

ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

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

**Volume 20, Issue 1
January-February 2024**

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



Ye Are Called to the Work

A marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men.

D&C 4:1a (given in 1829 = 195 years ago)



With a steadfast faith:

- together let us walk, in the Lord's divine command;
- that nothing can remove—let us do our Master's will;
- united let us toil, and rejoicing bear our lot;
- temptations let us meet till the conflict here is past;

For we know:

- His word shall never pass away, but forever like His throne shall stand;
- His word hath said a blessing shall be ours IF we follow and obey Him still.
- He hath said, in gentle loving tones, "I am with thee to the end, fear not."
- He hath said, "The faithful unto death shall from [Me] receive a crown at last."

The refrain to this hymn, With a Steadfast Faith, by Fanny J. Crosby says:

- Though the sun and moon and stars shall cease, and the beauty of the earth decay,
- Yet the word of God, oh, blessed be His name, it shall never, never pass away.

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As our church family recounts the many blessings of 2023, we give God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit all honor, praise and glory! As a branch we have become more united as we have read, listened to, and studied ALL TOGETHER the Book of Mormon as challenged by our youth.

In 2024 let us continue on Zion's path, and seek ever more earnestly to respond to this calling to His work.

Consider praying daily for neighbors where you live; work/school associates; relatives; and perhaps even "a page at a time" of our OGRB membership directory: 1) leaders, 2) programs, 3) departments, 4) priesthood members, 5) every family (adults/children) listed.

***"Therefore, my beloved . . . be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* 1st Corinthians 15:58**

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Looking Forward

--- by **Jeremy Lidberg, Associate Pastor**

With the close of 2023, many in our branch have completed reading the Book of Mormon because of the reading challenge from our youth.

Towards the end of the book, we read about Christ in America teaching the disciples His gospel, which is clearly defined in 3 Nephi 12:25-30. Christ came to do the will of God by dying on the cross. Doing so would allow all men to come before God to be judged of their works, whether good or evil. Those who repent, are baptized, and endure to the end will be guiltless before God in that day.



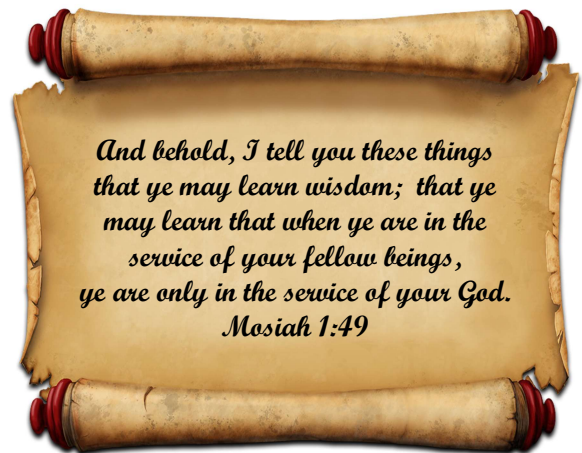
In 4 Nephi 1:1-2 we read that the disciples formed the Church and many came to be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost. In verse 6 it states, *“And there were great and marvelous works wrought by the disciples of Jesus...”* These marvelous works were a result of the disciples’ continued faith and diligence in teaching the people of Christ and the people’s belief on their words. Their faith was active in seeking and learning the fullness of the gospel.

In D&C 4:1a we are reminded that a marvelous work is coming forth yet again in our time. As the Lord has done in the past, he has set His hand again in the latter days by bringing about His Church and establishing His priesthood here again on this earth.

A Great and Marvelous Work

What an exciting time to be alive and a part of His Church! We are each called to the work of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, just as the Nephites were called to do in Book of Mormon times. We can take the counsel of Christ in 3 Nephi 8:3 as he taught the people to *“...ponder upon the things which I have said, And ask of the Father in My name, that ye may understand and prepare your minds for the morrow.”*

We have the opportunity and obligation to call upon our Heavenly Father in the name of Christ to guide us as we study and share the gospel in the tumultuous days that are before us. May we move out in this new year seeking our Heavenly Father’s will in our lives and asking how we can be of greater service to Him in bringing about this marvelous work.



*And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God.
Mosiah 1:49*

OGRB Pastorate

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

Do you have a personal testimony to share?
Please contact Debbie Norman for Zion’s Call.

Baptismal Service

On Sunday, October 29, 2023, Megan Leanne Lidberg, daughter of Jeremy and Carianne Lidberg, was baptized by her father, Elder Jeremy Lidberg. She was then confirmed by her grandfather, High Priest Steve Bohall, and Elder Mark Griffin.



Baby Blessings

On Sunday, November 5, 2023, two young girls were blessed. They are the daughters of Allan and Elizabeth (Cozart) Graham. Adeline Marie Graham (age 3) and Eloise Luevenia Graham (age 3 months) were both blessed by their grandfather, Elder Howard Cozart, and Elder John Martinko.



HAM Radio Class — by Becky Ballantyne

A HAM radio class was held Saturday morning, November 18, in the multi-purpose room, downstairs, at the church. Attendees included two licensed HAM radio operators and another 12 potential HAMs. The class opened with a scripture from Luke 12:50-52 and Bob White offered a prayer. Everyone was using a full featured, albeit complex, hand-held radio.

In the past, we've worked on our radios to access a repeater. A repeater is a device on a tower or high mountain that picks up your signal and repeats it. We've also had classes where we made some antennas, watched PowerPoint presentations on different radios and modes of operations, discussed radio bands, sub-audible tones, and offsets.

This class focused on how to access local "nets" and included an index card hand-out with a list of days, times, frequencies, and a brief explanation of these local nets. "Nets" are groups of HAM operators who get together "on the air." Some nets are formal (specific topics) and others are informal (many topics). The general rule for topics/discussions on the air is that it must be something you would be okay to share with your mom. Anyone, licensed or not, is permitted to LISTEN to nets. However, only licensed HAM operators are permitted to transmit/talk on HAM radio frequencies. Listening to nets helps accustom the user to the way these folks communicate on the air, and get to know each other.

We covered a lot of ground in this class. Jennifer Cool asked a pertinent question: "What is it that we can do right now?" James Bullard suggested we pick a FRS (Family Radio Service) frequency and start working the airwaves now. 462.5625 was chosen as the frequency to use. FRS frequencies are not limited to licensed operators, due to lower power.

FRS does not require a test or license. GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) requires a license, but no test. HAM radio frequencies require both a test and a license.

The class ended with a closing prayer given by Jeff Cool. Several attendees reported that they communicated with each other all the way home, even with the limitation of low power and pigtail antennas.



Adopt a Family — by Debbie Norman

This December, members of our congregation jumped in whole-heartedly to participate in the “Adopt a Family” program sponsored by our local Christian crisis pregnancy center, Resource Health.

Resource Health provides free ultrasounds, counseling, parenting classes, and more for women and couples who find themselves pregnant in difficult circumstances. Their main mission is to bring Jesus Christ to these families, as well as to save the lives of unborn babies.

Chosen by Resource Health to put on their “adoption” list were families who had large financial challenges, compounded by their decision to give their babies life.

Our branch adopted two families, and individuals contributed enough money for us to spend the maximum amount of \$500 per family to meet the needs of these families. Between the two families we were able to purchase many items from the families’ wish lists and needs lists.


Items we donated included:

- a rocker-glider
- a pack-and-play
- a bedside co-sleeper
- baby blankets and swaddler blankets
- a baby bathtub
- diapers
- other various baby items.

We also purchased warm winter clothing from their needs lists, including a quality work coat for one dad and quality work boots and gloves for the other dad.

Thank you so much to all who participated in sharing the light and love of Christ to these two families! Because of our participation in the Adopt-a-Family program this year, our usual Starlight collection drive for Resource Health mothers that we have traditionally held in December will be held in January 2024! Watch for details!



**VETERANS DAY**
HONORING ALL THOSE WHO SERVED

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Guardsmen; we are thankful to them all for their service. Veterans Day is their day. Today we remember them all, and we express our gratitude for what they have done. **But mostly, we are thankful to have them with us still today—**Mark Nunn, Pastor

The Freeze Point — by Susan Freeze

As we start a new year, there should always be a time of reflection. I wanted to share something that played out in my life this year. I started physical therapy this summer. After two months, the therapy had resolved my hip pain.

Right after I finished the therapy, both Flip and I got sick. One or the other of us was sick for about 6 weeks and then I struggled even longer. During that time, I did not do my physical therapy exercises. Soon my pain came back. About that time, I started another round of therapy for a different issue that I was having. Even though there was progress according to the therapist, I didn't really feel the results until about 10 weeks. Then suddenly, I could feel and see results. Next, I started weaving in my first set of exercises to get my hip pain back under control again.

My point is not to share the issues about my body, but rather this realization: without doing the physical therapy exercises REGULARLY, even daily, I couldn't make progress. When I stopped the exercises, my issue came back.

Reflecting back on this whole situation made me see the spiritual connotations. Without regular spiritual nourishment we become spiritually weak. Small changes can bring about great changes. This is a spiritual concept. *And thus we see, that by small means, the Lord can bring about great things. 1 Nephi 5:36*

I have been reading a book called Atomic Habits, by James Clear. The premise is the same as the scripture: small changes are what make the difference. It is not the big things that we do but the little things that we choose to do every day that make the difference in our life. I have included a few of his quotes below.

"All big things come from small beginnings. The seed of every habit is a single, tiny decision. But as that decision is repeated, a habit sprouts and grows stronger. Roots entrench themselves and branches grow. The task of breaking a bad habit is like uprooting a powerful oak within us. And the task of building a good habit is like cultivating a delicate flower one day at a time."

"Every action you take is a vote for the type of person you wish to become. No single instance will transform your beliefs, but as the

votes build up, so does the evidence of your new identity."

"Success is the product of daily habits—not once-in-a-lifetime transformations."

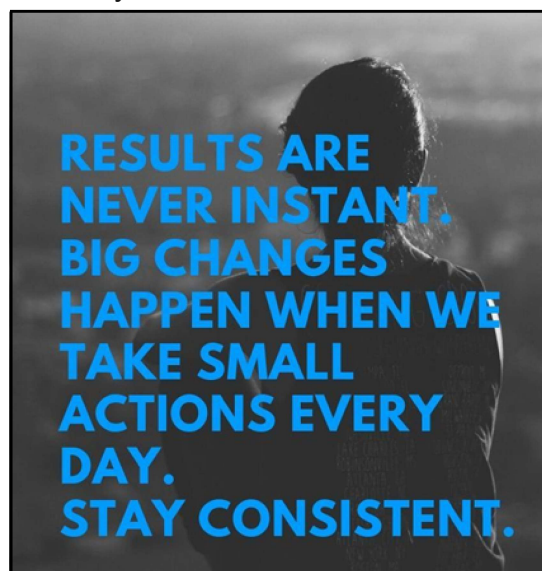
"Your actions reveal how badly you want something. If you keep saying something is a priority but you never act on it, then you don't really want it. It's time to have an honest conversation with yourself. Your actions reveal your true motivations."

Read that last quote again. Your actions reveal how badly you want something. When I don't take time during the week to make regular time with God, I am saying that it (or He) is not a priority. That doesn't make me feel very good when I say it or write it.

The book also talks about steps that help you create habits. He gives good advice. I am looking forward to finishing the book. So far, I recommend it.

I want to make God a priority. The Lord gives us an awesome promise if we seek him. ***"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* (Revelation 3:20)** Wow! I want to eat with the Lord. I want to feast with him.

Please reflect on the things that you would like to make a priority in 2024. Come find me at church, I would love to hear about your priorities for the new year.



OGRB Town Hall — by Eric English

On the evening of December 10th, the Pastorate and the Building Committee hosted a “town hall” meeting to provide an update on basement renovations and to give the congregation an opportunity to discuss what we might tackle next.

The basement bathrooms are now completed. (If you haven’t seen them yet, take time to walk downstairs and view them.) This was Phase I of the remaining basement program.

The Building Committee presented a draft design of the rear parking lot (Phase II) along with the approximate costs. There were many questions asked, along with good discussion about the other remaining phases to complete (multipurpose room and kitchen), not to mention some additional ideas about other things that

could be done with the property. This included additional ministry opportunities that the branch could possibly undertake.

Many in the branch were interested in understanding more details about the remainder of the basement phases and costs before deciding to move forward with the parking lot expansion. The Building Committee took this as a homework assignment to begin working on, in addition to completing the parking lot design and getting firm price quotes for the work.

Several concerns were also shared regarding the upstairs kitchen and issues with some of the current appliances. The Committee will be working on a renovation program to make our current kitchen more functional (including modernization and upgrading of all of the appliances).

DID YOU KNOW ?

Bring canned goods (especially fruit) and boxed cereals anytime to donate to the Community Food Pantry in Oak Grove.

Upcoming Events

January 6
Special Worship Service
at the Stone Church in Independence
Doors open 5:00pm, Song Service 5:30pm,
Worship Service 6:15pm

- Jan 7** Priesthood Devotion 4:45pm
Priesthood Class 5:00pm
- Jan 13** Scripture Sisters Reveal Party 10:30am
- Jan 13** Andrew/Ellie Smith Baby Shower
Buckner Restoration Branch 2:00-4:00pm
- Jan 14** Potluck Lunch
Priesthood Meeting after Evening Service
Women’s Dept. Craft Night 7:30pm

January 20 at OGRB
Special Class for Men & Boys #2
Breakfast: 8:30-9:00am
Class: 9:00am-Noon

- Jan 21** Priesthood Class 5:00pm
- Jan 26-27** Joint POZ and CMRB Men’s Retreat
at OGRB
- Feb 4** Priesthood Devotion 4:45pm
Priesthood Class 5:00pm
- Feb 11** Potluck Lunch
Priesthood Meeting after Evening Service
- Feb 18** Priesthood Devotion 4:45pm
Priesthood Class 5:00pm



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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*Watch most of our services by going to
our church website! (Click on "Video")*



2024 Branch Theme

Ye are Called to the Work

*Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God,
Ye are called to the work. D&C 4:1c*

Monthly Themes

- Jan-Feb** **A Marvelous Work - D&C 4:1a** - *Now, behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men,*
- Mar-Apr** **Serve God - D&C 4:1b** - *therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day;*
- May-Jun** **The Field is White - D&C 4:1c** - *behold, the field is white already to harvest,*
- Jul-Aug** **An Eye Single to the Glory of God - D&C 4:1e** - *and faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualifies him for the work.*
- Sep-Oct** **Qualified for the Work - D&C 4:1e** - *and faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualifies him for the work.*
- Nov-Dec** **Endure to the End - 2 Nephi 13:30** - *Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life.*

Church of Jesus Christ OGRB

Youth Page January-February 2024

Zioneers/Zion's League — by Becky Cool

On Saturday, November 18th, for a youth ministry activity, the Zioneers and Zion's League visited two elderly people in their homes. They organized a short worship to share in the homes. Singing, sharing scriptures, and allotting a time for the elderly to share testimonies and personal encouragement were a few of the things planned for the visit.

At the first home, they were encouraged by Marylyn Halsall to trust in God through all trials. Next, they visited Jim Cawley in his home. There he told them some amazing testimonies about God's power working in his life.

The youth ended the evening with dinner and fellowship at Culver's. Everyone felt blessed and encouraged and hoped to visit more members in the homes in the future.

2023 Children's Christmas Program

On Sunday evening, December 17, 2023, Elder Mark Nunn welcomed everyone and expressed Season's Greetings to all in attendance. Elder Mark Griffin recited the story of Jesus' birth, as our OGRB children who were present came to the stage in several groupings to place nativity scene characters on a table, and then proceeded to offer their gifts and talents by providing ministry of music and the depiction of a live nativity scene. They also led the congregation in singing "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night."

Participants included David and Isaac Holmes, Joseph Bullard, and Marleigh and Reagan Norman. Backstage lighting coordination was provided by Megan Lidberg. The ministry of music included: a piano duet by Hannah and Miriam Holmes; a ukelele, guitar, and vocal duet by Nate and Heidi Lidberg; and a trombone, trumpet and saxophone trio by Jacob, Johnathan and Ben Lidberg.

The calm and gentle Holy Spirit was present. Everyone participating and in attendance was greatly blessed through this youth ministry. Refreshments and visiting afterwards enjoyed by ALL!

Ministry of Music on November 19

On Sunday morning, November 19, some of our OGRB Youth and Young Adults provided the ministry of music. Pictured below (left to right): Michael Lavigne (guitar), Dylan Lavigne, Ethan Hill, Nate Lidberg, Alicia Lavigne, Ashley Seymour, Lauryn Smith, Abbey English, and Heidi Lidberg. (Rachel Horn also accompanied on piano.)

A beautiful spirit accompanied as they sang "How Deep the Father's Love For Us."



Keep reading! There is still time!

Remember to mark the chart in the fellowship hall at church.

This Book of Mormon reading challenge officially ends January 28, 2024.

As a finale to this challenge, the Youth Group will be leading the Sunday morning service on January 28, 2024. The focus of this service will be the blessings received from participating in reading The Book of Mormon.

For those of you who would desire an extra challenge, Elder Eric English created a "Book of Mormon Reading Challenge Final Exam" to test your knowledge. You can print the exam by going to our OGRB website "Resources and Links" page and click on the quiz button, or pick one up at church over the next several Sundays. The answer sheet will be distributed on Sunday, January 21, 2024.

If you chose to take the final exam, bring it with you to the service January 28.

Connect the dots below in the correct order of The Book of Mormon's 15 books.

