

ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

**Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch**

Volume 19, Issue 3

May/June 2023

***"... and He will teach us of His ways, and
we will walk in His paths ..."* Isaiah 2:3**



Repent and come
unto Christ with
Full Purpose of Heart

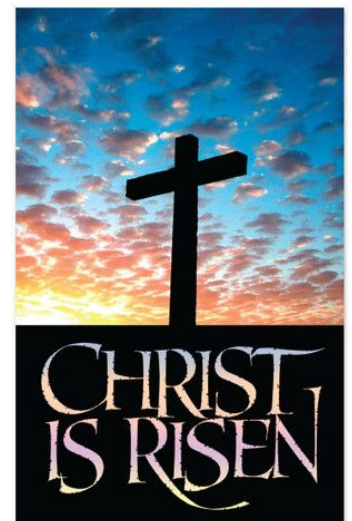
(see Jacob 4:8)

Easter Program

On Sunday, April 9th, the morning worship service included musical offerings from the adult vocal choir and a brass ensemble. Elder Don Norman also brought a special Easter message. The choir was directed by Valerie Lidberg and accompanied by pianist Rachel Horn. Singers included: Becky Ballantyne, Stephanie Bird, Charlie and Susan Booth, Tom DeBarthe, Vernon Darling, Cindy Green, Mark and Tammy Griffin, Delores Heater, Ethan Hill, Laurie Huseby, Bill Jones, Heidi Lidberg, Mike Lidberg, Chasteen Maier, Don Norman, Sheri Nunn, Lauryn Smith, Mike Stice, and Doug White.



The brass choir members included Phil Caswell, Vernon Darling, Tammy Griffin, Carianne Lidberg, Jacob Lidberg, Debbie Mulheron, Doug White, and Jim White.



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Full Purpose of Heart

-- by Mark Nunn, Presiding Elder

*"The light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine eye be single to the glory of God, thy whole body shall be full of light."
(Matthew 6:22)*

We all have certain passages or verses in Scripture that we put right up into our "favorites" list because they touch our hearts in a manner that is especially uplifting, enlightening, or joyous. Perhaps we find they have spiritual life lessons that instruct us and guide us on the path our Lord has set before us. Although many of the Scriptures are commonly favored among the Saints, we each have those that are uniquely held by us because they speak to our specific life experiences and our personal relationship with our Heavenly Father.

All the Scriptures point to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the ultimate manifestation of God's love for us on an individual and very personal level. Jesus declared the first and greatest commandment in Mark 12:35. *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. . ."* We find in this one commandment not only the higher spiritual law, but a clear understanding of the meaning of **full purpose of heart**.

Of all the Scriptures we study, I believe that none are more important than the Sermon on the Mount where we can read the teachings of Jesus Himself (Matthew 5 & 6). He starts with the beatitudes that so beautifully describe the blessedness of those who have certain qualities or experiences peculiar to those belonging

to the Kingdom of Heaven. He goes on to instruct us on how to attain and exercise these characteristics, calling us into the service of the Lord. He calls each one of us to be a light in the world that we might glorify God; and He teaches us about His Love.


The Sermon on the Mount is the definitive guide to the Kingdom of Heaven. Compare other Scriptures with it to find a connection that reveals God's truth and guides our approach and response to the world and to the Spirit.

Consider, for example how Paul's teachings about the Fruits of the Spirit are directly connected to the beatitudes and other lessons taught by Jesus.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law."
(Galatians 5:22-23)*

With all His heart, Jesus is calling for you to serve the Lord—not just a little, or when it's convenient—but with a full purpose of heart.

*"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."**
(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)*



Bring canned goods (especially fruit) and boxed cereals—anytime—to donate to the Community Food Pantry in Oak Grove.
(Place in box in foyer coat area.)

OGRB Pastorate

Presiding Elder: Mark Nunn
Associates: Elder Mark Griffin
Elder Jeremy Lidberg
Priest James Bullard
Elder Charlie Booth

BABY BLESSING

On Sunday morning, April 23rd, Rachel Noelle Holmes, infant daughter of Brian and Jessica Holmes, was blessed by her grandfather, Elder Gary Holmes, and Elder Mark Griffin.

The introit was offered by a string quartet, which included Rachel's father (Brian Holmes), sister (Hannah Holmes), uncle (Andrew Holmes) and aunt (Angela Cunningham).

Later in the service, the ministry of music was provided by singers from the Holmes and Ward families.



Bell Choir

On Sunday morning, April 2nd, the bell choir brought beautiful prelude music prior to the communion service. The choir was directed by Debbie Mulheron.

Back row: Lilli Postlethwait, Laurie Huseby, Janet Williams, and Stephanie Bird **Middle row:** Nancy Green, Lauryn Smith, Don Norman **Front row:** Noelle Postlethwait, Lisa Postlethwait, Karen Story, Sue Hight



Question Time: Is the Resurrection of Christ a Historic Fact? — by Charlie Booth

You could rightly say that a discussion of the Resurrection is not complete without addressing those who do not believe it ever happened. In this limited space, I will not attempt to address these doubts. Instead, I will simply quote a few historians who are not our church authorities, but are—for the most part—secular, professional men trained in weeding out truth from untruth.

E. M. Blaiklock, Professor of Classics, Auckland University: *“I claim to be an historian. And I tell you that the evidence for the life, the death and the Resurrection of Christ is better authenticated than most of the facts of ancient history.”*

A.N. Sherwin-White, classical Roman historian: *“For the book of Acts in the New Testament, the confirmation of [historical authenticity] is overwhelming. Any attempts to reject its basic historical facts, even in matters of detail, now appear absurd. Roman historians have long taken it for granted.”*

Dr. Simon Greenleaf, Royal Professor of Law at Harvard University: *“All that Christianity asks of men . . . is that they would treat its evidences as they would treat the evidence of other things; and that they would judge its witnesses as they deal with their fellow men, when testifying to human affairs and actions, in human tribunals. Let the witnesses be compared with each other and with surrounding facts and circumstances; and let their testimony be sifted, as in a court of justice, on the side of the adverse party, with rigorous cross-examination. The result, it is confidently believed, will be an undoubting conviction of their integrity, ability, and truth.”*

Dr. J. P. Moreland, professor of Philosophy: *“The disciples had nothing to gain by lying and starting a new religion. They faced hardship, ridicule, hostility, and martyrs’ deaths. In light of this, they would have never sustained such unwavering motivation if they knew what they were preaching was a lie. The disciples were not fools, and Paul was a cool-headed intellectual of the first rank. There would have been numerous opportunities over three to four decades of his ministry to reconsider and renounce the lie.”*

(As Arthur Oakman said, this conviction “lifted [His disciples]. . . out of and above themselves, and sent them forth radiant with the love and power of God.”)

I found a fascinating quote from Israeli diplomat Pinchas Lapide, historian and Orthodox Jewish scholar of the New Testament. He wrote a book entitled The Resurrection of Jesus: A Jewish Perspec-

tive, in which he says this: *“When these peasants, shepherds and fishermen, who betrayed and denied their master and then failed him miserably, slinking away into hiding, suddenly were changed overnight into a confident missionary force, then no vision or hallucination is sufficient to explain such a revolutionary transformation.”*

Professor Thomas Arnold lived at the time of Joseph Smith, Jr., held the chair of Modern History at Oxford in 1841, and was the author of a famous three-volume history of Rome. He wrote the following: *“I have studied for many years the histories of other times, and have examined and weighed the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God have given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead.”*

The above statements, even though persuasive, are likely considered neither adequate nor reasonable arguments by nonbelievers, for such persons do not have the inclination to believe, nor do they understand the confirming power of the Holy Spirit.

As Saints of the Restoration, we look at the statements above and completely agree that Christ’s Resurrection really happened, mainly because we do have that spiritual confirmation, but also because the statements are persuasive and logical. We also rely on the truth of scripture, lived out in personal testimonies and experiences.

But first and foremost for the true believer, we have the desire to believe in God as our Creator and Jesus as our Redeemer. And that desire is born of faith, as we read about in Alma 16:151.

So asking if the Resurrection is a historic fact, to the faithful Saint, is like asking if rain is wet. We accept as fact those things which we have no doubt about, relying on many and varied types of evidence.

But why is the historic fact of the Resurrection even important to us? Very simply, it is because if Jesus was crucified, was buried, rose again from the dead, and now sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, then His promises are true! And we, too, may each experience life after physical death—that next phase of eternal life—in the presence of the Father and the Son.

CHRIST IS RISEN!



Seniors' Group Travelogue

16 Oak Grove Seniors met Saturday, March 11, 2023, for Travelogues presented by the Horn's and the Nunn's. "Happy Birthday" was sung to three individuals with March birthdays. Everyone brought some very tasty snack foods to share and everyone seemed to enjoy eating them while listening and watching the travelogues.



Rachel and Vim Horn shared pictures and some history of places they visited along the coast of Maine.



Sheri and Mark Nunn shared pictures from when they lived in Germany for a year and a few places they visited in surrounding countries.



The Freeze Point — by Susan Freeze

*“Wherefore, I said unto you,
feast upon the words of Christ;
for behold, the words of Christ will
tell you all things what ye should do.”
(2 Nephi 14:4)*

The scripture above has an awesome promise attached to it. I am sad to say that most of my adult life I have not treasured the Scriptures the way that I should have. When we were raising our children, we were so busy; but now I think, too busy to read the word of God? Taking the time to read would have made me a better mother. Finally, in the last 10 years, I have established a routine of reading my Scriptures. I enjoy it so much. I think about the years I have wasted.

As I have contemplated the phrase “*feast upon the words of Christ*,” I have had to evaluate my own life. Although I was nurtured and fed these words as a child, my connection to the Scriptures—as a teenager and even into adulthood—would be described as an occasional snack. Certainly the scripture does not say, “Snack upon the words of Christ.” It says, “*feast upon the words of Christ*.”

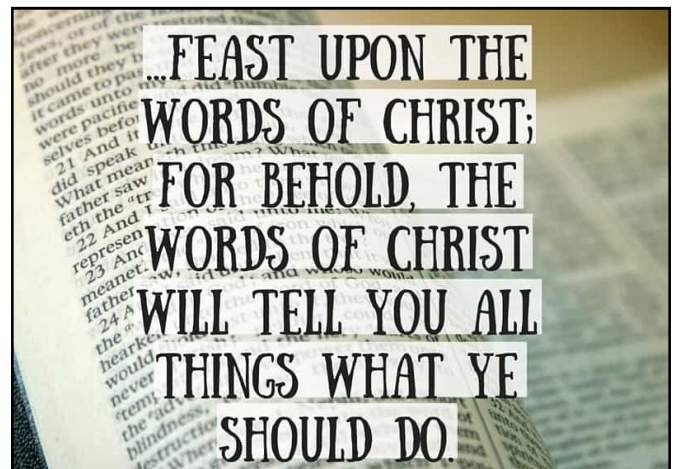
When I was 28, I received my patriarchal blessing; the patriarch asked me my favorite scripture. I am embarrassed to tell you that I did not have one. Now if you ask me my favorite scripture, I can rattle it off: Romans 8:28. The sad thing is that a trial is what caused me to dig deep, and realize the great treasure that the words of God are. I think that I feasted upon them during my trial, but once I came through the trial I went back to snacking on the Scriptures.

I recently heard the sermon that Elder Eric Odida preached for the 2023 Elders Conference. He shared a story about a man that did not have a Bible. First, he saved his money to buy a Bible. Then this man traveled a long way on foot through dangerous territory to buy a Bible so he could teach and share these words with his children. On the way to his home one

night there was no village to stay in. He climbed a tree in which to sleep for the night because he was worried about the wild animals. While he was up in the tree, a leopard came around and then climbed into the tree, sensing food. The man took the Bible and laid it upon his chest and said, “Lord protect me!” The leopard suddenly lost interest in the man and laid down in one of the higher branches and went to sleep. The man hardly slept that night, but when he awoke in the morning the leopard was gone. His children grew up with the understanding that the Lord hid this man from the leopard. One of his daughters gave a large amount of money later in her life to have the Bible translated into local tribal languages. She understood the great value of the Scriptures.

In an episode of “The Chosen” (a televised series about Christ), one of the characters is going through a heart-breaking trial. To seek comfort, she goes to the synagogue to seek a reading from the Torah. She couldn’t even read the Scriptures in her own home! That scene as well as Eric’s story convicted my heart. How many years did I let my Scriptures gather dust?

I read a quote that said, “Read your Scriptures, because they were written for you.” Have you ever thought about the Scriptures being written and preserved just for us? Because they were, for me and for you! How blessed we are to have access to them on a daily basis! How awesome it would be to know “all things what ye should do.”



HAM Radio Training Class

A second HAM Radio event was held at the church on Saturday, April 1st, from 9:00am to noon. There were 27 in attendance, including OGRB members and others. Activities included: (1) learning to operate your radio, and (2) computer programming your radio. Mick Ballantyne planned and conducted the class as a follow-up to the HAM radio antenna party held Jan. 21st.



“For behold, the time is not far distant, that the Redeemer liveth and cometh among his people. . . the Lord God hath power to do all things which are according to his word. But behold, the Spirit hath said this much unto me, saying: Cry unto this people, saying, Repent ye, repent ye and prepare the way of the Lord, and walk in his paths, which are straight. For behold, the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and the Son of God cometh upon the face of the earth.”
Alma 5:14, 16-18

Upcoming Events

May 2 Women’s Spring Study Class 10:00am
May 5-7 **OGRB Branch Retreat at Odessa Hills with Warrensburg Branch**
May 7 No Evening Service at OGRB
May 9 Women’s Spring Study Class 10:00am
May 13 **Fun & Fellowship at Smithville Lake**
May 14 Mother’s Day
May 16 Women’s Spring Study Class 10:00am
May 21 Potluck after morning service
Elders/Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm
Priesthood Meeting after evening service

May 21-27 Older Youth Camp at Odessa Hills
May 23 Women’s Spring Study Class 10:00am
June 3-10 **CMRB Reunion at Odessa Hills**
June 11 Summer Series at Waldo RB 6:00pm
June 11-17 Senior High Camp at Odessa Hills
June 18 Summer Series at Waldo RB 6:00pm
June 18-24 Junior High Camp at Odessa Hills
June 25 Summer Series at Waldo RB 6:00pm
June 25-29 Junior Camp at Odessa Hills
July 10-14 **Vacation Church School at OGRB**



THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE.
Tell your neighbors, friends and family!

Worship Schedule		Sacrament Service 1st Sunday of each month
		8:00 am Priesthood Prayer Service
Sunday Morning Early Worship	9:00 am	9:00 am Time of Quiet Meditation
Church School	9:15 am	9:15 am Prayer Service
		10:15 am Song Service
Sunday Morning Worship Service	10:30 am	10:30 am Sacrament Service
Sunday Evening Worship Service	6:30 pm	6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Prayer and Testimony Service	7:00 pm	

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
 Let us go into the house of the Lord."
 (Psalm 122:1)*



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Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch
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Church Phone: (816) 690-6996
Watch most of our services by going to our church website! (Click on "Video")

Youth Page May-June 2023

Zioneers/Zion's League Activity

On Saturday, April 1st, the Zioneers/Zion's League raked leaves at Owl Hollow Farm, which is owned and operated by OGRB members Bob and Cathy White. Cathy reported that they were so grateful for the help, as the youth worked hard and didn't stop until they were done. (And then they became real creative, as pictured below.)



Special Music April 23rd

Heidi Lidberg provided the music ministry on the evening of April 23rd. She played guitar and sang "The Commission," which includes the lyrics, "Go Tell the World About Me."



REMINDER

Don't forget the challenge to read the Book of Mormon and mark your progress on the chart at church!

2023 CMRB SUMMER CAMPS

Reunion:	June 3-10
Senior High:	June 11-17
Junior High:	June 18-24
Junior	June 25-29

**Soldiers of Christ Arise:
The Time is Now**

Coloring Page

I Can Help Others Feel Loved



"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." (1 John 4:7)