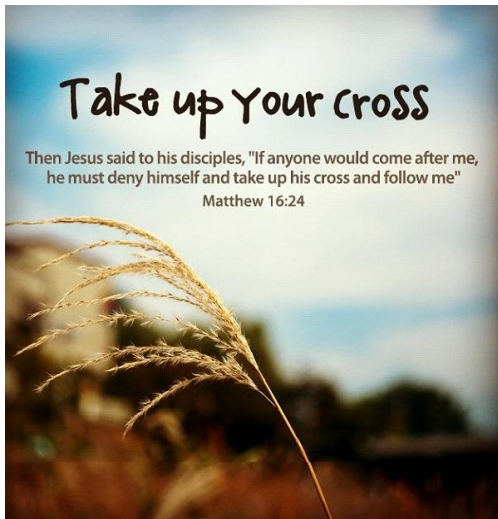


THE LAMPLIGHTER – AUGUST, 2020

311 Cypress Street – Mt. Carmel, Tennessee 37645 - 423-357-7241 – www.ogbchurch.org



A Note from the Pastor

Key verses Matthew 16:24-27

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

Dear Family and Friends,

As we move forward into a different "normal" in this time of a pandemic, it has occurred to me we are asked to sacrifice a great many things. For parents, we sacrifice a great deal of time from work or other duties to care for our children, who would typically be in school. Doctors and nurses sometimes sacrifice safety to care for our community at large. Police and firefighters who have always had jobs of sacrifice now give more and more daily. Many people sacrifice in some way so that others are safer, provided significant opportunities, or have a greater sense of peace.

Christianity has been about sacrifice from the very beginning. No one person has ever had a greater sacrifice than Jesus Christ. He gave his life for people who did not love Him, care for Him, and at times hated Him. He sacrificed time in Heaven, power, and His physical body so that you and I could know God. He illustrated for us the importance of sacrifice.

As a church, we have taken temperatures, worshiped outside, sat in different seats and worn masks. We have sacrificed some areas of our "rights" or "freedoms" so that other people feel safer in attending worship. Our church has chosen to sacrifice some small things in the short term so our community will be safer in the long run. Thank you for your choice to sacrifice your comfort, even when you may not agree so that others will know you love them. "Sacrifice" is what Christianity is all about. I want to leave you with a short illustration I found today. I hope you enjoy it.

"On May 2, 1962, Gladys Kidd placed a dramatic advertisement in the San Francisco Examiner, "I don't want my husband to die in the gas chamber for a crime he did not commit. I will therefore offer my services for 10 years as a cook, maid, or housekeeper to any leading attorney who will defend him and bring about his vindication."

Vincent Hallinan, one of San Francisco's best lawyers saw the advertisement, felt pity, and contacted the woman. He took on the case and ended up getting the innocent man released from all charges. Afterward, the attorney refused the lady's offer of ten years of service, noting that he was satisfied to have saved an innocent man from death.

One of the most touching shows of humanity is selfless love. Stories of kindhearted humans helping others with no kickback or reward offsets the grimness of news and gives hope of good in the world. Yet as Christians, we know a stronger kind of love, a love that gives the ultimate sacrifice."

Source: The Universal Journalist, David Randall

Copied from --- <https://ministry127.com/resources/illustration/love-does-not-seek-a-reward>

In Christ's Name,

Pastor Todd Haley



Our Christian love & sympathy are extended to:

- *The family of Bobbie Kleiboer in her death (Husband Gerald, Son Gerry, Grandson Tyler)
 - *Rita Wilmoth & family in the death of her husband, Wayne Wilmoth
 - *Sue Couch & family in the death of her aunt, Thelma Anderson
 - *Geneva Butler & family in the death of her father, Jarvie "Squeaky" Lucas
 - *Ken Williams & family in the death of his nephew, Chad Williams
- ~~~~~



Thank you for showing our family love, kindness and compassion! We appreciate all the texts, phone calls, people who came to visitation, food, Bibles & memorials placed in memory of Jim. He loved coming to Oak Grove Church and our family does too. We love you and you are a blessing to us.
The Family of Jim Moore

Thank you for the Bibles purchased in memory of my Papaw Hughes. May God use them to touch hearts and build up His Kingdom. Thanks again! Crystal Nottingham

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for honoring me and all the graduates during a church service. I especially thank you for the graduation gift of a Bible. The cookout was great too! Thanks again! Abram Stovall

We appreciated the Gideon Bibles the church placed, all the kind words and beautiful cards in memory of my sister, Lotus Arnold. Thanks so much! The Arnold's and D.L. & Joann Smith

Dear Oak Grove,
Thank you so much for my Bible! Sorry I couldn't be at the ceremony. I appreciate all you've done for me! Thank you, Piper Whitmore

Dear Oak Grove,
Thank you for the Bible you gave me for graduation. Thanks also for the cookout you held for all the graduates and their families. John McPheron

I would like to say a big THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU to everyone who helped make this year's virtual VBS a success. I always receive a blessing from being a part of our VBS and this year is no exception. We have received many favorable comments about the quality of the lessons and how much the children have enjoyed the experience. We will never know on this side of heaven how many lives and homes these videos have affected or how many Gospel seeds have been planted, but God knows each person who has viewed them and how they will be used in these lives. Continue to pray for families to be touched by this ministry as the videos will be accessible for a long time.

Elaine Hillman
VBS Director

Thank you for the Bibles donated in Wayne's memory.
Rita Wilmoth

Thank you for all the cards, calls, and prayers. Keeping praying for us. We love our church family!
Paul & Sue Couch

Thank you for all the food, visits, texts, calls & prayers. The love you have shown to me is truly humbling. It has been 21 weeks since this began with my leg. I could not have made it without my church family. I am thankful for you all!
Lorraine Chastain

May God greatly bless our wonderful Oak Grove family. We could not have made it through this difficult time in the loss of our son, Raymond Edward Frazier III, without the prayers, calls, cards, love and support of everyone. Many thanks for all the Gideon Bibles donated in his name and other gifts of love. We love our church family so very much and thank God for them!
Ed & Judy Frazier



This month let us do your shopping for you! For August, we are asking for monetary donations to benefit Operation Christmas Child Shoebox campaign. Funds will go to purchase pumps for soccer balls, pay for shipping costs, and supply other needed items to fill shoeboxes. The Shoebox Ministry team appreciates everything the OGBC family has done in support of this ministry! If you would like to make a donation, please mark your envelope "Shoebox Ministry". Thank you!

Youth Group News

I hope everyone is doing well. I miss each one of you and look forward to the day we can all meet together at church.

I would like to start a Bible Study with the youth. This is a book study and we would meet at the park or somewhere outside where we could social distance. I would like to start this study on Saturday, August 1, 2020. We will call this study "Breakfast & Bible Study" and will meet around 9:30 a.m. If you would be interested in doing this study or just coming to hang out with some of the youth, let me know. You can text me at 423-357-4215. I want to make sure I have enough books for everyone. Also, we will be doing a kayaking trip soon. I will have more details as the time gets closer to the trip.

Please pray for all of the schools that will be opening up in the coming weeks. Pray for the students, teachers, principals, and bus drivers.

Ramona Adams



Congratulations to Shorty & Patty Alley on the birth of their twin granddaughters, Hadly & Hazel Alley, born June 30, 2020. Will & Becky Alley are the proud parents.

Music Ministry

I hope everyone is well and staying safe. We had a wonderful time on July 5th celebrating our nation's independence. It was wonderful to have a small choir present. I can't wait to get back to having a full choir during the worship hour.

I am so thankful for all the ones that have contributed to our online, drive-in and indoor worship services. I know it has been a lot of extra work, but it is much appreciated.

Hopefully school will be starting soon. We would love to be able to resume Sunbeam Singers Preschool Choir and Children's Choir practice. Both of these groups have musicals that are waiting to be presented.

We were disappointed that the Phillips and Banks concert had to be cancelled. With virus cases rising in our area, we felt like it was the responsible thing to do. God has blessed so far with limited cases in our congregation. Hopefully in the days ahead, we will be ready to assemble for worship with congregational singing and a full choir.

I realize the last several months have been stressful for everyone in every capacity, but during this time, we need to work together in unity and do what is best for all concerned.

In Christian Love, Doug

WEEKEND OF PRAYER OVER STUDENTS

AUGUST 8 - 9, 2020

We have faced unprecedented circumstances concerning the education of our children the last several months. Now, more than ever, we should be in prayer for students, parents, teachers, staff, and administration of our schools. Whether you attend a public school, private school, or are a homeschool family, prayer is a great way to begin the school year!



Education Minister

Hello to all of you! Our studies in the book of Proverbs have been fantastic. Solomon was very keen on his son gaining and following godly wisdom in his day and God desires the same for us. We should all be praying for wisdom and discernment in all matters of our lives, big and small. We gain a lot of godly wisdom by spending time in God's Word.

One way to do this is through our online Sunday School studies, of which we have four to choose from. Diane Holcomb is teaching her class via Zoom on Saturday evenings. Richard Slaght is teaching via Google Meet on Wednesday evenings. Both classes are live and interactive, where everyone can chime in when they have a question. Kathy Salyer is teaching a class on Sunday morning via Facebook. I am also posting a video of my Sunday School class on Facebook, usually on Saturday nights. Both Kathy's class and mine are not interactive in the same way as Diane and Richard's.

The point of telling you this is that I would like for each of you to participate in one of these classes if you can. It is important for all of us to stay in God's Word, regardless of the situation around us. I have learned through the years that it is very easy to get out of the habit of studying His Word, so I want to encourage you to find a way to study with others.

One idea is to call a friend and do a quick study on the phone. Perhaps you just talk about one verse and share a prayer request. There are lots of ways that we can face this down to make sure that we create more study time. Some verses that I hold very dear in my life are 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Are you doing your part to be complete and equipped for every good work? Spend time in God's Word every day!

Blessings,
Eric Counts



We would like to hear from you. Specifically, we would like to hear your testimony. We will begin taking the names of our members willing to share their testimonies. We are going to share these testimonies in a couple of ways. There will be video testimonies and written testimonies.

The video testimonies (which will last about five minutes) will be recorded on your front porch or possibly at church, and these videos will then be published on Facebook. The written testimonies (which will be about one page in length) will be recorded and published in the Lamplighter each month.

We are still working on the format, but most likely, both types of testimonies will be based on seven standard questions. Some of the questions might be "How long have you been a Christian?" and "Can you tell us how you were saved?". These things are fascinating to others and will help us improve our fellowship in these crazy days that we live in. We hope you will consider sharing your testimony. If interested, please call the church and we will follow up with more information.

God Bless!!