

CMRB NEWSLETTER

December, 2015

December 6th--CMRB All-Branch Gathering at the Oak Grove Restoration Branch.
6:00 p.m. Business Meeting to approve the 2016 CMRB Budget and review committee reports.
7:15 p.m. Worship Service

2015 Winter Youth Series at Odessa Hills

December 28, 29 and 30th Jr. High/Sr. High

Theme: Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart...

Saturday, January 30th--CMRB & POZ Priesthood Classes at Oak Grove Restoration Branch

Saturday, February 6th--Priesthood and Wives Banquet at Colbern Road

2016 CMRB Spring Youth Retreats (Odessa Hills):

March 4-6 Junior High 7th-9th grade

March 11-13 Older Youth

March 18-20 Senior High 10th-12th grade

Theme: "**Seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion**" D&C 6:3a

2016 CMRB Summer Camps (Odessa Hills):

May 22- 28 Older Youth

June 4-11 CMRB Reunion--Rob and Marsha Bird

June 12-18 Senior. high 10th-12th grade

June 19-25 Junior High 7th-9th grade

June 26-30 Junior 4th-6th grade

Theme: "**There shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**" 3 Nephi 7:

“Worship and Reverence”

E. Roy Glomstad—*The Saints’ Herald*, 1959

Why did the wise men make the journey to Bethlehem? Was it out of curiosity or self-interest? Was it out of fear or simply because they had nothing better to do at that time? No—of course not. The record tells us they went out of reverence and to worship. Even narrow-minded and crafty old Herod seemed to understand that. *“We have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him,”* said the Wise Men. *“Bring me word again that I may come and worship him also,”* said Herod.

Worship and reverence...Christmas never begins anywhere until it begins with these. The other day I read a business report which stated that our holiday season was headed for another splurge in gift buying, especially was it piling up volume in sale of expensive merchandise; amid soft carols and loud cash registers, frantic shopping was already in evidence. But in spite of this glowing report, I was aware of the fact that for a good number of people in America, Christmas will be something far simpler and more meaningful. Then another thought entered my mind. Is this the impression we wish to give to the rest of the world, in which approximately one-half of the people are hungry and dependent upon charity? Is this the kind of Christmas longed for, if it could be afforded? Is this the kind of Christmas we would strive for? Of course not! When another Christmas comes it is in a surprisingly different manner. Worship and reverence, the sense of God’s drawing nigh, things of earth moving into the background and things of heaven moving into the foreground. *“We have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him.”*

At any rate, the Wise Men did not come to Bethlehem, saying, “Lord Jesus, what do you have for us? We have made a long and difficult journey. We have spent time and effort in order to be present. What do we get out of it?” No, the Wise Men brought precious gifts. The best they had to offer was none too good for this one they had come to worship and adore. Right here in the center of the scene of the birth of Jesus the Christ is the record of wise men bringing gifts in Christ’s name.

And what happened after that? The record relates that they departed into their own country another way. It is a familiar thought. We have been reminded of it over and over again, yet the meaning and importance of it must never be forgotten. After they had looked into the face of the Christ child, they couldn’t go home to be just as they had been before. They had knelt in his presence. They had worshiped; they had discovered the glory of God in a setting of stable straw and starlight. This is no isolated thing which happened to the Wise Men. This is something which always and inevitably happens. **It has happen to every member of our church.** It is impossible for anyone to look in the face of Christ, honestly and from a kneeling position, and then go home the same way. To look in the face of Christ is to have something of vast importance happen. It is to start living in a different manner. It is to look out upon life, even upon the face of its Herods, with a feeling of confidence and new security. It is to look upon fears and anxieties in a different and better way.

“As with gladness men of old, Did the guiding star behold...

So, most gracious Lord, may we, Evermore be led to thee.”

Yes, as another Christmas comes, our first need is to recapture the freshness and the surprise in the story concerning the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ! May the blessings of faith and peace help enrich your enjoyment of this glorious season.

Chilhowee: *Marj Foss*

Elder Clayton Foss had the privilege of blessing his great nephew Gunner Curtis Forbes on October 10th, 2015, at the Foss home when the family visited from Montana.

Our October 30th Harvest Party was attended by nearly 100 fun loving party lovers. The eating, visiting and fun activities were wonderful, so in spite of the nice steady rain causing the hayride to be cancelled, we call it a success. (The Lord knows best-and we will no doubt rejoice next summer when the moisture brings the crops, gardens and pastures to their glorious production.)

There has not been any more big work on the siding project on our church building.

Elder Danny Hight brought a timely message on November 8th and Elder Don Cutshall on November 15th. Several of our congregation took part in the Older Youth and Young Married Couples retreats, either as campers or cooks. We surely hear good reports of how the Lord sends His blessings by His Holy Spirit.

We were favored by a slide show and testimonies by David and Sharon Kinnaman on November 29th, showing and telling of David's missionary trip to the Philippines. He will be joining a group to go again in February. Let us have earnest prayers for the safety and success of their ministry there. The saints there have many needs for books and study materials. If you have things to donate, contact Brother Dan Brotherton.

An inspirational thought in November was, "It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."

By the time we have received this newsletter we hope to have seen many of you at the December CMRB All-Branch Gathering at Oak Grove.

May God send His riches blessings as we enter this Christmas Season and rejoice in His blessings.

Knob Noster: *. by Gerri Kent and Judy Hall*

Another month of blessing and the year is nearly done! Since I have missed nearly all the services this month, due to illness; a special thanks goes to Judy Hall, who has graciously taken care of the news for our branch. We continue to pray for each other and the Lord's work.

Sunday, November 8th, Evangelist/Patriarch Vernon Darling was our speaker. He shared scriptures from John 17:23; John 10:10; Luke 9:23 and John 15:13. What is it that the Lord wants from us? You have to choose whether you are going to follow Him or not! He made us

so we might respond to Him. The Father loved the Son and the Son loved the Father. There never was disagreement between them.

Vernon was the oldest of 8 when he came to Zion and walked the streets of Zion and he knew this is where Zion is!

They went to Aurora, Australia, to a small church and they said it was the first time in 35 years a Patriarch has been there and he knew the Lord had led him there.

The Divine Light comes to us only when we respond to Him. Lord, I'm still serving my apprenticeship and will till the day I die. Only that which is like Him will be where He is. The real power of Love is the ability to transform us.

The Restoration task is to understand the Spiritual gifts that bring you nearer to Him, to transform us for a longing for God. Our only Hope is to take our personal relationship to Zion. Somewhere in God's mind, He has a place to call Zion.

Remember Jesus says I'm here essentially right here. God is living with us, remember, "I am with you always." The world is full of God. He's still walking among us. The world is God's world. Remember, "I'm with you." You are standing under God's love. If He's not in your life, it's your responsibility for it!

November 15th, the early morning worship: "When sometimes we wish for just a little bit more, we sin because He has given us just enough. Be thankful in what you have been given, what He provides us is just enough.

Priest Eric Hon shared at the 11:00 o'clock hour. Drew and Heather sang the special music, "How Great is our God." Eric was overcome as it touched his heart to see Drew grow in service to our God.

His opening scripture was Doctrine & Covenants 135:3-4 and Section 52:2-3. He also read a poem by Robert Frost about traveling down two roads, one was heavily traveled (the world,) the other was not traveled much. Eric took that road less traveled to follow the Lord rather than the paved road that is heavily traveled by the world. He is reading W. W. Blair's biography and in it a vision was given to W. W. Blair. (Section 42:1-2)

The whole journey of Lehi was traveled down a road less traveled. (I Nephi 1:23-34) Lehi took his family and traveled a road less traveled. I Nephi 2:44-69. Lehi's vision the path by the Rod of Iron is a road less traveled. I Nephi 5: 180-215, another road less traveled, the sea. They landed on this continent another road less traveled. The road that brings us to Zion is another road less traveled. (Section 57:1)

Sunday, November 22nd, Alisa Brown played the organ and it was beautiful! The person who donated it, was also in attendance.

High Priest Glenn Friend was our speaker. He read from III Nephi 5:61. He then told about his young life, and his conversion experience when he was 4 years old. The Minten sisters were his Sunday school teachers.

In 1949, his dad took them to Colorado. He was 16 and met 14 year old June and she eventually became his wife. Her folks and his folks both had moved here. He now travels with Paul Frinstahl providing ministry.

"Our little children are full of love and they are the Kingdom here on earth. We're here today because we desire to live with Jesus and in Zion. If we are going to walk in the light there are things we need to do. 1. Forgive others. 2. Read the scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon. They become a miracle in our lives."

Lexington: *by Beverly Watson*

This month's report will probably not be as complete as it could be as Donna's computer has not been working, and a few Sundays have not been recorded as completely as she does. She recently asked me if I would be willing to take this project over for her. She has done such a good job that I hesitate to try to fill her shoes, but I am willing to give it a try; I welcome any suggestions that may improve our congregation's reports.

November's Theme: "Zionic Conditions: It is evident that we are beholden to God."

Sunday, November 1st – The early-morning prayer service was presided over by Elder Rob Bird who also presided over the 11:00 Sacrament Service, with Elder Randy Martin being the speaker, and a testimony shared by Elder Doug Smith. With references to various scriptures regarding laying aside all sins, confessing and forsaking them, acknowledging we all are sinners, it was a challenging statement to look at, confess, and forsake our sins, each and every one.

The evening service was a scheduled business meeting, presided over by Elder Steve Bohall.

Wednesday, November 4th – Prayer service; presided over by Elder Chris Capps, assisted by Deacon Rodger Sprague.

Sunday, November 8th – Branch Retreat at Odessa Hills; Seventy Richard Neil, Speaker (No notes taken.)

No evening service.

Wednesday, November 11th – Prayer service; presided over by Elder Val Brotherton, assisted by Priest Jesse Cochran.

Sunday, November 15th – Early worship was presented by Val and Anita Brotherton; the 11:00 service was presided over by Elder Rob Bird, with Elder Ivan Bird being the speaker. A beautiful, inspiring song was sung by Valerie Lidberg.

Brother Ivan shared his family background in the early church; later, he challenged us with questions about Zion...What?...Who?...Why is Zion? Plus many more pertinent questions we should be considering, with corresponding scriptures for each question.

The evening service was presided over by Elder Randy Martin, with the speaker being Priest Jerry Powell. No notes were taken.

Wednesday, November 18 – Prayer service; presided over by Elder Randy Martin, assisted by Deacon David Mills.

Sunday, November 22nd – Early worship was presented by Doug and Judi Smith; the 11:00 service was presided over by Elder LeRoy Shoemaker, with Elder Danny Hight being the speaker. Special music ministry was sung by a Smith/Bohall quartet.

Brother Hight presented many excellent challenges for us to consider. Righteousness to sweep over the earth...prophecies to be fulfilled...much to be thankful for...prophecies to be fulfilled...important basics to be reminded of and remembered...prophecies already fulfilled...His plans for us...

The evening service was presided over by Elder Val Brotherton, with the speaker being Deacon Rodger Sprague. No notes were taken.

Wednesday, November 25th – Prayer service; presided over by High Priest Steve Bohall, assisted by Priest Greg Bendorf.

Sunday, November 29th – Early worship was presented by Jennifer Schrunk; the 11:00 service was presided over by Elder Bob Immer, with Elder Bob Schrunk being the speaker, presenting a very inspiring report of the recent trip to Nepal by him, his wife Sheila, Sylvia Powell, and Ed Essig. The needs of those dear souls is so great, yet the Lord is working with power among them, and many are responding. Much more is needed.

There was no evening service due to the holiday.