- 2) The second option is for a contributor to be directly connected to a beneficiary. I certainly don't need to be in the middle directing funds. If someone wants to donate to another family directly, and if I have the permission of the one receiving the funds, I would be happy to provide the information needed so that the kindness offered can be taken care of privately and anonymously. It is anticipated most of these financial issues would be taken care of in April when the retreat is closer and plans are finalized.

To activate this financial plan, I simply ask that those families who want to attend the retreat, but need help to do so, please send me a confidential email about how much of a donation they would need so that they could attend.

In addition, anyone wanting to donate to others anonymously are also welcome to contact me at bret@77truths.com.

To send donations for the travel fund, mail checks to:

Bret Corbridge

P.O Box 3292

Montrose, Colorado, 81402

Unfortunately, checks to help others will have to be made out to me. I wish there were some way around this. All funds will, of course, go to help others or be returned to those who donated them.

Financial Integrity:

This is an appropriate place to again re-iterate that **no money or financial profit is being received by the organizers of the event.** Money to reserve physical space and cover the cost of the retreat has come from private funds.

If anyone has financial concerns or questions, I am happy to answer your concerns honestly and with transparency.

VOLUNTEERS: We are in need of the following Volunteers.

A) We need 1 Person who has a satellite phone to act as an emergency contact person when the group is on the Mesa on Saturday.

B) We need 5 to 10 individuals willing to help with childcare. Our current plan is to ask a few adults to help supervise and guide the children at the community center in Cedaredge. Some of the adult and teenage volunteers would help on Friday night and others during part of Saturday. We hope to spread out the responsibility so that no one is missing more than a small portion of the retreat.

C) We need approximately 15 families who are able to donate funds to help another 15 families attend the retreat. As detailed earlier, you can sign up to help, or receive help with bret@77truths.com

Contact information and Retreat Sign-Up. Participants are asked to send a quick email to re-confirm their intention to attend the retreat. **For those who have already signed up, it would help if you would tell us whether you plan to bring any children, and what their ages are.** This will help us make all of the needed preparations.

For all retreat questions and sign up, contact Bret Corbridge: bret@77truths.com

Questions about children's activities, or to volunteer time with the children, contact: Samantha Corbridge: s.corbridge@mail.com