

ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

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

**Volume 18, Issue 4
July/August 2022**

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



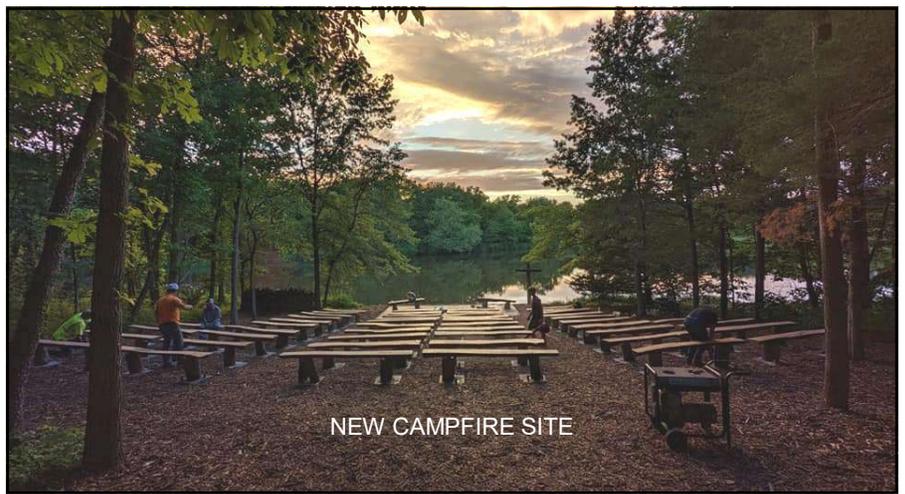
2022 CMRB REUNION

The Central Missouri Restoration Branches held their annual Reunion at Odessa Hills Campgrounds June 4-11. Many Oak Grove families attended and many served. The week included prayer services, worship, all kinds of recreation, youth activities, great food, classes for all, and much, much more.

One of the highlights of the week was the dedication of the new campfire site on the south end of the upper lake. It was built to glorify the Lord, and in memory of longtime OGRB member and campgrounds caretaker Elder Jim Mulheron, who passed on to his heavenly reward in December, 2020.

There were about 465 in attendance at the Sunday morning communion service. There were about 250 registered for the week, including about 120 children and youth.

The week's theme was "He Only Is My Rock."



Special Note

Watch the campfire site dedication service, plus all of the adult classes and main worship services online by going to this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/odessahillscampground>



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Baptisms at OGRB on June 12

Marleigh Norman, daughter of Aaron and Sarah Norman, was baptizeded by her father.

She was confirmed by Elder Aaron Norman and her grandfather, Elder Don Norman.



Gary Steppe, spouse of Karen Chapman, was baptized by Priest Mick Ballantyne.

Gary was confirmed by Elder Don Norman and Elder Jeremy Lidberg.



**Choir at CMRB Reunion
under the direction of
Larry Ward**



Baptisms at OGRB on June 26



Taylor Mead, daughter of Jason and Lacie Mead, was baptized by her grandfather, Elder Mike Mitchell. Taylor was confirmed by Elder Mike Mitchell and her great-grandfather, Elder Danny Jimerson.



Kayleigh Mead, daughter of Jason and Lacie Mead, was baptized by her grandfather, Elder Mike Mitchell. Kayleigh was confirmed by her great-grandfather, Elder Danny Jimerson, and Elder Mike Mitchell.



Odin Armstrong, son of Douglas and Sarah Armstrong, was baptized by his uncle, Priest Andrew Dunning. Odin was confirmed by Elder Don Cutshall and Elder Ed Story.



Samuel Story, son of Travis and Lori Story, was baptized by his grandfather, Elder Ed Story. Samuel was confirmed by his uncle, Elder Jared Smith, and Elder Eric Eliason.

“Spiritual Gift” of Hospitality — class notes by Susan Booth

On Thursday, May 5, 2022, Jill Etter was our guest speaker and taught a women’s class about having “a table of hospitality and fellowship.” She suggested that this would be the lifestyle of the Kingdom of God, where together we would all talk, eat, and pray—at the table!

Jill shared the testimony of Eric Odida in Kenya, when neighbors came together every night to share food, talk and study!

Here are some scriptural references:

Friendly & whole-hearted: Luke 14:23, Isaiah 55:1. If God, then also I (our purpose is to serve)—the Lord adds to the Church: Acts 2:46-47. “Given” to hospitality: Romans 12:13. Pursue, follow after, seek eagerly, earnest to acquire: 1 Nephi 1:65 and 1 Corinthians 16:15. Share “spiritual meat” with others: 1 Peter 4:9, Luke 22:7-11.

Jill recommended to whom we should NOT show hospitality: warned that “spiritual darkness” interferes with “light of the Holy Spirit.”

Here are some scriptural references:

Talebearers revealeth secrets: Proverbs 20:19. Deceivers falsely lead away God’s people: Causers of division: Romans 16:17. Railers/swindlers that are drunk or abusive: 1 Corinthians 5:11. Contentious Deny God’s Power: 1 Timothy 6:3-5, Proverbs 22:10, 2 Timothy 3-5. Lazy and Undisciplined: 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11.

Ideas for who to invite to your table:

God’s family: Ephesians 2:19. Traveling ministers: 3 John 1:7-8. Widow(er)/Fatherless: Deuteronomy 14:29. Those that live alone—elderly, single mothers or fathers—the least of these: Proverbs 14:21, 22:9, and 31:20, Matthew 25:41.

Common excuses that can be overcome by “keeping it simple!” and/or “just adding one more person to the table!” : Acts 2:46

* cannot cook well enough * don’t have enough food * it’s not in the budget (Luke 6:38) * too many people * I get stressed out * house too small (God blesses your efforts) * house is a mess * not my cup of tea (but instead consider it is a ministry, a commandment, invite ONE; God becomes REAL!) * too exhausted for conversation (invite a chatty person / ask folks about themselves) * too much hard work (Laborers with God: 1 Corinthians 3: 6, 9 & Minister to Saints in His Name: Hebrews 6:10)



Jill reminded us that Jesus ministered to ONE woman at the well, and an entire village accepted Jesus as Savior.

When we invite our church family, it is not like having “company.” We can think of creative ways to serve—inspired by God—that match nicely with our personality.

We are called to exercise great joy in God—be glad, embrace and welcome heartily, be waiting in earnest expectation to receive them as we would Jesus: Matthew 10:35. Love so much! Romans 16:2, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Genesis 18:2, 4-5. Humbly serve guests: Romans 15:32, 1 Thessalonians 3, Psalm 50:5, Isaiah 40:11

- * What do you love to do? Invite others.
- * Serve others! Invite them into your home.

Promises to those who feed others:

Isaiah 58:5, 7-14 (healing shall spring forth speedily: know God; share Him with others)

*Righteousness shall go before you

*Glory of Lord will be your “rear-guard”

*You shall call and the Lord answers!

Cry? He will say, “Here I am!”

*Darkness to Light

*Satisfy soul in drought

*Strengthen bones

*Those among you shall build the old waste places

*Raise foundations

*Repairer of the breach(es)

*Restorer of paths to dwell in

*As for me and my house

we will serve the Lord

Jude 1:1-2

*Jude, the servant of God, called of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them who are sanctified of the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ: **Mercy unto you, and peace, and love be multiplied.***

Senior Adults Campfire Sing-Along — by Charlie Booth

The OGRB Senior Adults 55+ Group held an activity at the church on Saturday, May 28.

After enjoying a variety of potluck finger foods, the group of 20 went outside to take part in a campfire and sing-along. Sheri Nunn led a lively campfire with fun songs and old favorites—complete with entertaining props and group involvement. Mark Nunn was her sidekick with occasional jokes. A good time was had by all!

Also in attendance were Mike Stice, Gerry & Stephanie Bird, Gena Martin, Mick & Becky Ballantyne, Chasteen Maier, Charlie & Susan Booth, Dennis & Delores Heater, Bob & Cathy White, Kathy Mobley, and Larry Nunn & family.



OGRB Delivers “Meals on Wheels” — by Karen Story

The Oak Grove Restoration Branch is involved in a valuable community service along with the Oak Grove Ministerial Alliance. It is called Meals on Wheels—this is a free government service, but donations are welcomed. The Oak Grove Senior Center is located inside the Davis Memorial Center. The food is delivered to the center and put together in meals that are taken to many elderly and shut-ins in Oak Grove. These hot meals are delivered weekdays around the lunch hour—volunteers get very attached to these people and we miss them when they pass on.

Past volunteers from our church included Chuck Edwards, Mike Ballantyne, Monica Rush, Edie Cutshall, Lyle Smith, and Marceia Walters. More recent volunteers are Bill and Jane Jones and Ed and Karen Story. **Let us know if you are interested in helping OGRB deliver meals.** Nine or ten other churches in Oak Grove share this ministry with us—we only deliver for one week every other month.



Note about eligibility to receive meals:

In order to start receiving these meals, people must meet certain criteria as set by Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). To begin the process of receiving home-delivered meals, one may call the information and referral line at 816-421-4980. A brief screening will be completed over the phone to determine initial eligibility, then a home assessment is the next step in the process.

Volunteer Opportunities: The Senior Center needs you! There are many opportunities to volunteer. Call 816-690-4003, ext. 4.

Restoration Float Trip—Unity and Oneness

— by Dennis and Delores Heater



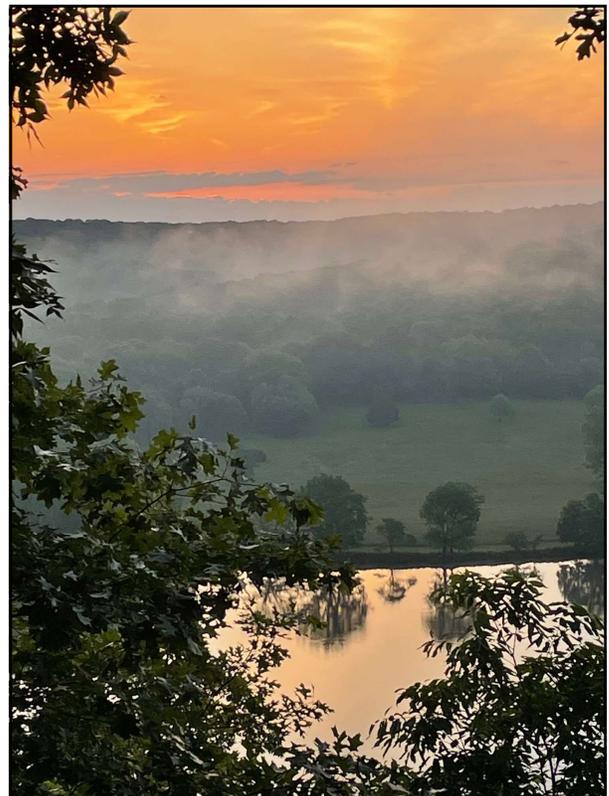
"We are One in the Spirit, we are One in the Lord...and they'll know we are Christians by our love." We recently went on the Restoration Float Trip on the Niangua River at Mack's Creek, Missouri. How does this relate to being one and being united, as was mentioned at prayer service, mid-June? This is how: There were about 50 (men, women, and children) church members from seven branches represented at the weekend event: Saints Haven (hosted), Outreach, Living Hope, Missionary, Oak Grove (us), Children of God, and Cross Timbers branches. That's how. We all came together as one—united in worship, fellowship, and fun in God's creation.

To reach the Living Waters Canoe Ministry Campgrounds, we traveled a few miles of gravel roads which twisted and turned, going uphill and downhill through the countryside. A person could have gotten lost had it not been for signs pointing to the campground. When we arrived at the campground, we were happily greeted by interns working there. It was very nice, though a bit primitive. Our nightly accommodations for sleeping were in a Tree Hut which we shared

with seven others. It was one big room so by the time we left we had become united as one by getting to know our hut-mates better. There were also Eagles Nests and Tepees for sleeping in. No RVs, campers, trailers are allowed, although you can bring your own tent.

Our worship was out in the open, covered by a net overhead to shade us, but yet air could get through. Our dining area was in a structure open on three sides with picnic-type tables so we could enjoy the beauty of the campground around us as we ate. Except for the Trading Post that was available to obtain essential items one may have forgotten, restrooms/showers, and the infirmary which were all in enclosed buildings, everything else was done outside in the open; this included floating on the river, crafts, games, a scavenger hunt for the kids, campfires and worship — including music, preaching, and a communion service.

How better to be close to our Lord and Savior! Consider joining us next June 2-4, 2023.



... Pics from Branch Retreat



Upcoming Events

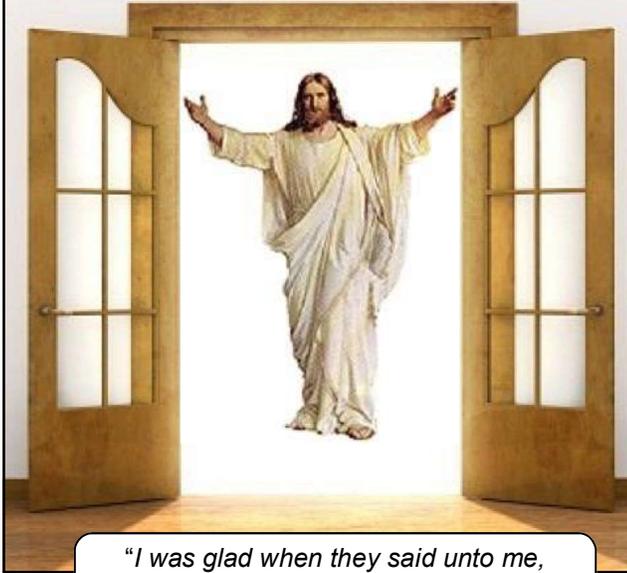


- July 3** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm
- July 7** Women's Meeting—class led by Cindy Green "Genealogy Basics"
- July 10** Elders Class 7:30am
Potluck Lunch
- July 17** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm
Priesthood Meeting after evening service

**July 18-22 OGRB Vacation Church School
"Prepare for Victory in Christ"**

- July 23** Louise Gregson memorial service 2:00pm
- July 24** Elders Class 7:30am
- Aug 7** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm
- Aug 13** Father/Son Breakfast Roll-Off at OGRB
- Aug 14** Elders Class 7:30am
Potluck Lunch
- Aug 21** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm
Priesthood Meeting after evening service
- Aug 28** Elders Class 7:30am
- Sep 9-11** Restoration Women's Council
Women's Fall Retreat, Odessa Hills
- Sep 17** Women's Fall Picnic, Oak Grove

*Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch*



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

**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	



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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")

SPRING RETREAT 2022
Oak Grove/Knob Noster
Restoration Branches
Odessa Hills Campgrounds



Retreat and Then Go Forward!

The **theme** for our May 13-15, **Oak Grove/Knob Noster Spring Retreat** was "My Soul Will Rejoice in Thee, My God and the Rock of My Salvation" (read 2 Nephi 3:29-66).

Mike and Valerie Lidberg did a fantastic job of **coordinating the retreat!** Thanks to all of our photographers who sent **pictures** for the newsletter. Chris Allen headed up the kitchen staff and we enjoyed delicious **meals and snacks!**

Jeremy and Carianne Lidberg orchestrated a fun **mixer** that involved moving from table to table, based on multiple choices, and then a speed race involving drawing objects, humming hymns, listing Scattergory items, charades and getting to the winning bell first!

Campfires were headed up by Valerie and Heidi Lidberg (Fri), and Mark and Tammy Griffin—both playing guitars (Sat).



Gerry Bird raised the **flag** with other early risers. Bill, Cindy and Michael Green brought a **morning devotion** on Saturday and Ed and Karen Story did the same on Sunday. Charlie Booth and Steve Bohall led **prayer service** on Saturday morning. Elder Sean Allen, from the Odessa Restoration Branch, provided a **Saturday adult class** centered on rejoicing in God's love and discipline. Flip and Susan Freeze headed up a **class for young children**. Aaron and April Smith taught a **class for pre-teens**. Eric and Sarah English coordinated a **class for teenagers (all boys!)** We had a **group picture** taken on the bridge (see next page) Organized Saturday **recreation** time for youth (young and old) was led by the Kaullen brothers—Corbin and Blake. Mid afternoon Saturday, Lyle Smith featured a **Book of Mormon class**. There was a fun **evening activity** led by Mike and Valerie Lidberg—two teams competing in Scripture-Friendly Feud, Jeopardy (Finish the Hymn, Finish the Scripture, Scripture References, Fathers, Prophets, and Church History Dates), and Pictionary.

The **Sunday adult class** was taught by Elder Aaron Norman, during a loud thunder and rain storm. He outlined (see below) and led a discussion on **PRAISE:**

--gets our focus off ourselves and back on God
(1 Chronicles 16:25-29, Psalm 146, Revelation 5)

--brings us to a place of humility
(Mosiah 2:32-36, Matthew 6:28-39, Job 38:1-12)

--makes the enemy flee
(2 Chronicles 20:15-27, 1 Samuel 17:45-47, Mosiah 8:34-37 & 80-82)

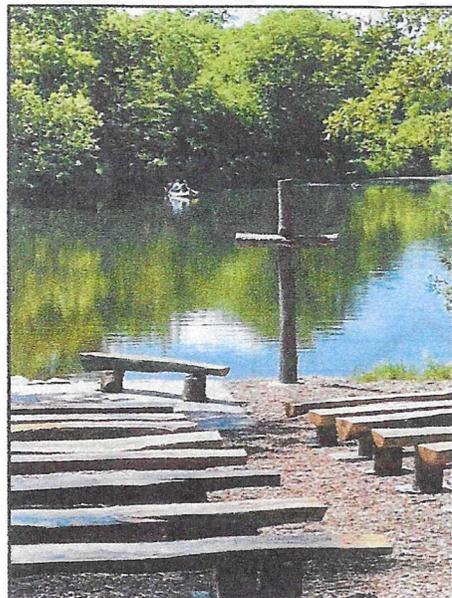
--leaves no room for complaining and negativity
(1 Chronicles 16:8-12, Psalm 103, 2 Nephi 9:132-136)

--leads us into God's presence
(Psalm 100, 1 Chronicles 16:25-29, Psalm 16:8-11)

--allows us to recognize God's gifts and blessings in our lives (James 1:17, Ephesians 1:3-7, Luke 11:10-14)

--allows God's power to be displayed through our lives, often through a trial.
(Acts 16:25-33, James 1:2-4, Ether 3:11-14)

Junior Church was held in the Youth Chapel during the adult class, and was led by Jared and Katie Mulheron. The Sunday **preaching service** was presided over by Elder Karl Anderson (Knob Noster) with an opening prayer by Elder Mark Griffin (Oak Grove), offertory by Elder Douglas Smith (Knob Noster), preaching by High Priest Steve Bohall (Lexington), and closing prayer by Priest Eric Hon (Knob Noster). Though at first the morning was cold and rainy, the warm spirit filled with the Son was in attendance; and later sunny blue skies and white fluffy clouds brightened our fellowship.

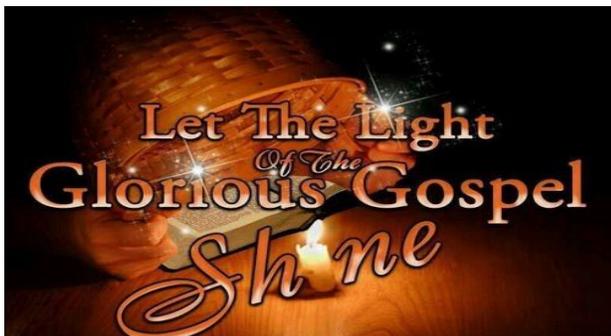


The Minor's Ministry — by Dylan Lavigne (age 14)

Doctrine & Covenants 75:1b says: *“Behold, I say unto you that it is my will that you should go forth and not tarry, neither be idle; but labor with your mights, lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trump, proclaiming the truth according to the revelations and commandments which I have given you.”*



This scripture is directed toward *everyone*, not just priesthood, not just people over a certain age, and not just the people over a certain age who are priesthood. It is for all people of God's Church. We are *all* to be the *“light of the earth”* (Matthew 5:16), and we do not have to be priesthood members to shine God's light. *For “...what I say unto one, I say unto all...”* (Mark 13:32).



So, we have identified that we are not to be idle and that we are to be God's light. Now what? How do we, the youth and the non-priesthood, go about ministering to others? One way is to simply talk. Everyone can do that! Talk to your family, talk to your friends, talk to the cashier at the store, or even the guy who stocks shelves all day. Bring up edifying conversation; conversation that would please God and that also shows that you are



Share God's Word

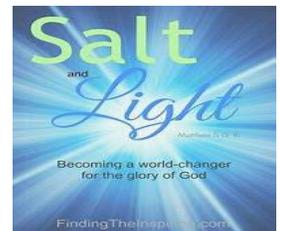
truly happy in Christ. Let Him shine through every word you say, and let others see the light and joy that the truth brings to you.



You can also shine outside of conversation. Perhaps you catch someone's glance as you look around; you can smile, brightening their day. Random acts of kindness, being polite, etc., are also forms of ministry.

Now, why should we put all this effort into ministering to others? I mean, what's in it for us?

If we read part “c.” of the first scripture I mentioned, there is a promise: *“c. And thus, if ye are faithful, ye shall be laden with many sheaves and crowned with honor, and glory, and immortality, and eternal life.”*



I don't know about you, but I think that's a blessing worth putting effort into! So let's all, every one of us, put our best foot forward and minister to one another. Let us go forth and not tarry, neither be idle; but labor with OUR mights, lifting up OUR voices as with the sound of a trump, proclaiming the truth according to the revelations and commandments which the Lord has given us and Christ has shown us!



Coloring Page

Strive for eternal life with Jesus.

