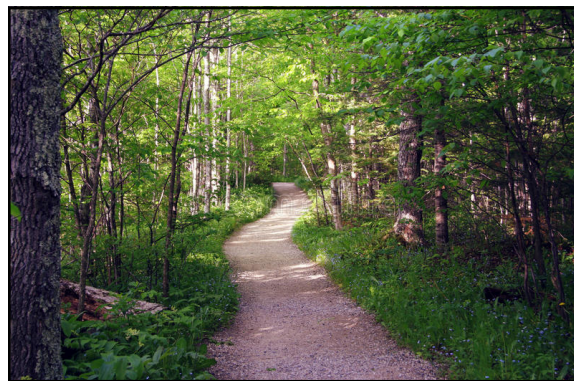


ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

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

**Volume 17, Issue 4
July-August 2021**



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

WE'RE MARCHING TO ZION! CMRB REUNION



Photo taken Saturday, June 5, 2021, following the evening service.

The annual Reunion of the Central Missouri Restoration Branches was held June 5-12 at the Odessa Hills Campground. There were over 200 people in attendance, including at least 110 youth! The theme "Marching to Zion" was emphasized in classes and preaching services. Many members of the Oak Grove Branch attended, taught classes, preached, and helped in a myriad of other ways.

Speakers included Mike Ballantyne, B.J. Schultz, Larry Marsh, Clayton Foss, Marlin Guin, Aaron Smith, and Karl Anderson. The children and youth also presented a program on Friday evening. *(Each of those services may be viewed on the Odessa Hills Campground page on Facebook. Also, audio CD's of the services are available—contact Don Norman.)*



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To all those who were there, do you remember the violent storm experienced at Reunion on Friday afternoon, June 11? We were blessed as we came through it together!

Consider the following scripture:

"And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for upon all the glory of Zion shall be a defense.

"And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain" (Isaiah 4:4-5).

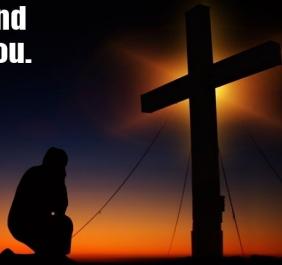


Submission to God

--- by Don Norman, Pastor

**Submit yourselves
therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and
he will flee from you.**

JAMES 4:7



During the month of July, we are considering the theme, “Seek Submission to the Will of God.” Submission is the act of accepting the power or authority of someone else.

Growing up under the guidance of my parents, I found that from time to time I had trouble submitting to their authority. Even though I knew my parents loved me and desired what was best for me, I still had problems sometimes letting go of what I wanted to do and following their guidance. As I grew older, I learned that my life went far more smoothly when I yielded to my parents’ authority.

In the same way, our loving and all-knowing Heavenly Father desires for us to acknowledge and submit to His authority so that our lives may be blessed. Submitting to God’s will requires us to be willing to let go of our will and yield ourselves to His will. But because of our human nature—the natural man within us—that submission becomes a challenge. We like to think we know what is best for us and our loved ones.

Submitting means we need to become adaptable, flexible, and resilient. Being **adaptable** is a willingness to change our own ideas and preconceptions as they are revealed to be false by the truth of God. We need to become adaptable as we negotiate all the “noise” of the world around us and allow God to mold us in ways that direct our thoughts and lives toward Him.

Being **flexible** means we are willing to lay our lives before the Lord and that we are willing to be ready to follow where He leads at a moment’s notice. We need to become flexible in the ways we manage our time, our resources, our work, so that we are ready to change course as directed by the Lord, in order to be more useful instruments in His hands.

Being **resilient** means as we yield our will to God, we hold firmly to the belief that He knows what is best. No matter what the circumstances around us look like, we remain grounded in the knowledge that God has all wisdom and all power. He is bigger than any trials we face in this life. Like a tree bending before the storm, we bow to His sovereignty and remain firmly rooted in His promises.

As we move forward, the challenge before us is to **guard against complacency**, thinking we are following the Lord’s will, when actually we are doing what we choose and asking God to bless us. We must awake to the calling of God to strip ourselves of pride and submit all that we have and all that we are into His hands.

“And now my beloved brethren, I have said these things unto you, that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may walk blameless before him...” (Alma 5:38).

“But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father” (Mosiah 1:120).

OGRB Pastorate

Presiding Elder: Don Norman

Associates: Elder Mark Nunn

Elder Aaron Smith

Priest Aaron Norman

Louise Gregson's 99th Birthday

Our beloved Louise planned and prepared for her party in her home and many of us were delighted to attend on Monday, May 24, 2021!

We are thankful for her many testimonies of God's goodness and her service to others throughout her life. God bless you, Louise!



Baby Blessing

On Saturday, June 26, Keith Wayland Silver, infant son of Randy and Tara (Lively) Silver, was blessed in a private family service.



Oak Grove Senior Luncheon



We had 56 people in attendance for the Oak Grove Senior Luncheon on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at the Oak Grove Restoration Branch (OGRB).

This was the first gathering of the senior group since the COVID-19 pandemic shut us down in March of 2020. We were especially delighted to see Patriarch Vernon Darling and his wife Margie who have been sequestered in their home for most of the pandemic. This day was also Carol Allen's birthday. Carol was so thrilled to be able to attend and her face lit up as the group sang happy birthday to her.

What a joyous occasion it was for all who were able to come and share in this annual senior luncheon. The OGRB Women's Department, with leader Lisa Postlethwait, hosted the event. The tables were adorned with real flowers and our meal was prepared by Chris Allen with the assistance of Sheila Lidberg, Chasteen Maier and Noelle Postlethwait. The menu consisted of a Caesar salad, a tender juicy beef brisket, cheesy potatoes, green beans, homemade wheat rolls and a cherry cheesecake with caramel drizzle.

At the conclusion of the meal everyone retired to the sanctuary to hear the group "True Blue Gospel," from the Colburn RB. The group

consisted of Sam Smith, Bob Harm, Larry Ellis and Mike Fleming who shared their good old bluegrass gospel music talents with us. The group convinced our local OGRB member, Howard Rash, to come out of his banjo picking retirement to perform with them.

A wonderful time was had by all and we look forward to the continuation of the senior activities in the coming months.

— Mark & Sheri Nunn



Adult Sunday School Class (9:15 to 10:15 a.m., except 1st Sunday)

by Charlie Booth, May class teacher

The theme for May was **"I Am Waiting for You, My People, to Sanctify Your Lives"** from Chapter 4 of the book *Tell my People*, by Walter Weldon.

There are three key parts in his statement:

- "I am waiting" - this implies the Lord's hesitation, waiting to do something...to take action
- "for you my people" - very clearly identifies for whom the Lord is waiting
- "to sanctify your lives." - the action required by the Lord prior to doing what He is waiting to do

We discussed the definition of *sanctify* and also a number of its opposites, such as *corrupt*, *tarnish*, *defile* and *pollute*.

Another word we considered was *consecration*, which means to make holy or to dedicate to a higher purpose. ... The secr part of **consecrate** comes from the Latin sacer "sacred," so something **consecrated** is dedicated to God and thus is to be considered sacred. When we dedicate our lives wholly and completely to God and His Son Jesus, the process of sanctification - working to sanctify our lives - begins.

We then discussed the three steps taken by followers of Christ:

1. Baptism of water
2. Baptism by the Spirit
3. Sanctification by the blood of Christ

We also focused on the question, "Can men and women sanctify themselves or does God do it all for us?"

The work of sanctification is carried on in the heart of the believer by the cooperation of the human and the Divine: man works, God works. God, in all His dealings with man, in grace, recognizes man as a free agent, capable of receiving or rejecting His grace. Man is not passive, he is active. He must of his own free will yield to the influence of the Spirit of God.

The remainder of the class was a discussion of our individual responsibility in working toward sanctification. This effort includes separating ourselves from every known sin and working to constantly prepare our hearts and minds.

UPCOMING ADULT CLASSES

- July: "We Must Keep God's Commandments"
Teacher: Elder Aaron Smith
- August: "We Must Forsake the World"
Teacher: Charlie Booth

by Aaron Norman, June class teacher

For the month of June, the adult Sunday school class topic was Chapter 5 from the book *Tell my People*, by Walter Weldon. The title of this chapter is **"Tell My People: Keep the Lord's Day Holy."** The first two weeks of the class focused on what it means to keep the Lord's Day holy, necessary work (ox in the ditch), Jesus' example through his ministry and the recognition of the "first day" Christian Sabbath vs. the strict Sabbaths observed in the Old Testament. Modern day revelation in the Doctrine and Covenants gives us an excellent framework on which to base our understanding of the Sabbath day. (See D&C 119:7b-d and D&C 59:2e-g.)

Brother Weldon offers his insights into what the Lord tells us about the Sabbath:

- It is a day of rest.
- It is a day to worship God
- It is a special day to fast and pray.
- It is a day to gather to hear the word of God.
- It is one of God's commandments.
- The Lord blessed the Sabbath and hallowed it.
- It is a day to glorify God.
- The first day of the week we come together to break bread.
- It is a day to come together to offer sacrifices to God. That offering is a broken heart and a contrite spirit.
- It is a day to pay our devotions unto the Most High.
- Our food is to be prepared with singleness of heart.
- It is a day to confess our sins before the father.
- It is a day to walk uprightly before the Lord.
- We are not to have much laughter and lightmindedness on the Lord's Day.
- It is a day to confess His hand in all things.
- We are not to be weary in doing good works.
- We are to keep all God's laws and commandments.
- It is a day to read and study the scriptures.
- It is a day to visit the sick and afflicted.

The third week of class covered the latter portion of Chapter 5. Brother Weldon asks the question "Are we known today as a special people of God?" and admonishes to come out of Babylon, to keep the commandments, and become a peculiar people for the Lord. Discussion centered on what it takes to become that peculiar people. The world does not see or treat the Sabbath as a holy day, and when we hold it as such, we set ourselves apart.

Building Committee Report--- by James Bullard

“Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.” (1st Chronicles 28:10)

Our church building continues to be such a blessing from the Lord! We enjoy spiritual ministry and countless occasions of exceptional fun and fellowship! Please consider how you may assist in the stewardship over this blessing.

Basement Bathrooms Update

The sheetrock is nearly all up. We are waiting for the shower bases to be prepared to complete all the walls. However, we are prepared to begin painting and also applying a finished epoxy flooring surface! In addition, we will start making the necessary additions to the heating/cooling/exhaust needs in this area.

Be on the lookout for updated photos of the project on the hallway bulletin board!

Upcoming Landscape Project

This fall we anticipate a new look around the church! Plants, shrubs, stone and mulch will create a fresh new look to enjoy!

Workday—August 7, 9:00am—3:00pm

Paint bathrooms, load a dumpster with trash/items from the basement, assemble and anchor benches around the playground area, assemble a deck box to store sports equipment, replace light bulbs, caulk windows, and complete other miscellaneous projects.

REMINDER!

Workday—August 7, 9:00am—3:00pm

Lunch Provided!



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**

Aaronic Priesthood Report --- by Mick Ballantyne

Continued Training for Our Young Men

As you know, the young men here at Oak Grove Restoration Branch continue to grow, take on responsibilities, and engage the congregation in humble service. Their desires to serve the Lord and this congregation is a blessing to us all.

Ongoing training continues as many of these young men will assist in the audio/visual part of our services. While their work is behind the scenes, it is vital to those at church and those who are unable to attend (via Livestream).

As you continue to hold one another up in prayer we ask you to remember these young men as they seek additional opportunities and

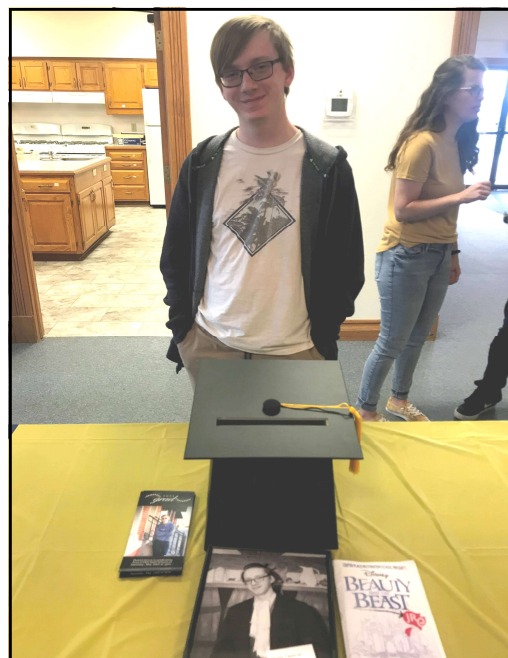
ways to serve you and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 4:12 reminds us, *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”*



Honoring our Graduates

Our branch had three members graduate from high school in May: Daniel Green, Kyley Shackles, and Terissa Kaullen. On Sunday evening, May 23, we had snacks and a time to honor the graduates. Daniel Green is pictured at right. (The others were not able to attend.)



Upcoming Events

July 4 POZ Summer Series at Waldo 6:00pm
OGRB in Charge, Mark Nunn speaking

July 11 Elders' Class 7:30-8:45am
Morning Guest Speaker—Chris Capps
Potluck after morning worship

July 12
Women's Dept. "Book Club" 6:30pm
Discussion led by April Smith:
In the Shelter of the Little Brown Cottage

July 18 Aaronic Priesthood class 5:00pm
Priesthood meeting after evening service

July 25 Elders' Class 7:30-8:45am

Friday, July 30
Celebration of Life for Jim Mulheron
(on his birthday)
5:00-6:30pm Cake & Ice Cream
6:30pm Video
7:00pm Memorial Service

Aug 1 Aaronic Priesthood class 5:00pm

Aug 7 Workday at Church 9:00am—3:00pm
Lunch Provided

Aug 8 Elders' Class 7:30-8:45am
Morning Guest Speaker—Marlin Guin
Potluck after morning worship

August 12
Women's Dept. "Book Club" 6:30pm
Discussion led by Noelle Postlethwait:
None to Give Away

Aug 15 Aaronic Priesthood class 5:00pm
Priesthood Meeting after evening service

Aug 16-20
Vacation Church School 9:00am-noon

Aug 22 Elders' Class 7:30-8:45am
Branch Business Meeting 6:30pm

Aug 28 Special Day of Prayers for the Welfare of
the Land of Zion

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

Zion's Path

Youth Page

Church of Jesus Christ - Oak Grove Restoration Branch
July—August 2021

Promotion Sunday

Prior to morning worship on May 23, a short service was held for youth promoting from Church School classes. Pictured are those in attendance who have moved on to the next classes.



*"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
(Proverbs 22:6)*



Below are shown all youth and teachers in attendance at the Promotion Sunday service



Rachel House "Baby Shower"

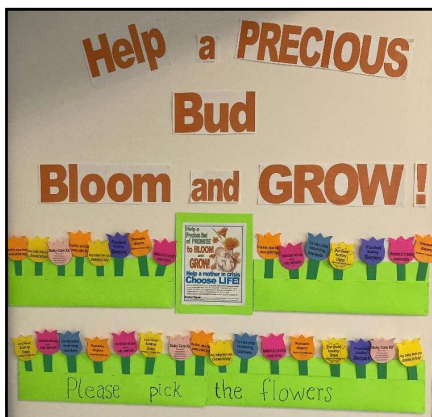
— by Debbie Norman

From Mother's Day until Father's Day, our branch at Oak Grove held a special "Baby Shower" to support Rachel House, our local Christian crisis pregnancy center. Flowers were "picked" from the display and the items listed on the flowers were purchased and returned to the church.

I was so pleased with our congregation's huge response and our willingness to work to end abortions by supporting mothers in crisis pregnancies.

The back of my van was loaded full of diapers, blankets, sleepers, and other baby items to take to Rachel House. The items donated will be a tangible sign of our love for those mothers, and really do make a difference for LIFE!

Rachel House, while continuing to serve in the same way, has made a name change and is now Resource Health. They hope this new name and their expanded services will draw more clients to their ministry.



*"... Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvelous are thy works..." (Psalm 139:13-14)*