

ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

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

**Volume 19, Issue 4
July/August 2023**

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

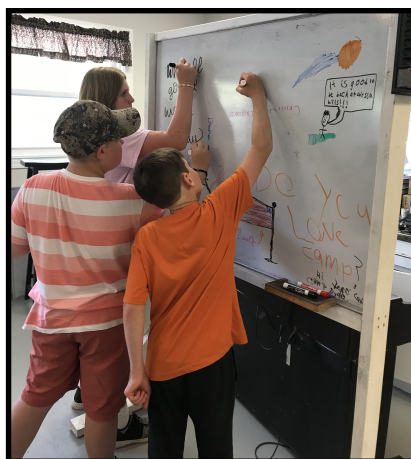


Branch Retreat

Our annual OGRB branch retreat was held on May 5-7, 2023, at the Odessa Hills Campground. We invited the Saints of the Warrensburg Restoration Branch to join us. Attendance ranged from about 50 on Friday evening to over 125 for the Communion Service on Sunday morning. Pictured below are about 65 of the attendees on the bridge by the dining hall (photo from drone operated by Jeremy Lidberg). See pages 4 and 5 for a report by April Smith and more photos from the retreat.



Children in the pre-K class



Artwork in the dining hall

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Inserts

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- VCS Registration Form etc.
- Youth Page

Seek Treasures from Heaven

-- by James Bullard, Associate Pastor

During the course of this year, we have attempted to put a large measure of focus on a theme or understanding of the process of repentance and allowing ourselves to accept Christ. Our hearts and minds have been encouraged to be filled with a greater measure of His love and a greater level of service and response to this acceptance within ourselves.

The scripture verses **Matthew 6:19-21** are common references for discussion involving treasures: ***“Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”***


Often times we may find it simple to list our “earthly treasures.” The world around us suggests that our treasures are measured by how much monetary value they have. A house, car, toys, bank balances, clothes . . . the list goes on and on. Will all these treasures eventually get rusty, old, fade away, be stolen, or do they have an eternal value as well?

What about these “treasures in heaven” that are mentioned? How do we measure their value and how is it that they can withstand being stolen or getting old, and what makes them so full of worth that they are laid up and stored in heaven for us?

From verse 21 it simply describes to us that whatever has value, monetary or not, this “treasure” is in our hearts and that is where our desires are found. This is perhaps a warning

and a promise! It’s a warning that encourages us to examine the desires of our hearts. Our hearts’ desires are the “treasures” on which we put such a heavy value in our lives. The promise is perhaps that if we choose treasures of eternal value that they will be preserved for us in heaven for a later time of life.

We are encouraged during the months of July and August to seek treasures from heaven. What treasures can be found in your heart right now? Can they rust or be stolen, or are they treasures that are of eternal value? **Establish eternal treasures in your heart:** faith in the Lord and His plan of salvation; loving and serving all; charity-filled forgiveness; healthy relationships that testify of God’s involvement; preparing a home for Zion; pursuing moments to serve the Lord; reading and understanding the scriptures; being a good steward; accepting the love, mercy, and grace of Almighty God . . . and then testifying of all of that through the actions, words, works, and love in your life!



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

2023 CMRB Reunion — by Susan Booth

Theme: “Soldiers of Christ Arise: The Time is Now!”

Held at Odessa Hills Campground on Sat, June 3 thru Sat, June 10 serving 300+

Go to Odessa Hills Campground Facebook page to watch the Sunday communion service and evening worship services: Jack Hagensen, Austin Story, Jeff Morrison, Steve Bishop, Steve Kropp, Sean Allen, and Youth Program. Here’s the link: <https://www.facebook.com/odessahillscampground>

Sunday: Arise and remember the first commandment—to love God.

THIS generation will be like the sons of Mosiah today, IF we will treasure the Book of Mormon and all the past revelations given. — paraphrased from Marlin Guin’s inspired message
Shedding His blood not an accident—He gave it! — paraphrased from Jack Hagensen’s sermon
Put forth the best version of ourselves. — paraphrased from Austin Story’s sermon

Monday: Arise and remember the Gospel of Jesus.

Life is “blurry” without the Gospel. Be sure we have “relationship” with the Christ, our Savior!
Dwell with Him! — paraphrased from Jeff Morrison’s sermon

Tuesday: Arise and remember that in Christ we are made free.

“Remember your mission!” — Steve Bishop’s sermon

Wednesday: Arise and remember true peace comes from Jesus.

When a person knows they are where God wants them to be, their dedication level goes way up!
— paraphrased from Dan Brotherton’s missionary testimony
Worship in Spirit AND in truth. — paraphrased from Steve Kropp’s sermon

Thursday: Arise and remember to love your wives and your children.

Men, strive to be like Christ; LOVE wife and home. Jesus is the prototype—hold nothing back.
“Sacrifice,” then holy RESPECT follows. Try “personal righteousness” and recommit to live Zion in your home—do this and reap rewards! Give children all the Jesus within us; less of me and more of Him. More blessings await when there is devotion to the work. Stop looking for catastrophes; instead look for the love of Jesus as “a sign of the times.” Raise children that will go into the world and make a difference for Christ.
— paraphrased from Sean Allen’s sermon

Friday: Arise and, as Christians, gladly take the name of Christ.

Youth Program

###

Many members of our church family at Oak Grove Restoration Branch (OGRB) were in attendance!
We were all blessed abundantly by camp leadership [listed below were some from our branch at Oak Grove]:

Directors, Brian and Jessica Holmes

Reunion Pastor, Danny Hight

Adult Class Teacher, Vim Horn

Sound System, Jeremy Lidberg

Song Services, Charlie/Susan Booth

Head Cook, Chris Allen

Cooks, Darryl/Lisa Postlethwait

Cooks, Alicia Lavigne & Julie Anderson

Cooks, Sheila Lidberg & Tammy Griffin

Youth Class Teachers/Assistants: Aaron/April Smith, Mike/Val Lidberg, Debbie Norman, and more

Music, Lidberg families

Reunion Choir

Priesthood

Kitchen and Dining Hall

... and many others too numerous to list!

**Let us always remember the lessons learned
and the fellowship enjoyed together at Reunion!**

Report on Branch Retreat — by April Smith

On May 5-7, Oak Grove Restoration Branch and Warrensburg Restoration Branch joined together in a retreat at Odessa Hills Campground, to focus on how to be a missionary and share the good news of the gospel right where we are—in our homes, workplaces and communities. **The theme was "Who will go and work today?" and centered on the Doctrine & Covenants section 4:1c: "Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work; for behold, the field is white, already to harvest."**

Friday evening was a relaxed gathering—including supper and fellowship. Eric English led us in a getting-to-know-you activity so that members from both branches could become better acquainted. Then we enjoyed a campfire led by Mark Griffin.

Saturday morning we had theme-focused classes, taught by Elder Andrew King from Outreach Restoration Branch and Elder George Locke from Warrensburg Restoration Branch.

In the afternoon, conversion testimonies were shared—including by Sonu Suri and April Smith—and then Aaron Smith led a discussion

to help us consider what tools we have to be missionaries—and share the gospel in our current situations—and, how to be prepared to take action towards sharing with someone.

Saturday evening was a preaching service with a sermon by Elder Andrew King, and a campfire was led by Jamie Bendorf.

Sunday morning included a communion service with George Locke as the speaker, followed by lunch, a time of fellowship and cleanup. The weather was very warm for our weekend and we felt like summer had begun!



More Branch Retreat Pictures



Women's Study Classes — by Pat Chadwick

The current classes for the women of the Restoration really started as a gentle thought which would come into my mind from time to time, mostly in my morning prayer time: "The women of the Restoration need weekly study classes."

At first I just brushed the thought aside. Eventually—as it reoccurred—I thought, "Well yes, that would be a good thing for our women to have access to classes." As the impression became a little stronger I decided to pray that someone or some group would develop material and have classes for our church women. I think the Lord probably had a good laugh over that.

I noticed that more and more often this idea of having classes for the women of the Restoration came into my mind. Not just during my prayer time, but frequently it would just pop into my mind as I went about my daily activities. You may think I'm a little slow, but actually I believe that I was in denial.

One morning—while praying about classes for the women of the church—it became very clear to me that God was calling "me" to do it; to take on this responsibility. It seemed like such a huge task; I felt overwhelmed. I argued with God about it for some time, but His answer was always "I'm calling you to do this." So I struggled and didn't know what to do, because I knew the amount of time it would take and I also felt it was beyond my capabilities. Finally I talked to my good friend Sylvia Powell about my experience and asked her what she thought I should do. Of course she said, "Pat, if God is calling you to do this, then you must move out in faith and do it. I will support you." My husband Hal also offered his full support.

So I moved out in faith and said "Okay God, I'll do it, but I need your help because I can't do it alone!"

First, I felt impressed to contact the CRE Women's Council to see if they would be interested in supporting classes for the women of the Restoration; and they said they would. The rest is history. We no more than started the classes and Covid hit. Many women have expressed what a blessing it was during the lockdown to have these classes available on livestream. The timing was perfect.

God provided for us and met our every need. Without Him these classes would not be possible. He has put His hand upon these classes and blessed them with His Spirit—blessed our teachers, blessed the work as a whole. I give Him all the honor and glory. These classes are watched by hundreds of our church women across the USA, Australia and even Africa.

Sylvia did support me—during the Covid lockdown and ongoing. She attends classes and does our welcome and devotionals. Don Cutshall and his wife Edie come to support us also. Don always offers our closing prayer. The livestream equipment is run by my husband Hal and also Tammy Griffin. During Covid we taught to an almost empty room, usually just four people in the sanctuary at OGRB; but a presence was there as if the pews were full.

I was happy this past Fall when we were able to open back up and have people attend the classes in person again. **We are on summer break now, but the classes will start again September 5, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.** A group of women attended in person this past Spring, and we had prayer groups after the classes. Most women seem to prefer livestream. It is convenient, but I would encourage those who are free during the day to take the opportunity to come and partake of the rich Spirit that attends these classes and our prayer groups. Please plan to come and grow in knowledge and faith with us!

Go to the Women's page on church website www.orgb.org to view all classes and handouts.

Women's Prayer Groups — by Susan Booth

It has been a joyful experience for me to be able to support Pat and Sylvia and all the other teachers that share in this God-blessed ministry! I especially enjoy hearing about men watching with their wives!

Before Covid struck in the Spring of 2020, I was a leader of one of the many prayer groups—for there were many women that were coming in person and they filled the sanctuary. I attempted to keep in touch by email with my group of eight or so when the Covid shutdown occurred.

This past Spring of 2023 I agreed again to lead a prayer group in person, but often we had one group with all prayer leaders and attendees combined. Each person prayed for the church and our desire for spiritual helps related to the theme of that day's class. At the end of each session we had opportunity to ask an interest in the prayers of our sisters for personal needs or desires for ourselves, our families and our friends. Oh, how God is blessing us! Glory and honor are His!

Freeze Point: Senior High Camp 2023 — by Phillip Freeze

I was blessed to spend a week at Senior High Camp at Odessa Hills Campground this summer. I was the counselor to four young men, coached a volleyball class, did a service project and was in charge for two hours fishing/canoeing. We did a Renaissance theme for an evening activity and I dressed up as a Fisher of Men (see picture—I look good!).

Sunday night during our cabin worship I gave the boys a challenge for the week. Each evening before bed they had to share at least one thing they learned that day, a good thing, a bad thing (there was no bad for the week) and a thankful thing. We had such wonderful talks before bed. These talks even spilled over to our rest period, too. Boys can talk! They did ask me, since I was



behind enemy lines (talked to the GIRLS), if I would tell them what the girls said and thought about them. I told them that if they wanted to know what the girls thought and said . . . then go behind enemy lines! 😊


Our Service Project was trimming trees at the campgrounds. I had 3 young women and 3 young men helping with this project. They worked very hard to make the campgrounds more functional and look better. We took over 15 truck loads and dumped them behind the upper lake. It was very fulfilling work for the youth and myself. The workers that mow the campgrounds will really appreciate our hard work.

I felt blessed the entire week. Religion class was very uplifting. The boys shared several great things they learned in some of the other classes, too. They learned some things that made them feel like they were not alone in their struggles in life as a boy. I had a number of the girls ask me some very good questions—about fasting, Jesus knocking on the door and other questions they had about God.

I can't wait to spend more time at retreats and camps. I truly felt my cup was overflowing with the love of Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events

- July 2** Summer Series at Waldo Oak Grove providing refreshments
- July 9** Potluck after Morning Service
OGRB in Charge at Summer Series (eve) and Women's Group Singing
- July 10-14**
Vacation Church School
- July 16** Priesthood Class 5:00pm
Priesthood Meeting after evening service
- Aug 6** Priesthood Devotion 4:45pm
Priesthood Class 5:00pm

- Aug 13** Potluck after Morning Service
Priesthood Meeting after evening service
- Aug 20** Priesthood Class 5:00pm
- Aug 20 Evening**
Song Service and
Campfire at OGRB
(snacks after)
- 
- Sept 5** Women's Study Classes resume 10am
- Sept 22-24** Kirtland Temple Priesthood Assembly

Vacation Church School

July 10th - 14th

Theme: Our Great God

9am - Noon



4 yr. olds
to Sr. High

Registration
Form Inside!

Daily Themes:

- Monday:** God is Real
- Tuesday:** God's Word is True
- Wednesday:** God's Promises Are Sure
- Thursday:** God's Kingdom Will Come
- Friday:** God Calls You to Follow Him

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Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch
1203 N Broadway
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Change Service Requested

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

Zion's Path

Vacation Church School - Registration Form



**Monday-Friday, July 10-14, 2023
9:00 a.m. to noon daily**

(Please bring your children by 8:55 a.m.)

Classes provided for 4 years old to 12th grade.
(No nursery provided.)

Emergency Contact

Name _____

Address _____

Attending Child's Name: _____ **Age** _____ **Grade** _____ **Shoe size*** _____

*Please provide each child's shoe size for a possible craft!

Please list any allergies:

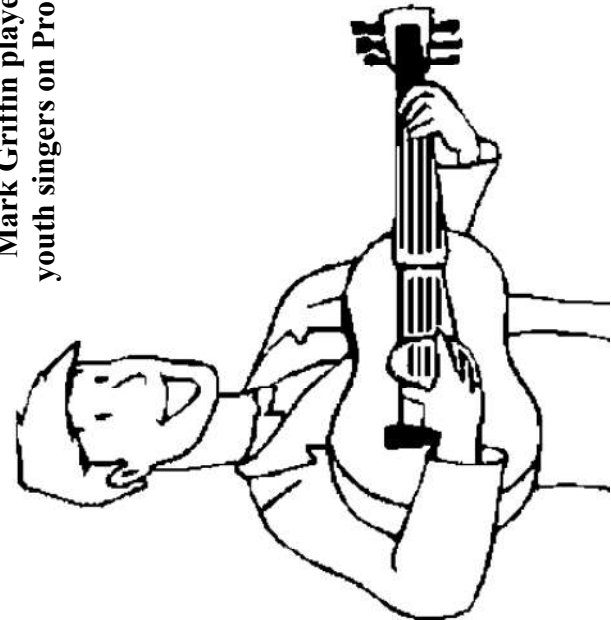
(Place completed form in the envelope in front foyer or give to Debbie Norman)

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KIDS' COLORING PAGE



Mark Griffin played guitar with youth singers on Promotion Sunday



REUNION/CAMPS WORD SEARCH

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 CLEANING
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 SWIMMING
 WORSHIP
 DINING
 TESTIMONY
 SHARING

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☆☆ From Debbie Norman, VCS Director: ☆☆☆

☆☆ Bring your children, your nieces and ☆☆☆

☆☆ nephews, your grandchildren, your ☆☆☆

☆☆ neighborhood kids! It's going to be a fun ☆☆☆

☆☆ week at Vacation Church School! Come ☆☆☆

☆☆ and participate in object lessons, games, ☆☆☆

☆☆ snacks, crafts, and soak in lots of truth ☆☆☆

☆☆ from the Scriptures. ☆☆☆

☆☆ **July 10-14, 2023** ☆☆☆

☆☆ **9:00 a.m. to Noon** ☆☆☆

☆☆ (Please bring your kids by 8:55 ☆☆☆

☆☆ so we can start promptly at 9:00.) ☆☆☆

☆☆ **Our theme is “Our Great God!”** ☆☆☆

☆☆ Daily themes are as follows: ☆☆☆

☆☆ **God Is Real** ☆☆☆

☆☆ **God's Word Is True** ☆☆☆

☆☆ **God's Promises Are Sure** ☆☆☆

☆☆ **God's Kingdom Will Come** ☆☆☆

☆☆ **God Is Calling You to Follow Him** ☆☆☆

☆☆ If you have any questions, you may contact me ☆☆☆

☆☆ at: denorman8165@gmail.com ☆☆☆

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Youth Page July-August 2023

OGRB Promotion Sunday — by Mark Griffin

The Church School department held their promotion program (five promoted to the next class) during the morning worship on Sunday, June 11. The directors and teachers for each class spoke about what they had studied over the past year and what they were planning for the coming year. Several of the youth shared in prayers and scripture, spoke about what they had learned, and ended the service by singing, "Let's Build Up the City of Zion." (see color page)

O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good . . ."

Alma 17:67-68

Junior Class at Reunion — by Debbie Norman

It was my great pleasure to teach the Junior class of young people at the CMRB Reunion at Odessa Hills Campground.

Each day between 29 and 32 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders filled our classroom as we tackled some important questions they have or soon will face. Is God real? Are the scriptures really true? Who is God? Why does God allow good people to suffer?

We discovered that God does not ask us to believe blindly, but gives us much evidence of His existence and of the truth of His Word.

Along the way, we had lots of fun with object lessons, games, and crafts to reinforce what we were learning. These involved such things as whipped cream, gummy worms, cotton balls, lots of glitter, and adhesive caulk!

My excellent helpers, Connie Smith, Christina Easter, and Kaila Forbes, kept everything running smoothly and I was grateful for their assistance. I made lots of new young friends and I hope and pray that their lives were impacted with the truth of God.



Senior High Class at Reunion — by Aaron and April Smith

We had the privilege of having around 25 senior high students during the week of the Central Missouri Restoration Branches (CMRB) Reunion. **The theme for the week was “Soldiers of Christ Arise: The Time is Now.”** We wanted the kids to see that their actions NOW are setting and establishing their eternal reward in the future, so the time is NOW to prepare to meet God.

On **Day 1** we focused on **agency and probation**. **Day 2** was about **what happens at death** and how the spirits go back to God and the body returns to the dust. The spirits are then sent to a holding place—either Paradise or Hell/Prison/Pit—depending on how you spent your time on earth. **Day 3** was about the **different resurrections**, who and when. We also spoke of Christ's mission to Hell and why he went there. On **Day 4**, we covered the principle of **eternal judgment** and how it is not just a one-time event.

Finally on **Day 5**, we visited the topic of a different set of **rewards** based on how people have lived their lives on earth.

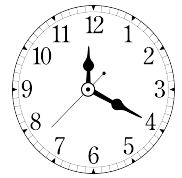
During this time, we also had the kids make small wooden clocks. On Thursday night, I [Aaron] was going to put the clocks into their wooden homes.

However, I couldn't find them. They were in a small brown paper bag, but they were nowhere to be found. After searching diligently to no avail, at home, I went back to the campground. No success there either, so I returned home and April and Blake joined in the search. Again, nothing. At this point I was getting very concerned.

Upon leaving the campground the first time the thought came to me that the only place in our classroom (the Youth Chapel) that I didn't look was in the trash! So, back to the campground, and we found them all in the trash!

When we located all the clock faces and had cleaned up each bag holding an individual clock inside, it struck me that this was just like Christ. He went to the worst place to find us and reclaim us. He didn't lose any one of us, as His love is so great and will persevere through the elimination of all sin. Only the sons of perdition are cast off forever.

That strong object lesson of Christ embracing the nasty sin in our lives—so He could come and save us—was very moving. I hope it resonates with you as well.



THE TIME IS NOW!



Combined Junior High and Senior High Classes

Quotes from some of the OGRB members who attended Reunion

The whole week was filled with the Spirit of the Lord. The music was inspirational, the fellowship was sweet—infused with the Spirit that binds us all together and makes us one, the preaching was outstanding and inspired, and the classes were enlightening.

I loved hearing the Saints sing. My favorite was singing “The Old, Old Path” while surrounded by sounds of rain.

Soldiers of CHRIST, Arise THE TIME IS NOW



“In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children...”
Alma 21:41

CMRB Reunion T-Shirts

Remember Your Mission!

Great preaching services! Everyone needs to watch or listen if you weren't there.