

# ZION'S PATH

Volume 13, Issue 5 - Sep/Oct 2017

Since 2005, a publication of the  
**Church of Jesus Christ**  
**Oak Grove Restoration Branch**



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

## VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL 2017: REMOVING THE CLOUDS OVER ZION



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# OAK GROVE CHURCH IN 70TH YEAR!

## — HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR HISTORY —

On February 6, 1947, Elder Ward Hougas, President of Central Missouri Stake of the RLDS Church, met with a few Saints in the Odd Fellows Hall in Oak Grove to organize a congregation. The records show there were twelve families present, with one Elder, one Teacher, one Deacon, and three Priests.

The first official service was held in a small rental building known as the Rebecca Hall, at 207 East 12th Street. Records show that there were 85 people present and that, during the service, two men were ordained to the priesthood. Two of the charter members are still living: sisters Patty (Wood) Eklund and Carol Darlene (Wood) Atherton.

As the congregation grew, a larger building was needed and a building fund was established. In August, 1948, a large house and two lots were purchased on 706 North Broadway and underwent extensive remodeling. The first service was held on March 29, 1949.

By the mid 1950's, the congregation was outgrowing the facility and, under the leadership of Elder Leonard Smith, the building fund grew and a five acre tract was purchased on South Broadway. On July 17, 1960, plans were presented and approved; ground was broken on August 21, 1960. Just seven months later, the first service was held in the completed lower auditorium, with 105 people present.

The congregation had grown to 250 and there were 31 priesthood serving.

Moving ahead to January 8, 1989, the church doors were locked by the RLDS hierarchy because of serious differences over doctrine. All but a few of the members left and started meeting in the Oak Grove Civic Center on January 11, 1989.

Churches all over Oak Grove supported us in our times of trouble, and Saints from the Buckner branch came to join us in our first prayer service. Brother Oran Whisler's cowboy hat was passed to gather enough money to meet expenses. The Church was established as the Church of Jesus Christ, Oak Grove Restoration Branch.

As the membership grew, a new building was planned. Land was purchased on North Broadway, the current location of the church, and ground was broken in the Spring of 1992. The first service was held in the building in April, 1994, even though it was not finished. Services continued in the Civic Center until August, 1994, when the building was finally completed.

The debt on the building was officially retired in 2001. The lower level classrooms were completed in September, 2004.

The parking lot paving was done in 2007, and a new roof was installed in 2016.

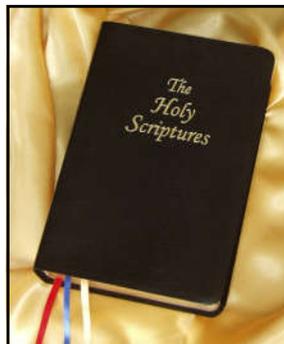


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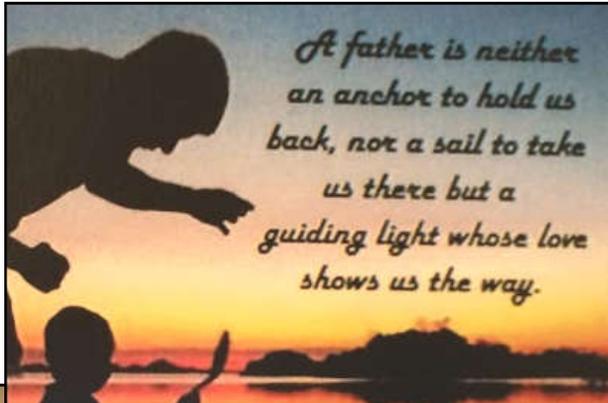
### **OGRB Pastorate**

Presiding Elder: Ed Story

Counselors: Elder Don Cutshall  
Elder Mike Lidberg  
Elder Mark Griffin  
Elder Bill Jones  
Elder Karl Anderson  
Elder Hal Chadwick

## Baby Blessing at OGRB

On Sunday, July 30, Claire Marie Perry, infant daughter of Brian and Milana Perry, was blessed by Elders Don Cutshall and Phillip Freeze (Claire's grandfather).



## Father-Son Breakfast

On Saturday, August 5, the annual Father-Son breakfast was held at OGRB from 9:00 am until noon. Here are some pictures! (See also paragraph 2 on page 6 of this newsletter.)



## Upcoming Events

- Sep 3** Elder's Class 7:00am
- Sep 13** Spiritual Stewardship Groups meet
- Sep 14** Senior Adults potluck at church 12:30pm
- Sep 16-17** Kirtland Priesthood gathering
- Sep 17** Spiritual Stewardship Group #2&3 at Butler
- Sep 21** Elder's Class 7:00pm
- Sep 23-24** Restoration Women's Council Women's Retreat at Odessa Hills

- Sep 28** Women's Salad Supper and Kickoff Meeting at OGRB 6:30pm
- Oct 1** Elder's Class 7:00am
- Oct 15** Spiritual Stewardship Group #4 at Butler
- Oct 17** Senior Adults potluck at church 12:30pm
- Oct 17** Elder's Class 7:00pm

**NOTE: See Youth Page for fall retreat schedule!**

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## 2017 Vacation Church School -- by Debbie Norman

Once again, God blessed us this year with a very successful week of Vacation Church School. We averaged 45-50 young folks in attendance, along with 10-12 adults attending the adult class.

Connie Smith and I directed, and were assisted by a willing and talented staff: Nursery—Monica Rush; 3&4 Year Olds Class—Abby and Olivia English; 5K-1st Grade Class—Stephanie Bird, assisted by April Turner; 2nd-4th Grade Class—Connie Smith; I taught the 5th-7th Grade Class; 8th-9th Grade Class—Synthia DeBarthe; Music—Valerie Lidberg with pianist Rachel Horn; Crafts—Katie Mulheron, assisted by Lisa Postlethwait and many helpers; Snacks—Sarah English, assisted by Sheila Lidberg; Recreation—Sarah Norman; Registration—Margie Anderson; VCS Pastor—Hal Chadwick; Para & Language Instructor—Laura Cozart; Sound System—Joe Smith and Chuck Edwards; Adult Class Teachers—Lyle Smith, Hal & Pat Chadwick, and Mike Ballantyne.

Our theme this year was **Preparing for God's Kingdom: Removing the Clouds Over Zion**. This theme and our daily themes were based on a sermon given to the Oak Grove congregation in 1971 by Raymond Huggett, in which he gave details of a vision given to him by God.

### **MONDAY: Seek to Bring Forth and Establish the Cause of Zion**

We talked about the basic idea of what God's Kingdom / Zion is and will be. We learned that we are not called to build Zion, but to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. It will be righteousness and obedience that will bring forth the cause of Zion, and that even "little" sins can stand in the way, just as the small clouds obscured the Kingdom in Brother Huggett's vision. We cannot obtain this level of righteousness on our own, but must humbly repent and rely upon the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, since our own righteousness is like filthy rags. Just "little" sins can lead away from the

Kingdom; conversely, the little decisions we make each day that are good will lead to the Kingdom. The small, everyday things we do for God count!

### **TUESDAY: Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep it Holy**

We learned that Sunday (the Sabbath) is a day to focus on God, to worship Him, and to rest. It is not a day for work or pursuing our own interests. If we keep His commandment to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, we will be blessed with spiritual and physical health. We may think that we don't have enough time to keep the Sabbath day holy as a day of rest, but if we obey this commandment, God will make sure that we have enough time to do all the things that need to be done. When we give something to God, He multiplies it and gives it back.

### **WEDNESDAY: Becoming Total Stewards Under God**

We learned that a steward is a person who takes care of someone else's property, and is to care for everything just the way the owner himself would care for it. The steward must give an accounting to the owner of all he or she has done. We learned about God's law of tithing 10% of our increase. When we don't pay tithing, we are robbing God, but when we obey God in this financial law, He will open the windows of heaven, and pour us out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it (Malachi 3:8-10).

After we pay our tithing, God has a plan for the rest of our money, too. Our society tells us that if we are going to be happy, we need "things," that we should make as much money as possible so we can use it for our own pleasure. Jesus said we should seek first the kingdom, and then we should seek riches to "do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick, and the afflicted" (Jacob 2:24).

We also learned that we must be total stewards under God. We have a stewardship of our bodies, for which God has given us the Word of Wisdom as our guide. We have a stewardship of our minds, time, talents and abilities. Stewardship involves every part of every moment of every day. When we do our best to become wise stewards for God, we will no longer live only for ourselves. Rather, we begin to recognize that we are part of the most dramatic, exciting and wonderful life possible—life with God and life in service to Him for the sake of others. We must catch this vision of total stewardship under God for the cause of the Kingdom to go forth.

**THURSDAY: The Sanctity of Marriage  
And the Sanctity of our Homes**

God created marriage in the very beginning when He made Eve to be a helpmeet for Adam, and it is a holy covenant between the husband and wife and God. If this covenant is broken, it causes great pain and suffering. If we know someone who has suffered the pain of a divorce, it is not our place to judge them, but to love them and pray for them.

We learned that those who marry must learn to put their companion's needs and happiness before their own, and that they can practice this type of service and sacrifice now in their families. The reason the covenant of marriage is so important is because it is in our homes, our families, where we begin to learn how to establish God's Kingdom. Our homes are the place where we can practice Zion principles now! We must practice serving each other and loving each other. We must practice being unselfish and giving.

It is also important to keep our homes a place where God's Spirit can live with us. It is important to pray together and worship together as a family. It is important not to bring contention into our homes by arguing or having a rebellious attitude. It is important not to bring movies, books, music, etc., into our homes that

would cause God's Spirit to depart. Each of us can pray for God to give us charity, the pure love of Christ. This love is what it takes to get along with each other in our homes.

**FRIDAY: We Must Make a Covenant  
by Sacrifice**

We learned that we should not expect it to be easy to be a follower of Jesus, but the reward in the end will be worth it! What are we willing to sacrifice for Jesus and the cause of His Kingdom? Sometimes we forget that everything worthwhile has a price. Being a follower of Jesus has a price, too. We are so comfortable that sometimes we don't want to give up a few hours of sleep to go to Sunday school, or give up our favorite TV show to go to Wednesday night prayer meeting.

One sacrifice that God has commanded us to make is to fast. It can be hard to give up food for a period of time, but as we practice this discipline and ask God to strengthen us, it can become less of a struggle. Fasting adds power and clarity to our prayers. One person said that fasting is like tying a ribbon around our finger to remember God. Every time you have a pang of hunger, your thoughts turn to God. Fasting allows us to experience our weakness and God's strength.

Also on Friday, we encouraged the young people to come fasting as we held a special commitment prayer service. It was beautiful to see the children from ages 3 to high school line up in the center aisle to offer their prayers and commitment to Jesus Christ.

***The themes we studied during VCS are so important and relevant to our time. It was exciting to see the young people respond. One young person told me that the week of VCS had changed his life! Another young person went home and encouraged his grandma to pray with him, telling her they must "build the wall" of prayer (to keep out the fiery darts of the devil).***

***If anyone would like a full copy of Raymond Huggett's message and/or would like a take-home study guide for our week's themes at VCS, see me, Debbie Norman.***

## Women's Department News -- by Pat Chadwick

Ladies, it has been a busy summer with the Women's Department hosting wedding showers, baby showers, funeral dinners and generally meeting the needs of the congregation in many ways.

In August, we had the Father-Son Breakfast. The lovely and unique table decorations were done by Heather and Lori Smith. The food was great with biscuits & gravy, sausage, and lots of bacon; I think Chris Allen cooked 7 lbs. of



bacon! Then there were eggs and, of course, pancakes. The men gave the cooks and their helpers a big "Thank You" for all the good food. I won't try to list all the kitchen help but you know who you are and we thank you!! We had 45 men and boys in attendance. Susan Freeze planned the games and Don Cutshall was the keynote speaker. It was a good morning and an opportunity for our men & boys of all ages to have a good time and fellowship together.

The CRE Women's Council retreat is coming up the weekend of Sept. 23. I hope you will plan to attend. It is always an uplifting weekend with good classes, crafts, worship and fellowship. If you can't go for the weekend try to come for Saturday.

Ladies, although I had not planned on being your women's leader for an 8<sup>th</sup> year, when asked to do so, and while making it a matter of prayer, it was impressed upon my mind that I was to continue forward, that the work was not yet completed. Connie Smith and Connie Spivey quickly agreed to continue as my assistants. Many on the women's commission are also continuing. The help of all these dedicated

women eases the burden. Using their gifts, talents and time they assist in carrying the work forward. So "Thank You" to all who help and serve! I am happy to say once again the Lord has provided me with good assistants & helpers and energized me and blessed me as we start into a new church year. I am excited to move forward into the new church year knowing God has many blessing yet in store for us. God is indeed good.

### **The kickoff meeting for the new church year will be Thursday Sept. 28, at 6:00pm.**

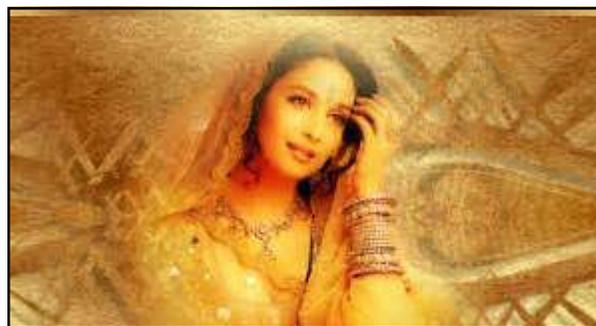
We will have a salad supper which is always delicious and fun. There will be fellowship, a power point/program to present our new theme, opportunity for prayers and some craft time to work up a new journal. I hope you will mark it on your calendars and plan to attend!! It's going to be a great evening.

**Our theme this year is "Chosen Vessels for the Kingdom."** Our theme scriptures are:

***2 Timothy 2:20-21 2:20*** *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.*

***2:21*** *If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*

***Esther 4:14*** *.... who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*



**Note:** Wed. evenings before prayer service, at 6:30pm, a group of women are meeting in the music room to pray for the children and families of the church. Please feel free to join us.

## The Freeze Point -- Susan Freeze

“.... and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers...” (Isaiah 40:22)

I love how the Lord works! Somehow the part of the verse above got stuck in my head when I was young. I took that part of the verse to mean we were insignificant. Even though I thought it was strange that God referenced us as insignificant, that understanding of this verse stayed in my head for over 20 years. I never thought to look up the scripture and read it in context as an adult.

Fast forward to our vacation this year. When we fly, I like to look out the window. Everything looks so small, plus the clouds and scenery are so beautiful. When looking down at the earth from our plane, I was struck by how small everything looks. The cars driving around remind me of ants running around an ant hill. The thought came to me that we are very small compared to God.

Later in the trip we took a water ferry to get to Martha's Vineyard. Although I have been on bigger boats or ships, this ferry was not small. In addition to multiple floors of seating, it probably held 50+ cars and work vans on the bottom level. The ocean is vast and our boat was large but it rocked and rolled because of the waves.

As I felt our boat rocking, I was reminded of the scene from the airplane where everything looked so small from above. Again, I felt very small compared to God. I remembered a scripture that talks about how He holds the oceans in the palm of His hand. As I contemplated this thought, I thought of how God created the universe. I love to think of Him as a star-breathing God. I certainly felt like a grasshopper at that moment; I felt small but I didn't feel insignificant; I felt great confidence because my God was so big. The longer our boat rocked in the waves, the smaller and smaller my problems felt and the bigger and bigger God felt.

I wish I could share that moment with each of you! So often I think we concentrate on our problems in life and let them become bigger than our God. Our vantage point is so different

compared to His vantage point. I constantly remind myself of the scripture that tells us,

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* (Isaiah 55:8-9)



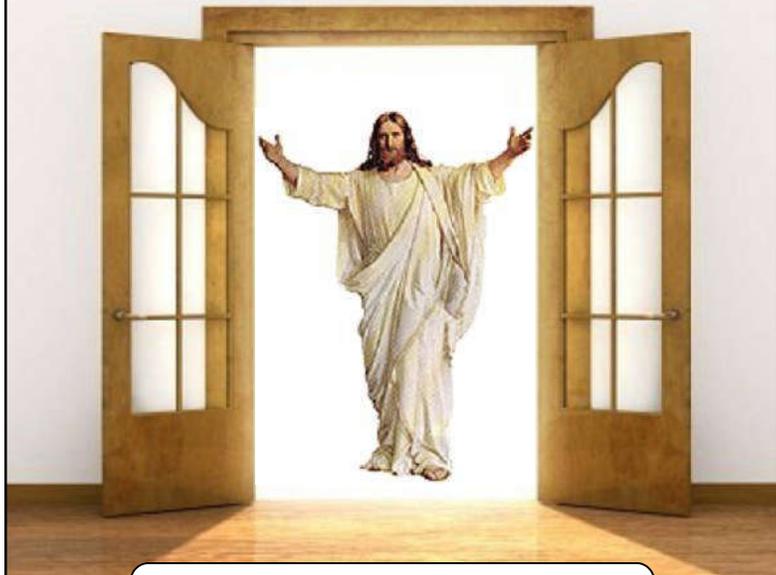
When I came home I knew I wanted to share this in our newsletter. I started with a scripture search to find the passage that compares us to a grasshopper. It is in Isaiah chapter 40. I was surprised that the whole chapter is about the vastness of God, and when He refers to us as grasshoppers, He is really trying to describe a vast number of people. When I was writing this and went to find the reference to God holding the ocean in his palm, GUESS WHERE IT IS? Isaiah 40. The same scripture that calls us grasshoppers also tells us that God holds oceans in the palm of His hand. I already knew God had given me an experience, but I was overwhelmed how He had put all the puzzle pieces together.

I would suggest everyone read Isaiah 40, as it is certainly one of those power-punch scriptures! He tells us to make way for the coming of the Lord, that He created the vastness of the heavens, that Zion will come. The last verse in that chapter is below.

A decorative scroll with a parchment-like texture, unrolled to reveal text. The scroll is held by two wooden rollers on the left and right sides. The text is written in a black, serif font.

*“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*  
(Isaiah 40:31)

*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)*

Church Phone: (816) 690-6996

CD's available for many Worship Services.

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

Worship Times		Sacrament Service (1st Sunday)
Sunday Early Worship	9:00 am	Priesthood Prayer Service 9:00 am
Sunday Church School	9:15 am	
Sacrament Sunday Prayer Service and Sacrament Service		10:00 am
Sunday eve Worship	6:30 pm	6:30 pm
Wednesday eve Prayer and Testimony	7:00 pm	

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