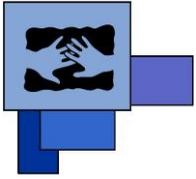




Being on a team can teach you quite a lot, which is why we encourage our students to enjoy team sports. This winter season, while Sabrina and Anna cheered, Katie, Christian, Josh, Owen, and Johnathan played basketball. Katie's team, the Jasper-Geff consolidated team, won **4th in State!** It was an exciting year for all of us. Owen was the only player who had returned to the hardwood for a consecutive year of team play. For all of our other hoopsters, this was quite outside their norm. Again, their effort and their team commitment make us so very proud!

A publication of the Oblong Children's Christian Home
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THE BUILDER



HELP to children.
HOPE to families.
HEALING through Christ.

Winter 2020



THE BUILDER

PUBLICATION OF THE OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME

Children's Home Scholars!

Our pride RADAR may have been off the charts in recent weeks. As a parent, maybe you have been in our shoes. Our kids have made us so very proud with their academic achievements this year. For the first time in the history of their 20+ year houseparenting career, Dave and Kris McCarter even attended a National Honor Society induction ceremony to celebrate Kaleigh's achievement. And, a full 50% of the students enrolled in New Life Academy this past quarter achieved honor roll status. Wow! We love the fact that these students put their minds to work!



end of semester





One down
three more
to go



In our last newsletter, we asked you to pray. We had just been notified that the windows in all of our homes on the Oblong campus did not pass the inspection of the State Fire Marshal. The homes are inspected routinely, and though nothing had changed, the stamp of approval was not given this time, and the Home would be required to make changes. Let this newsletter serve as our testimony: **God is good!** Of course, we've known that for all of our 50+ years of ministry, but He proved it again at this juncture. Already, thanks to donations that were unsolicited and the volunteer labor of some wonderful friends, one of the homes has already undergone window replacement. The Lord even provided a sunny, warm day in December! And . . . that home has now PASSED a further inspection. One down, three to go. Thank you, friends, for your prayers. Thank you, Lord, for your provisions.



Winter



We just wanted to provide a smile or two courtesy of some pictures of WINTER fun at the Oblong Children's Christian Home. Thus far, we've not had a lot of snow, but Christian was quick to build a snowman when we did. Several high school students enjoyed the annual ski trip to Michigan with the First Christian Church youth group. The New Year's Day pizza party at Monical's started 2020 off just right. And, L . . . she's just a cute elf and deserved her picture in the newsletter!



MEET JEFF ROBINSON



My name is Jeff Robinson. I have two older brothers and two younger sisters. I was the overly emotional child who refused to be ignored. If my childhood was a Whac-A-Mole game, I was the mole that kept lifting my head so that others could smack it down. To say I was a troubled kid would be an understatement. I regularly threw eight or more temper tantrums an hour. The next was more intense than the last. My family made it clear that I was the problem. My spiritual background? I was dropped off at the local Sunday School and Vacation Bible Schools.

I was not particularly talented at anything as a kid. It was in junior high where I found my first niche. I was good at math and helping others pass the class. I could teach. Later, as I entered the 10th grade, I found out that I could run pretty fast and joined the track team.

My father died unexpectedly during Christmas break of my freshman year of high school. Our family was shattered. Dad represented stability, serenity, and steadiness. Our mom was unpredictable and violent at times. Now, our rock was dead. This left me searching for meaning, purpose, and peace. I came to find all of this and more in

THE ROCK, Jesus Christ, and His church. God called me to Himself, and I followed. This led me on a journey of trying to listen to God's call. During my senior year of high school, I was baptized into Christ.

In the fall of that year, I headed to Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky to prepare for a career in medicine. However, throughout September I wrestled with God. I sensed God was calling me to vocational ministry. I struggled with the idea of medicine or church ministry. God made it clear that I was to enter the ministry that fall.

I transferred in January to Kentucky Christian College. God expanded my heart for missions, prayer, and His Word. After graduation, I started preaching in small churches or being an associate minister in Kentucky, Tennessee, western Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma. I met my wife, Tina, while volunteering at Kids' Place in Pittsburgh. We were married a year later.

We moved to Lincoln, Illinois where I pursued a Master's of Divinity. Seminary along with a local ministry in Raymond, Illinois was the best education I received. After a

New Life Academy students help with the unloading of some of Jeff and Tina's possessions. Their move happened over the course of November for a December 2, 2019 start date.



Jeff Robinson began his tenure as Executive Director— Child Care at the Oblong Children's Christian Home in December. This is Jeff's introduction of himself to our many friends and family.

couple of 4-yr ministries in Massachusetts and Georgia, we returned to Illinois to minister with Lincolnway Christian Church for nearly 19 years. In New Lenox, we raised our four children: Michael, Samuel, Cara, and Jacquelyn. They are our pride and joy. I completed my education with a Doctor of Ministry degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

I came to Oblong Children's Christian Home following a year of wilderness journeying, not really finding my place. I'm looking forward to serving troubled kids like me who need to find THE ROCK of Jesus Christ.

In Loving Memory

In Memory

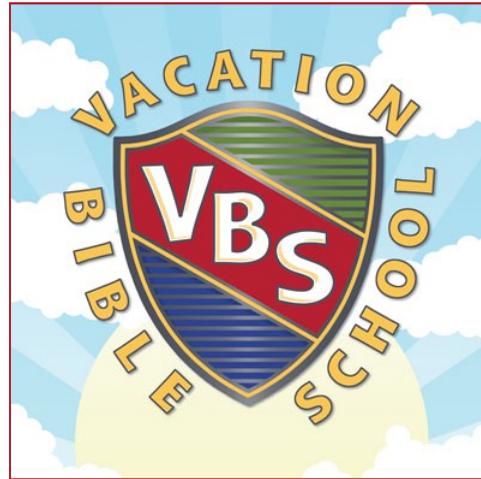
Jan Seymour, Sharon Stull, and Christ's View Christian Church in memory of **Jenetta Trussell** ♥ Patrick & Peggy McLaughlin in memory of **James A Wood and his daughter Bertha Wood Rhodes** ♥ Bill & Betty Oakley in memory of **Leon Harris** ♥ Michael Robison in memory of **Opal Robison** ♥ Lee Ellis, Carol Pearson, Michael & Diana Ingram, Randall & Linda Gardner, Randal & Diane Jensen, Thomas & Kellie Will, Florence & L. Dean Spesard, Janis & Larca Ludeks, Carl & Iris Warfel, Busby Family Partnership, Pauline Loeffler, anonymous, Roger & Becky Klink, Nila Henry, Audrey Stickler, Andrea & Larry Elliot, Delores Hickman, Duane & Mary Rosdail, Paul & Susan Messman, Ridge Farm Church of Christ, Inez Wishard, Ruth Burgess, K.L. & W.E. Lewis, Timothy & Catherine Rodgers, Judith Rademacher, Donna Schutte and TOPS IL 1261 in memory of **Marjorie Spesard from Ridge Farm, IL** ♥ Michael & Judy Henry in memory of **Richard Paul Adams, Charlotte Louise Bennett, James Harold Boyd, Sherrie Malicoat, Beth Gangloff and Judy Kay Gullett** ♥ Jess Newton in memory of **Roy & Pauline Hill and Jason Newton** ♥ Gerald K. Jones in memory of **Sara Benton** ♥ Central Christian Church of Sumner in memory of **Charles & Imogene Marx** ♥ Donna Wampler in memory of **Rex McGehee** ♥ Glen Donaldson in memory of **Beverly Turkal** ♥ James & Millie Stewart in memory of **Ivan Coleman** ♥ William K. & Leslee Thomas in memory of **Velma Lee Parker of Houston, TX** ♥ Raymond & Ginger Williams, Cole Duke, Doug & Carmen Frost, Faye Pearson, Norman & Shelly Weinandy in memory of **Joyce Barbee** ♥ Shirley Bennett in memory of **Kathleen Dennis and JoAnn Boston** ♥ Chuck & Marie Kesler, Dave & Jen Kesler, and Coy & Cendy Roberts in memory of **Kenneth & Jean Schrey** ♥ Harmon Parrott in memory of **Thadd Parrott** ♥ Joyce Bogard in memory of **Harry D. & Doris Phillips** ♥ First Christian Church of Brookport in memory of **Ruth Corn** ♥ Janet Billington in memory of **Cassie Billington** ♥ John & Frieda Pickering in memory of **Alice Baker** ♥ Robin & Jan Tracy in memory of **M. Wayne Tracy** ♥ George McKinley in memory of **Jack Ragsdale** ♥ B.R. & Bobbie Buchanan in memory of **Harry Randolph** ♥ Bill & Betty Oakley in memory of **Nash Jackson and Leon Harris** ♥ Joan McCarty in memory of **Gerald McCarty** ♥ Marilyn King in memory of **Hal King** ♥ Pete & Gloria Belew in memory of **Alex Quinn** ♥ Ruth Smith in memory of **Dean Smith** ♥ Michael Robison in memory of **Debbie Robison** ♥ Elaine Harris in memory of **Arthur & Clara M. Harris** ♥ Jennifer Jones in memory of **parents and sister** ♥ Peggy Henderson in memory of **Jack Ragsdale** ♥ Jess Newton in memory of **Jason Newton** ♥ Charles & Cheryl Milewski in memory of **Harry & Betty Prather**

In Honor

Lakeside Bible Study in honor of **Clella Camp** ♥ Jennifer Jones Christmas gift in honor of family members ♥ Vivian Tracy in honor of **Dallas Waggoner** ♥ Darlene Murphy in honor of her family at Christmas ♥ Lloyd Moden in honor of **Arvin Moden** ♥ Les & Debbie Chamberlain in honor of the **Lourdes Cardiovascular Institute employees at Mercy Health in Paducah KY**

Are you preparing for VBS?

The Oblong Children's Christian Home would love to be the mission you choose to support through VBS this summer. We have a curriculum available to help you explain the ministry during those difficult "mission moments." Call us for a packet!



We are inching ever closer to a completed apartment for two soon-to-graduate high school seniors on our campus. We have wanted to add this transitional living space to our campus for a while, and now we are so close to seeing it happen!

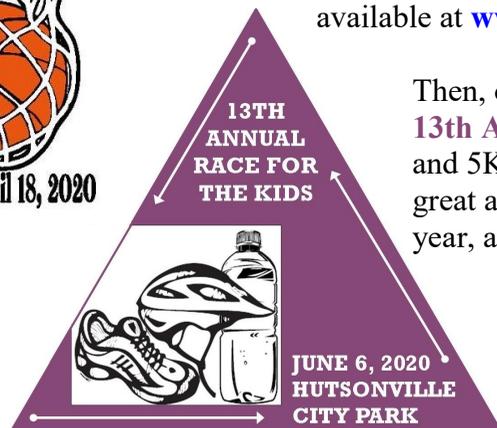


Annually, the Children's Home engages in several fundraisers. The events are as much about raising awareness as they are about raising funds. In Year 2020,



Fundraising

we have added a new event in FAIRFIELD (the location of our satellite facility, the Dyball Home). On April 18 at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, we'll host a **3-on-3 basketball tournament!** This is something new for us, and we are excited! Registrations forms are already available at www.oblongchristianhome.org.



Then, on June 6 in Hutsonville, we'll host the **13th Annual Race for the Kids** (a duathlon and 5K). We have a wonderful following of great athletes who compete in this event each year, and we're ready to welcome them again!

Registration forms for the Race for the Kids are also prepared and ready at our website. Come join us for one of these great events!

Transitional Living Apartment Developing Behind This Door

