

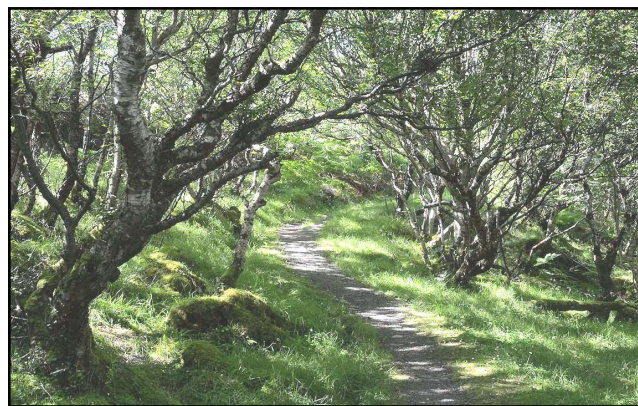
# ZION'S PATH

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

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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

**by Mark Griffin, January class teacher**

Our adult Sunday school class started the Walter Weldon book "Tell My People" this January, 2021. Each month we are going to study one of the twelve statements the Lord gave Brother Weldon in the early morning hours of September 16, 1990.

We started by reviewing Brother Weldon's experience, what it meant to him and how the Lord moved upon him. Brother Weldon stated, "I feel I was given no choice but to do what I was commanded to do. I have gone into the scriptures and found numerous places where the Lord, through His prophets, has warned us, time and time again of his commandments and things he wanted us to do to become His children."

We next examined the section, "Expounding the Scriptures." I felt very strongly—as Brother Weldon so desired when writing this book—that the answers are found in the scriptures, not in man's works or in man's opinions. And, if we search the scriptures diligently and prayerfully, we will find the answers we seek in accordance with the Lord's will.

Our last two Sundays we spent on the first Chapter, "Tell My People: I have gathered many of you to the Land of Zion." We discussed scriptures around "gathering" or "to gather." We had several testimonies from Saints who have gathered in or had relatives who had gathered. Each brought a unique perspective of how the Lord has been working in gathering the Saints as well as having some tarry. We discussed how Zion (New Jerusalem) is an actual physical place, a safe haven, an inheritance, a promise, a place for preparation, for all people (all nations) and, lastly, that the gathering is spiritual as well as physical.

The book is now more relevant than ever before, with the calamities facing us as a nation and globally. We continue to be slow in responding to the Lord's call, and I pray that these studies will be a blessing to each one of us, inspiring us to become a more sanctified people in these latter days.

**by Andrew Smith, February class teacher**

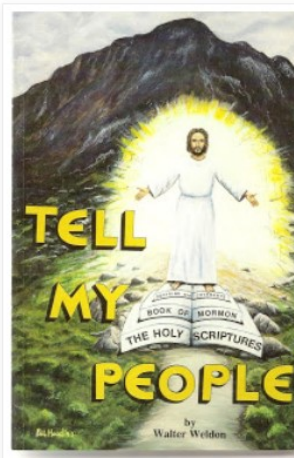
In February, the adult class looked at Chapter 3 of Walter Weldon's book, "Tell My People."

Brother Weldon proposes a theme of urgent preparation for Christ's coming in this chapter, and the first week of class we discussed how to prepare. An example we looked at was 1st Samuel, which illustrates the process of repentance as individuals and as a people; we discussed how their journey could be relevant to us today as a Church in a spiritual wilderness.

The second week of class we went further into the idea of urgency. Understanding a command given to us is important, but knowing the time frame in which the command should be finished is pivotal, especially when the command-giver knows exactly what is best for us.

Brother Weldon's book, and this chapter especially, are great assets for the understanding of simple truths that should be explored as we press on toward a greater relationship with our Lord.

In an already short month, we were limited to only two Sundays due to no church on February 14 because of snow and below-zero temperatures.



**2017 Revised Edition  
available for \$8.00  
(contact Charlie Booth)**

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# Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

--- by Elder Mark Nunn

***“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness” (Colossians 1:9-11).***

We are well on our way into a new year, which reminds us of our opportunity for a new beginning. The **2021 annual theme** selected by the Pastorate is **“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God,”** and each month’s theme is based on this same principle—to “seek” after spiritual growth and development for the labor at hand. There is nothing new about these themes or goals for the Saints. They have been with us since the beginning of Christ’s church. Our opportunity for a new beginning is to ask; **“What more am I going to do to build up the Kingdom of God this year?”**

Paul, in Colossians 1:9, tells us that we must first pray to the Lord, seeking to be filled with knowledge, wisdom and spiritual understanding—for ourselves, one another and especially our priesthood. Keep in mind that none of these things will be granted just by asking. We cannot receive any of these gifts unless we are diligently seeking them through study and preparation; then God can increase our own abilities and accomplishments.

There are two kinds of knowledge we are able to acquire in our lifetimes. First, there is **scholarly knowledge** or book learning. This is a wonderful start for self-improvement, but is woefully lacking when it stands alone.

When I was in college studying to be a nurse, we had a brilliant student in our class.

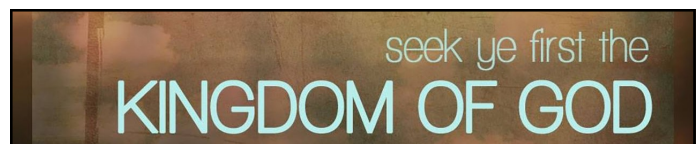
Bill (not his real name) was a double major studying nursing and biology while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. His ultimate goal was to complete his bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, then a PhD. He planned to become a Director of Nursing or a hospital administrator. The problem with his plan was that not one of us students would ever want to work for him! Despite all his scholarly knowledge, he wouldn’t have any experience to help him understand the needs of the nurses working for him.

This brings me to the second kind of knowledge we can acquire—**experiential knowledge**—which is critical for us to become competent workers and leaders. I used to tell my professors, “You’re not teaching me how to be a good nurse. What you’re teaching me are the tools I need to be able to become a good nurse through my experience in the workforce.”

In Colossians 1:10-11, Paul expresses his desire for us to **“walk worthy of the Lord,”** and to **“be fruitful in every good work,”** so we can strengthen ourselves through God’s glorious power. When we exercise the knowledge obtained through study we develop a deeper understanding of who God is and what He wants from us. But only by experience can we be granted wisdom—the ability to effectively apply our knowledge for the best outcome.

Through experience we learn that a walk worthy of God’s grace is not just a lifestyle. It’s an attitude of the heart which results from (1) knowing God for who He really is, and (2) reflecting the character of Christ. Knowing God for who He is also inevitably results in fruitful, joyful service that reflects His desire and will!

So let us continue in this new year with renewed activity as we seek first to build the Kingdom of God.





## Baby Blessing

On Sunday afternoon, January 24, Brooklynn Faye McAllister, infant daughter of Addie Turner and Ryan McAllister, was blessed in the home of Brooklyn's great-great-grandmother, Delores Turner.

Ryan McAllister  
Addie Turner  
(holding Brooklyn)  
Grandma Sarah  
(Turner) Peralta



Elder Ed Story holding Brooklyn  
for the blessing by Elder Charlie Booth

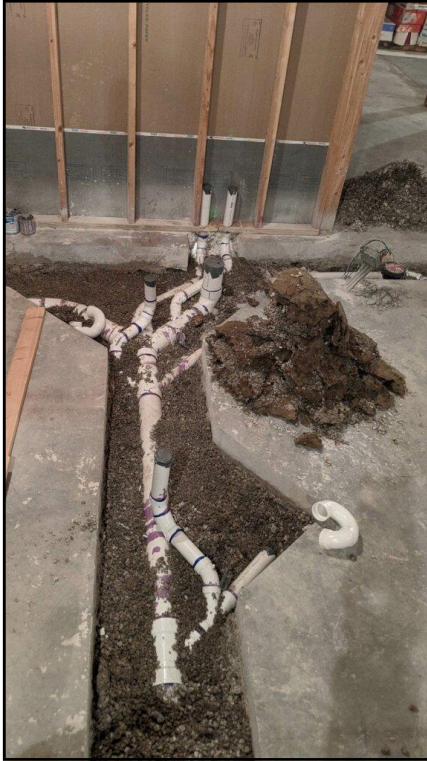
## Volunteers Remove Snow & Ice on January 2, 2021





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## Building Committee Report --- by Jeremy Lidberg



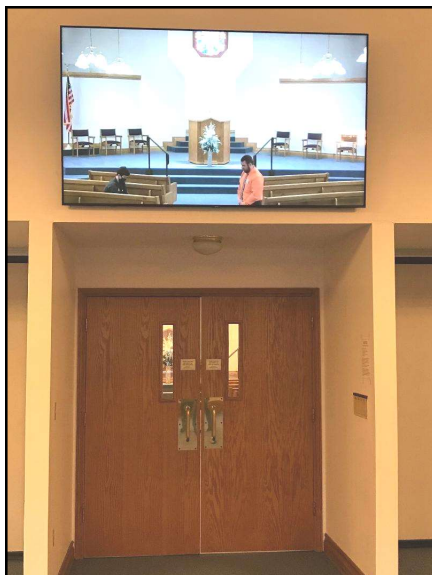
PVC drain piping installed in trenches cut into existing concrete floor.

We are very excited to share that we are finally moving forward with our basement bathroom project. The plumbing contractor started by cutting and removing concrete to install new underground plumbing for the redesigned bathroom layout. The new plumbing is now in and has passed city inspection. The next steps are to pour new concrete to fill in the cutouts and start building walls. We will be planning workdays in the near future, so please watch for details in the announcements.



Piping covered in gravel and ready to fill in with new concrete.

We are also planning to work on some projects with the youth this spring with the children's offering funds. The youth were given the opportunity to submit their suggestions on what they would like the funds to be spent on around the church. There were some pretty far-fetched ideas, such as a swimming pool. We narrowed down those suggestions to some more realistic goals and look forward to sharing more info later this spring.



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## Audiovisual Update --- by Charlie Booth

A new large flat screen television has been purchased and installed in the Fellowship Hall above the sanctuary entry doors.

Even with the folding doors open, it has always been somewhat difficult to see all that is taking place in the sanctuary. Also, as the Covid-19 guidelines continue, the Fellowship Hall has been used often during worship services for social distancing. The same Livestream broadcasts that go out on the internet are shown on this screen.

In addition, the screen will be used for other events in the Fellowship Hall, such as showing Christian videos for Youth Group activities, Fun and Fellowship nights, Safety Team training sessions, and large gatherings such as CMRB events, weddings and funerals. (In general, these other events are not on Livestream.)



# STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

## **Treasurer's Report** --- by Branch Treasurer James Bullard

Our branch continues to be greatly blessed financially! With this blessing comes the need/requirement to be good stewards, or, in other words, to be accountable/responsible for those funds, not only to our membership but to our Heavenly Father from whom all things come. We will strive to provide a monthly financial report included in the bulletin. If at any time you desire more information, please feel free to reach out to me.

We would also strongly encourage each of our individual and family households to be mindful of our financial situations and prepare an accounting. It is important to recognize the blessings of God and, in return, give back what is required of the Lord.

Beginning in February, we began offering an additional way to contribute funds to the branch. We have established a means of contributing online. The intention was to enable those who cannot worship with us at this time to have a convenient way to contribute. In addition, it is our hope that visitors to our website will desire to support our ministries through this option. If you are interested or need help setting up this method for donations, please contact me!

[treasurer@ogrb.org](mailto:treasurer@ogrb.org)

## **Zioneers/Zion's League Youth Serve by Cleaning the Church**

*"...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)*





## Training our Young Men & Boys --- by Aaronic Priesthood

On February 28th our Aaronic Priesthood met with many young men and boys of our congregation. We had 11 young men/boys and 7 Aaronic priesthood assist with this event! The Aaronic priesthood has been discussing ways to encourage our youth, particularly the young men and boys. Our goal is to provide some instruction, guidance, and encouragement to this group.



The training was focused mostly on how to effectively provide ministry at the doors (greeting) and assisting with the offering on Sunday mornings. Greeting the saints as they arrive is not only a way for the youth to be more involved, but we believe it will allow them to get to know the membership better! We enjoyed the pleasure of greeting two young ladies (Abbey and Lauryn) as their timing was perfect for us to do a little role-play practice.

Much emphasis was also placed on how to properly assist in receiving and collecting the offering. We had some good discussion on how to act, what to do, and what to try not to do! Again, we had the pleasure of many other younger kids and women assist us in some role-play practice. Several of the young boys volunteered to practice collecting the offering pew by pew.

We will also be providing training to several of the young men as they expressed desire to assist in the audio/visual room. Their responsibilities will include the operation of streaming our online services and managing the cameras.

It was a very enjoyable experience for many of us. It is very exciting to see so many young men and boys eager to serve our Lord as they step out in service. We pray that we will have more opportunities to work with each one of these fine young men and boys in the future. We count it a great blessing to see them in our congregation! We desire to assist the Lord by training and encouraging them to listen for the calling of the Lord in their lives and motivate them to respond quickly through love and service to the body of Christ!

*"Train up a child  
in the way he should go;  
and when he is old,  
he will not depart from it."*

*(Proverbs 22:6)*

# Successful “Project Christmas Starlight”

--- by Debbie Norman and Susan Booth

THANK YOU for your generous response to Project Christmas Starlight! We are thrilled to announce that we filled TEN new-mom care packages/totes and gifted Rachel House with \$325 cash donations on top of that!

Care packages included: \$10 QT gas card, \$10 Walmart gift card, perfume or body mist, hairbrush and comb, full sized lotion and body wash, lip balm, slipper socks, hair scrunchies, bath bombs, a bar of bath soap and a travel water bottle.

During our Women’s Meeting at the church on Thursday, January 7, we enjoyed sandwiches and chips and then listened to a presentation by Lauri Phillips of Rachel House ~ Pregnancy Resource Centers. We viewed an excellent video about the Rachel House ministry, followed by a

question-and-answer period.

Each woman in attendance selected and filled each of the ten tote bags with items donated and collected at OGRB. Then, one by one, each attendee held or touched a tote bag and prayed for the mom, and also for the baby, and the father. We know that many hearts will be touched by the outpouring of your love! Your support and generosity make a difference!

Our Rachel House ambassador is Debbie Norman. Feel free to contact her with any questions or offer ideas to help with other pro-life projects.



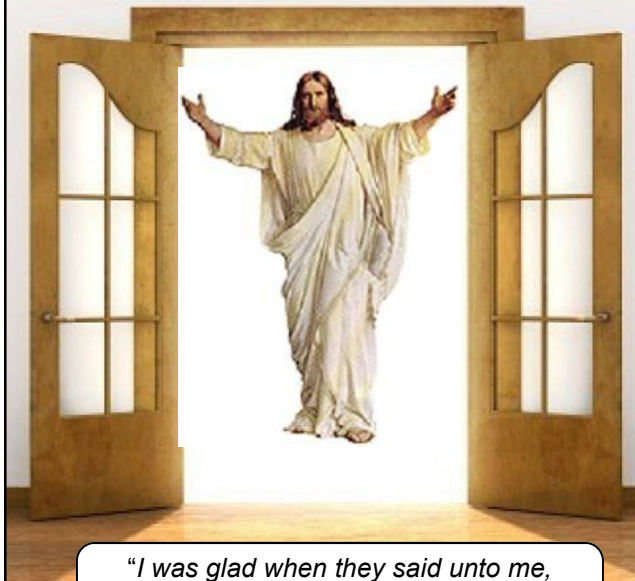
Lauri and Debbie with the filled totes

## Upcoming Events

**Mar 2** Women’s Virtual Class at OGRB 10:00am  
**Mar 7** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm  
**Mar 9** Women’s Virtual Class at OGRB 10:00am  
**Mar 12-14** Jr High Retreat at Odessa Hills  
**Mar 14** Elders’ Class 7:30-8:45am  
Potluck Lunch  
**Mar 16** Women’s Virtual Class at OGRB 10:00am  
**Mar 19-21** Older Youth Retreat at Odessa Hills  
**Mar 20** Women’s One-Day Retreat 9:00am-Noon  
at Oak Grove  
**Mar 21** Spiritual Stewardship Group #6 to Butler  
Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm  
**Mar 23** Women’s Virtual Class at OGRB 10:00am  
**Mar 26-28** Sr High Retreat at Odessa Hills

**Mar 28** **Palm Sunday**  
Elders’ Class 7:30-8:45am  
**Mar 30** Women’s Virtual Class at OGRB 10:00am  
**Apr 4** **Easter Choir Program**  
Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm  
**Apr 9-10** Spring Gathering of the Saints at  
Waldo Restoration Branch  
**Apr 10-11** Junior Retreat at Odessa Hills  
**Apr 11** Elders’ Class 7:30-8:45am  
Potluck Lunch  
**Apr 18** Spiritual Stewardship Group #1 to Butler  
Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm  
**Apr 25** Elders’ Class 7:30-8:45am  
**May 21-23** Aaronic Priesthood Retreat  
at Missionary Branch

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

**Zion's Path**