

ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

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

Volume 19, Issue 2

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

His TRUTH is marching on!
Hymn #98



The Best News of All

The Great Commission

*"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world."
(Matthew 28:18-19)*

*"And our children shall be restored, that they may come to that which will give them the **true knowledge** of their Redeemer."
(2 Nephi 7:4)*

*"For my soul delighteth in plainness; for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men. For the Lord God giveth **light** unto the understanding; for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding."
(2 Nephi 13:4-5)*

*"And they all cried with one voice, saying, Yea, **we believe** all the words which thou hast spoken unto us; And also, we know of their **surety and truth** because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually."
(Mosiah 3:2-3)*

*"We believe in God the Father!
We believe in Jesus Christ!
We believe in the Holy Spirit!
And He's given us new life!
We believe in the crucifixion!
We believe that He conquered death!
We believe in the resurrection!
And He's comin' back again!"
(from "We Believe" by the Newsboys)*

*"And ye may **know that he is by the power of the Holy Ghost**; wherefore, I would exhort you that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power according to the faith of the children of men—the same today, and tomorrow, and forever."
(Moroni 10:7)*

*"Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine.
And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me; And I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me; and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, **to repent and believe in me**; And whoso believeth in me and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God."
(3 Nephi 5:32-34)*

*"And I give unto you a commandment, that then ye shall teach them [scriptures] unto all men; for they shall be taught unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people."
(Doctrine & Covenants 42:15b)*

*"And they went forth whithersoever they were led by the Spirit of the Lord, preaching the word of God in every synagogue of the Amalekites, or in every assembly of the Lamanites where they could be admitted. And it came to pass that the Lord began to bless them, insomuch that they brought many to the **knowledge of the truth**; yea, they did convince many of their sins, and of the tradition of their fathers, which were not correct."
(Alma 13:21-22)*

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Come to Know Truth

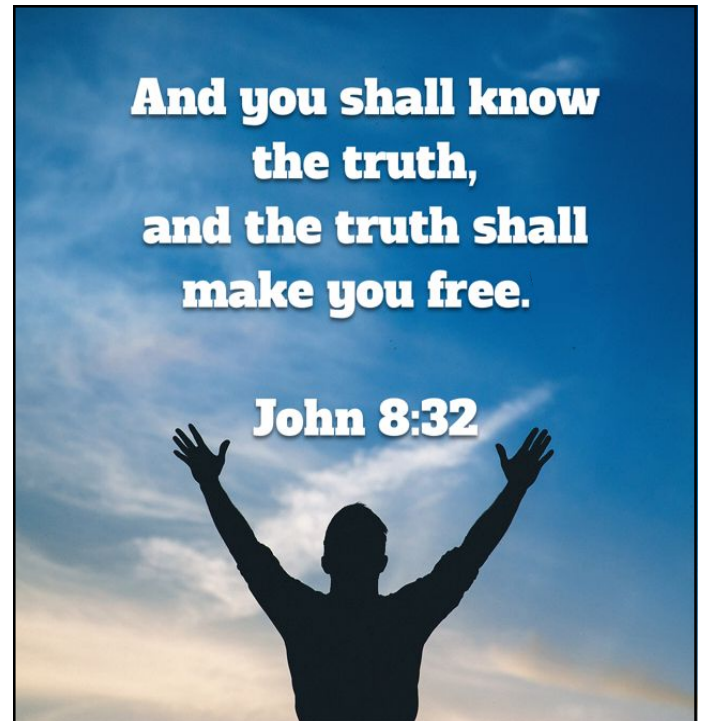
--- by Jeremy Lidberg, Associate Pastor


The theme for March and April is “Come to Know Truth.” This is drawn from the book of Alma. The story unfolds as the sons of Mosiah preach to the Lamanites, convincing them of the truth of Jesus Christ. *Alma 14:16* says, *“Therefore, we have named all the cities of the Lamanites in which they did repent and come to the knowledge of the truth and were converted.”*

This is a very timely message for our day and age. For, much like in the days of the Lamanites, there are countless people in our day that are deceived and lost in this world. People have built their own truth upon shifting sands and the very foundations of what they thought was truth are eroding around them. The prophet Isaiah spoke about this dilemma in *Isaiah 59:4, 14-15*. He said, *“None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth; they trust in vanity and speak lies; they conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity. ... And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; ...”*

When we look around us in the world, we can see this deception before our very eyes. Many people no longer believe in absolute truth. The world’s truth has become relative. Whatever one is feeling in the moment becomes their truth. We can see that this is a lie of the adversary and he has deceived the nations into believing it.

There are many different issues we have in today’s society, and they can all be boiled down to one main problem: the lack of **THE** Truth. How can we become one if we are all living our own separate truth? We can’t! We must turn to **THE** Truth! As it states in *Alma 14:16*, the Lamanites came to a knowledge of **THE** Truth, the truth we find in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *John 14:6* says, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”* God has set in motion the plan of salvation from the very beginning and there is only one Truth, Jesus Christ, that will bring us to eternal salvation in Him.





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

Baptismal Service

On January 8, Emily Mulheron was baptized by her father, Priest Jared Mulheron. She was then confirmed by Elder Mike Lidberg and Elder Mark Nunn. Emily is the daughter of Jared and Katie Mulheron.

(You may view this special service on our OGRB website. Click on "Videos," then the morning service January 8th.)



Building Committee News — by Eric English

In the fourth quarter of 2022, the Building Committee brought forward a proposal to the branch to allocate approximately \$28,000 to modernize a significant portion of our church building lighting to LED.

This proposal was approved, and during the months of November and December over 100 lights were replaced in classrooms, hallways, all of the basement, as well as exterior wall packs and pole lights.

Getting this completed in 2022 enabled us to qualify for almost \$8,000 in rebates and we also expect to see a reduction in our monthly utility bill. Have you noticed how bright the new lights are? This project will also allow us to avoid the need to replace bulbs and ballasts over time.

Please join us for a church workday on Saturday, April 29th. Watch for more details regarding the projects that we hope to tackle.

The Building Committee greatly appreciates your support!



LET THERE BE LIGHT

Ham Radio Antenna Party — by Mick Ballantyne

Several years ago, on a trip to Colorado, we went up to Pike's Peak via the Cog Railroad. As we boarded, I heard lots of elevated excitement in voices, squeals of laughter, and shared joy. As we started up the mountain and the conductor began to share details and stories of our ascent, everyone grew silent. We witnessed the quiet of awe and wonder of the majesty of our Creator. Every sight was a beautiful creation of our Lord Jesus.

Did you know our Creator also made radio waves?

That same anticipation, that same giddiness was present Saturday morning, January 21st. Twenty people came to our first HAM Radio antenna party. Some I knew and some I didn't know. But I had the opportunity to visit with all of them.

Ray Buckwalter started us off with a prayer, then instruction and safety precautions were spelled out.

Diagrams and sample antennas were available, and everyone was invited to make an antenna with the materials which were provided, or they could improvise and design their own version. Many new styles of antennas were invented that day.

There were opportunities to learn to solder with a soldering iron. Some taught the rest how to sweat copper pipe.

Many participated in the hidden transmitter hunt, using their radios to zero in on the signal. Eric English hid the transmitter in the church and the only clue provided was that it was either on the main floor or in the basement.

A good time was had by all!



Kenya Older Youth Retreat — by April Smith

On December 27-31, 2022, an Older Youth Retreat was held in Awasi, Kenya, at Attenzion School. It was the first Older Youth Retreat to be held in Kenya. Participants were expected to number from 60-80 and reached 91 in attendance! Youth attended from all over Kenya and two even came from Tanzania.

Classes were taught by Eric Odida, Doug Smith, and Aaron Smith and covered doctrinal principles, the Body of Christ, apostasy, restoration, the Bible points to the Book of Mormon, stewardship, forgiveness, prayer, and marriage. A small group prayer time was held each day where many of the youth shared prayer concerns and prayed for each other.

A dedication and commitment service was held on the final night of the retreat and several

of the youth shared actions they plan to take moving forward to be closer to Christ. At the conclusion of the retreat, solar lights from ARM were distributed, so that the youth will be able to have a light for studying if they should lose electricity.

The retreat was viewed as very valuable for these youth as they gathered from many areas across the country and came together as one body. They were strengthened and renewed and are now able to take that strength in the Lord back to their homes, families, work, and school and share the love and light of Christ in new and stronger ways.

The hope is for the Older Youth Retreat to continue in years to come.



Aaron and April Smith in Kenya

2023 SPRING YOUTH RETREATS AT ODESSA HILLS

THEME: KEEP YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

(Hebrews 12:2)

Older Youth ~ March 10-12

Senior High ~ March 17-19

Junior High ~ March 24-26

Junior ~ April 15-16

Spiritual Stewardship Group Event — by Becky Ballantyne

On Sunday evening, January 23, the service was provided by Spiritual Stewardship Group #3 in a “fireside chat” setting, led by Mark Griffin, with members of the group participating with testimonies, songs, and shared memories of faithful loved ones who’ve gone before us.

Joshua Lavigne opened the service with ministry of music by singing “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,”



Alicia Lavigne then shared about reading Louise Gregson’s Memoirs and how much the testimonies from Louise’s life had inspired her, even though Alicia had never met her. Mick Ballantyne then spoke about fond memories of Louise, including how she was always testifying of Jesus and, as a prayer warrior, always had someone special to pray for each day.



Testimonies of other faithful loved ones who’ve gone before us were then given by group members.

Sheila Lidberg spoke of her father, Ira Brosam, who often read scriptures, church history and other good books; and she spoke of his gift of inspired poetry, reading one of the poems he wrote. She has a large binder at home, entitled “Odes of Ira,” which contains many of the poems he wrote.



Tammy Griffin shared special memories of her father, Patriarch Vernon Darling, and read one of his favorite poems, “My Yoke is Easy,” which he often included in his sermons.

Chris Allen spoke of her mother, Pat Allen, who helped start the church’s emergency food pantry in case of economic and/or natural disasters. She said she knew her mother would be pleased that Crystal Lavigne has now teamed up with Chris to continue and expand the program.

Dennis and Delores Heater read short stories on making choices and deciding to believe.

Crystal Lavigne then shared their family’s conversion testimony and how the curiosity and persistent questions about God—from then 10-year-old Alicia—enabled family members to eventually begin scripture study and prayers for enlightenment. As a result, Todd, Michael, and Alicia were all baptized the same day in July 2015.



Lyle Smith reminded us about his father, Leonard Smith, who was inspired to organize the spiritual stewardship groups as a means of being able to get to know our fellow Saints on a more personal level. In our normal church settings, we aren’t able to really get to know each other—as much as we would like—in order to address individual concerns and needs, as well as joys in every day life.

The service closed with Mark Griffin and Michael Lavigne playing guitar and the entire group singing “Let the Redeemed” by Josh Baldwin, and the congregation joined in on the final chorus.

(You may view this special service on our OGRB website. Click on “Videos,” then the evening service January 23rd.)



Emergency Preparedness Class — by Crystal Lavigne

On February 11th, we held our first Emergency Preparedness Class. This was an introductory class but was packed full of information. We learned about how much water we would really need to store for a minimum of two weeks, including items that we can carry in our Bug-Out-Bags (plus how to properly fit them and the maximum weight load to carry.) We also had some first aid basics, instruction for safe use of armed protection, and the importance of communication (Ham Radio). We had some delicious refreshments between classes and, as always, the fellowship was wonderful. We are planning future classes/discussions and our desires are to help get you prepared, as much as possible, in the event of an emergency.



Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| Mar 5 | 4:45pm Priesthood and Spouse Devotion
5:00pm Elders/Aaronic Priesthood Class | Apr 2 | 1) All Branch Communion Service a.m.
at Waldo Restoration Branch
2) CMRB All Branch Gathering p.m.
at Warrensburg Restoration Branch |
| Mar 7 | Women's Spring Study Class 10:00am | Apr 4 | Women's Spring Study Class 10:00am |
| Mar 11 | Senior Adults "Travelog" Get-Together
1:30-3:30pm at OGRB | Apr 9 | Easter Sunday—Choirs & Brass Ensemble
Potluck after Morning Service
Priesthood Meeting after Evening Service |
| Mar 11 | Zioneers/Zion's League Activity:
Open Gym/Worship at CPRS 4:30-8:30pm
Dinner Provided | Apr 11 | Women's Spring Study Class 10:00am |
| Mar 12 | Potluck after Morning Worship
Priesthood Meeting after Evening Worship | Apr 16 | 5:00pm Elders/Aaronic Priesthood Class |
| Mar 14 | Women's Spring Study Class 10:00am | Apr 17 | Women's Spring Study Class 10:00am |
| Mar 18 | Women's Department Spring Brunch
9:00am—Noon "Growing in the Gospel"
With Classes by Crystal Lavigne and
Jennifer Halverson | Apr 25 | Women's Spring Study Class 10:00am |
| Mar 19 | Baby Blessing—Rachel Noelle Holmes
5:00pm Elders/Aaronic Priesthood Class | Apr 29 | Workday at Church—sponsored by the
Building Committee |
| Mar 21 | Women's Spring Study Class 10:00am | Apr 30 | Fifth Sunday All Branch Evening Service
At Waldo Restoration Branch 6:00pm |
| Mar 28 | Women's Spring Study Class 10:00am | June 3-10 | CMRB Reunion at Odessa Hills |
| Mar 29—Apr 1 | Elders Conference at Waldo RB | July 10-14 | Vacation Church School at OGRB |



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

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