

The Road Map

Oak Bridge Community Church

Service Location: Keller 8 Cine'
4572 Lemay Ferry Road, St. Louis, MO
E-Service: Sundays at 9:00 am & 10:45 am
KidStuf Service: Sundays at 9:30 am

Senior Pastor: Tom Noblitt
pastor-obcc@oakbridgecc.com
tomnoblitt@att.net
314 846-1037
Website: oakbridgecc.com

Pastor's Message

The Wise Decision

I find myself answering many different problems and situations with the same response. "I need to make the wise decision." It fits in all areas of my life. Relationships, finances, health, recreation, and job. The wise decision is always the right decision. I just have one problem in always making the wise decision. I'm not that wise. Fortunately for people like me there is one who is that wise—God, who has left us four very important wisdom resources. All four have been invaluable to me in applying wisdom to my life's problems and situations. Some of the four are easy to apply and one is a little more mysterious in how it works. Here's the four that impact all my decisions, at least the wise ones:

1. The Bible is a wisdom no-brainer. Without it we are often just left with a best-guess scenario, that can be a disaster in the making. God's word is full of wisdom and truth. It is a virtual gold mine of life teaching to be applied. The only problem is we do have to read it and retain a portion of its information for it to help. Just a little Bible memorization and application can do wonders in making wise decisions.

2. People who are wiser than me in certain areas of life (friends, family, counselors) are a great help to me. Whether it's car repair, parenting choices, or diet and exercise problems, they all can save me a ton of "woe". I have never had to use personal professional counselors, but I wouldn't hesitate if they could help add wisdom to areas of my life that need

it. Wise people, paid or unpaid, are a great resource for making wise choices.

3. Asking good questions. If I can approach a problem or situation with questions, I can then seek out the wise answers. Remember the phrase, "In light of my past experiences, my present circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams (question)...What is the wise thing to do?" That leads to other questions. Does my choice have a downside to it? Who can this help or hurt? What would those I love think about this choice? Are there other options? Have I prayed before making this decision? What do I think Jesus would do in my position? Am I emotionally detached enough to think clearly about my choices? Do I have enough information to come to a decision? Good questions are part of the wisdom process. (continued on page 3)

Community News

Message CDs

Missed service? Visit Grow Resources. There are past and current messages available for just \$1. These CDs are also a great way to reach out to friends and family that might not come to church but may listen to the CD.

Messages Online

You can listen to our sermon messages online. Visit the church website: www.oakbridgecc.com to listen to or download messages.

Reflection Room

To accommodate and make visitors feel comfortable in our services, Oak Bridge does not offer communion in our worship services. We have set aside a dedicated room for prayer and communion. The Reflection Room provides a quiet atmosphere for you to pray, meditate, reflect, and take communion. Cards and a prayer box are available for you to request prayer. The Reflection Room is available from 8:30am-12:15pm.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, you may complete a prayer request card and drop it in the Joy Box, contact your small group leader, Grow leader, or you may contact Kathy Noblitt at 314-846-1037 or prayer-ministry@oakbridgecc.com.

E-Service East/West at 10:45 Service

You may now view E-Service in either E-Service East (live service) or in E-Service West (live video). It's OBCC's goal in the near future to add a live band and technology for the East and West to interact live. E-Service West is an extension of E-Service East. Parents, we urge you to take your children to the ministries we offer for their age groups. If you must be with your child during service, please view E-Service from the Video Café. To prevent or minimize distractions, the ushers have been instructed not to allow entry/re-entry at certain times of the service in both the

East and West. If you must leave, please view the remainder of the service in the Video Café. Thank you for your cooperation.

Service Name Tags

Oak Bridge provides nametags for anyone who serves. If you serve and need a nametag, please order one at the Information Center.

Mission Statement

The mission statement of Oak Bridge is: "To make followers of Jesus Christ who in turn make followers of Jesus Christ."

Oak Bridge Values:

Authenticity	Joy/Fun
Bible	Prayer
Community Groups	Stories
Excellence	
Family	
Giftedness	
The Church is the hope of the world	

Kids + Route 68

KidStuf Family Service by Kim Scronce

KidStuf is a 45-minute weekly program that uses music, drama, and story-telling to entertain and inspire families.

Kids, bring your parents and every week we'll teach them about a virtue that they need to know, and every week we'll have a great time doing it!

KidStuf is held Sunday mornings at 9:30 on the West side.

Last month KidStuf ended with a bang, or should I say two rolls of duct tape, a wall, and Josh Noblitt being taped to it. Families were challenged to send in stories about their children displaying the different virtues that they have been learning about during KidStuf Services. It was quite entertaining for everybody, except probably Josh. Craig Nall asks that families continue sending in stories to be shared.

February brings the virtue of Fairness – making sure that everyone is treated respectfully. KidStuf characters these next four weeks will teach why it is important to treat people fairly. KidStuf lessons can be talked about and demonstrated throughout each week, not only on Sunday.

I asked my kids why they like KidStuf and my daughter Sylvia who is age 6

said "because it's funny". When they were asked what their favorite part was about KidStuf, Sylvia said the show and my 3-year-old daughter Clara said the singing. So, if you haven't attended with your family yet, it will definitely give you and your kids something to talk about... give it a try.

Oak Bridge Kids

9:00am BabyBlvd. [Newborn– 2s]
CrossWalk [Walkers–3]
10:45am BabyBlvd. [Newborn–2s]
CrossWalk [Walkers–3]
KidsCrossing [3s–5]
UpStreet [K–1st grades]
DownTown [2nd–5th grades]

Electronic Check-In

Oak Bridge offers electronic registration at one central location. Stop by the Oak Bridge Kid's table to register your child. The electronic system prints identical adhesive badges: one for your child and one for you. When picking up your child, you must present the matching badge to complete the checkout process.

Route 68 Small Groups

Middle School and High school small groups have resumed, but it's not too late to join. If you are interested in joining a

small group, just come with one of your friends or contact Tracy Hagan at community-life@oakbridgecc.com or 314-846-5722 to join a group.

BigStuf Camp 2009

Sign up now at the BigStuf Table or send an e-mail to Clarissa Karasick at admin-obcc@oakbridgecc.com. If you haven't paid your \$100 non-refundable deposit, be sure to do so by April 30th to get the camp cost of \$500. We will have 220 campers this year. There are currently approximately 40 spaces available. It's important for you, leaders, parents and students, to sign up so we know how many people we have for the Camp. It's going to be a first-come basis (with parents at the end), so don't get caught on a waiting list. If you have questions, contact Katie at 314-846-1037, Tracy at 314-846-5722 or Clarissa at 314-303-3632. You may view camp promos at bigstuf.com/panama.

Route 68 Lock-In

Due to a huge response and request for a lock-in, Route 68 leaders are trying to put together a lock-in at the YMCA. Stay tuned for additional information.

Serving Opportunities

Schnucks' E-Scrip Card

Oak Bridge has signed up to receive cash rewards when you shop at Schnucks. All you have to do is have your E-Scrip card scanned by the cashier, and Oak Bridge will receive a cash percentage of the sale. There are E-Scrip cards at the Information Center or you may pick one up at Schnucks. Follow directions on the card to activate it and indicate Oak Bridge Community Church as the organization. The cash rewards support Route 68 youth ministries.

GoodSearch vs. Google

Every time you search the internet using GoodSearch, Oak Bridge receives a donation. Googling is good, but GoodSearch is giving! This YAHOO search engine gives approximately one cent to Oak Bridge each time you use it to search the internet. It's easy. Go to www.goodsearch.com and select Oak Bridge Community Church as your charity. Every time you search, Oak Bridge receives a donation.

Tubs of Love

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 1 Timothy 6:18

Showing compassion to those around us is not just a good deed; it is a potentially life-changing deed. Not just for now but maybe forever. As Jesus said, "They will see your good deeds (compassion) and praise our Father in heaven (God)." Some of them for their first time!

"Tubs of Love" will help us do that. This is an opportunity for you to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus to some of His less fortunate men, women, and children.

The generosity coming from Oak Bridge has been truly amazing. Every Sunday Tubs of Love are being filled and sent out to those in need of hope and love. Just to give you an example, someone from church donated \$700 of high protein canned goods/peanut butter/diapers to Tubs of Love. Another young man works at a furniture store and is

donating new mattresses/box springs to every member of a family who lost their home to a fire. Every week women and men alike are dropping off gift cards for groceries and gas.

Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

It has been a privilege to work with all of the volunteers and donors involved with Tubs of Love. Thank you for making our job a delight. To God be the glory and honor. Sincerely, Kathy Brandt, Mark Brandt and Christy Noblitt

Care & Share Ministry

Care & Share provides meals for our church families during time of need. Volunteers will prepare meals on an as-needed-basis when there is a birth, death, or illness. If you have a need, Care & Share may be able to help. If you're interested in volunteering in this ministry or have a need, please contact the Care & Share director, Rose Sturm at (314) 892-2809 or Patti Parnell at (314) 846-1795.

Serving Opportunities - continued

Community Connect

The best way to get connected is to join a small group (home bible study) or serve in a ministry. There are various ministries for you to become involved. If you have questions about small groups or how to serve in any one of our ministries, contact Brian and Tracy Hagan at (314) 846-5722 or by e-mail: community-life@oakbridgecc.com

* BabyBlvd. – Babies

Nikki Harris (314) 570-2260
baby-blvd@oakbridgecc.com

* CrossWalk –Toddlers

Clarissa Karasick (314) 303-3632
cross-walk@oakbridgecc.com

* KidsCrossing – Ages 3 thru K

Laura Brandt (314) 481-8197
kids-crossing@oakbridgecc.com

* UpStreet – K thru 1st

Laura Brandt (314) 481-8197
up-street@oakbridgecc.com

* DownTown – 2nd thru 5th

Craig Nall (314) 846-9297
down-town@oakbridgecc.com

* KidStuf – Family Program

Christy Noblitt (314) 846-7066
kid-stuf@oakbridgecc.com

* Route 68 – 6th thru 12th

Herc Noblitt (314) 846-7066
the-edge@oakbridgecc.com

* Community/Small Groups

Brian/Tracy Hagan (314) 846-5722
community-life@oakbridgecc.com

* Creative Arts (drama)

Dianne Prewitt (636) 282-2095
arts-ministry@oakbridgecc.com

* Pathways (greeters/hospitality)

Lyn Castellano (314) 293-1066
pathways-ministry@oakbridgecc.com

* Music Arts

Nick Hassell (636) 931-2944
music-ministry@oakbridgecc.com

* WeServe (setup/teardown)

Mike Buschhorn (314) 293-9349
weserve-ministry@oakbridgecc.com

* Hi-Tech (technical team)

Kirk Hawkins (314) 822-1888
tech-team@oakbridgecc.com

* Prayer

Kathy Noblitt (314) 846-1037
prayer-ministry@oakbridgecc.com

* Oasis (food)

Kathy Noblitt (314) 846-1037
oasis-ministry@oakbridgecc.com

* Hands of Hope (missions)

Ashley Herrick (314) 846-4547
missions-ministry@oakbridgecc.com

* Married Life Live

Stacie Hassell (636) 931-2944
married-life@oakbridgecc.com

* Grow (spiritual formation)

Don Allison (314) 846-2822
spiritual-formation@oakbridgecc.com

* General Administration

Clarissa Karasick (314) 303-3632
admin-obcc@oakbridgecc.com

* Website Administration

Allen Logston
web-admin@oakbridgecc.com

* Senior Pastor

Tom Noblitt (314) 846-1037
pastor-obcc@oakbridgecc.com

Service Opportunities

There are various ministries offering immediate service opportunities:

- WeServe (Setup/Teardown)
- Hi-Tech (Technical Team)
- BabyBlvd.
- CrossWalk — adults needed
- KidsCrossing
- UpStreet
- DownTown

Contact the ministry leader for more information.

Care Connections

Care Connections is a team of people who visit and minister to church family members and friends who are in the hospital. If you have a heart of compassion and hospitality, we welcome you to serve in Care Connections. If you have questions about the ministry or would like to schedule a visit to someone in the hospital, home, or nursing home, contact Judi Riehn at 314-846-8269 or Christy Noblitt at 314-846-7066 by e-mail: care-share@oakbridgecc.com.

Pastor's Message - continued

4. The last one is more mysterious. It is the Holy Spirit of God. I believe the Holy Spirit is prompting believers, all leading to wiser choices in life. These promptings have come in many ways. Though silent and inside my mind and heart, they sound to me like this:

Encouragement... "Go for it! You can do it!" "Speak to him or her. They need to hear a kind word." "It's not about you, trust God in this. He is with you."

Correction... "Say you are sorry. You were wrong and you know it." (I get that one a lot!) "Was your motive correct or your heart pure in that decision?" "Don't be selfish." "Now is the time to not speak."

Uneasy feelings..... Sometimes I think silent words are not even necessary to know that God's Spirit is prompting you in a direction, you can just feel it. It doesn't feel right. You never have an

exact reason why, you just know it's there. I'd rather be safe than sorry often applies at these times.

Remember, "Better choices = Fewer Regrets and Better Memories." That is what our Father wants for each of us. Choose the wise thing!

In His grace,
Tom



Project Pajama Party!

This year we hope that Valentine's Day reminds you that **Christ is love.**

Each year we like to give you the chance to share Christ's Love to a group of people in need who live in our community!

February 1 kicks off our opportunity to share Christ's Love by giving PJs to St. Louis children in foster care and homeless or transitional shelters.

How to Help?

- Take a hanger from the lobby and bring it back with a new or unused pair of PJs on or before Sunday, March 1.
- Host your own Pajama Party and have your guests bring a donated pair of PJs
- Support Project Pajama by wearing your PJs to Church on February 15th!
- Ask your work friends, family members, and school buddies to donate PJs
- Pray with us for PJs! Your prayers do make a difference!

Our GOAL is to have 100 pajamas to give away to St. Louis Children in need.

Community News - continued

Oak Bridge Center's Future is Now, Almost by Joe Harris

The new Oak Bridge Center, located on South Lindbergh in the former One Way Bookstore, will open sometime in March. The center's goal is to create a warm, inviting and culturally relevant environment.

Oak Bridge Senior Pastor Tom Noblitt calls it the church of the future. "This is going to be the blueprint, the template to keep Oak Bridge growing in the area," Noblitt said. "This has the versatility to reach people who have never known Jesus Christ."

The center can be used in a variety of ways including worship services, band jams, married and community life live, trivia nights, large and small groups, baptisms, classes, dramas, youth activities, weddings, funerals, leadership training and other community building events.

The center is 7,000 square feet, about one and a half times the size of the E-Service East room at Keller. It can hold

between 300-400 people, depending on seating type. The portable baptistry breaks down easily, which adds to the center's versatility. It will also have a partial kitchen area with sinks and a microwave, but most events such as Married and Community Life Live will require catering.

The center will cost the church approximately \$150,000. A good portion of that will go towards a stage for the band, which Noblitt promises will be great, as well as audio systems for the band and dramas.

Oak Bridge's growth created the need for the center. The church has outgrown the Keller Cinema in just five years. In 2006 attendance was 350; it jumped to 650 in 2007 and is now over 800. Keller can hold 1000 people on a Sunday at max and the theater's limitations leave few other options. "We can't add a third service because the theater has a matinee on Sundays," Noblitt said.

Turning a bookstore into a worship center hasn't been easy. But Oak Bridge

member Dennis Dyes has met the challenge head on and is the project manager for the renovation. Dyes and six to eight volunteers have spent every Saturday for the past two and a half months tearing down walls, building new ones and running electricity and plumbing in an effort to make the center something the whole congregation can be proud of.

"I wish we could work all week," Dyes said. "With my job, we can only work on weekends." Dyes does not know exactly when the center will be finished. But Noblitt knows when it is complete that the center will help Oak Bridge in its mission to make followers of Jesus Christ, who in turn make followers of Jesus Christ.

"By Easter it should be available to do Saturday services and maybe another service on Sunday," Noblitt said.

If you have questions as to how you may help with the Oak Bridge Center, please speak with Dennis (636-861-7320). Continue to pray for the process and progress of the Oak Bridge Center.

Effective Parenting in a Defective World by Chip Ingram

Well, I'd like to welcome you because we're on a journey together and our journey is to learn how to become effective parents in a defective world.

And I wanna share a story with you. It's a traumatic one and one that actually happened. I did a funeral about four or five years ago and in this funeral it was really bizarre, because as the high schoolers came in about a third of them were dressed in black; another third were in black and had orange on and in Santa Cruz County these were called Gothics. These were kids that all dressed in black, they'd all dabbled in the occult, they were into the drug culture (13-, 14-, 15-, 16-year-olds) and they filed in with these solemn faces; some had white painted on their eyebrows. And what the tragedy was is this wasn't a funeral that I was doing of some kid in the drug culture out there. This was a 15-year-old boy named Tyler in our church and this was from a middle-class family – a Mom, a Dad in the home, nice home – and this is a group of parents that found out their kid got involved with the wrong crowd. And, you know, he's: "Oh, he's going through the teen years. He's only 15 and kids are gonna have their struggles."

Well, at Santa Cruz County, at any time, you could get a hit of heroin. It was the drug of choice among high schoolers for under \$10.00. And this boy got hooked and he got hooked quickly, and then he started running with another group of people. And they were people just like many of you, I mean, just normal parents who were caught off guard – "What do we do?" They went through all the actions and looking for help, and by the time they figured out how deep their son was in it was too late. And they tried a rehab situation and that didn't work and they came into his bedroom early one morning, after they thought he was clean for two or three weeks, and he was lying on the floor and he overdosed on heroin.

And I was called and his father's a friend of mine, and we've got to know each other. And, actually, as a result of his death, his father started a foundation where he raises money to make parents aware of what they need to know is going on with their kids, and then when they find it's a drug-related issue then what he does is he teams them with people to get them the help early enough, so that their kids don't end up like his kid.

Can you imagine that? 15 years old and the shocking thing was not burying a 15-year old. I looked around at the perversity of the culture. I looked at these

kids all dressed in black, many with Satanic emblems and worship, and one after another got up and talked about how much they cared about Tyler and how they didn't want to happen to them what happened to him. And then one little girl, about 14 years old, with tears in her eyes said, "But I don't think I can stop. Who's gonna help me?"

And what I wanna bring to your attention is the culture has so shifted, not only in America but all over the world, that it's more difficult to be a parent than ever before. The stakes are different. When I was a kid, you got in trouble – I still remember my first paddling in junior high. I threw snowballs at a bus. I remember chewing gum and having to sit in the trashcan, literally, 1st grade. You know? I remember the people who were really naughty; they smoked in the restroom or maybe even smoked a little dope.

Your kids today can make one wrong decision and be HIV-positive one or two or three years later. Your kids can make one wrong decision and get in the wrong car and end up at a rave party, or be involved in drugs, or alcohol, or date rape. It's never been more difficult to be a parent in the stakes, flat out, have never been higher, and you need to understand the kind of world your child's living in. Your kid is living in a world that is changing, it is uncertain, it is violent, it is fearful. In a word, it's defective. I mean, there isn't a right and wrong in your kid's world anymore. There is moral chaos.

There's the fear of what will happen if he doesn't go along with this or go along with that. Your kid's living in a world that's so different than what any of us grew up in. I mean, we've gone from Ozzie & Harriet to Ozzy Osbourne. We've gone from Leave it to Beaver to Butthead and Beavis, or whatever his name is. I mean, imagine just when you turn on the tube, if you're watching a television 40 years ago and saw in America this is a family, and then you shut your eyes and fell asleep, and woke up 40 years later, and watched what's on today, what is portrayed as a normal family – kids are growing up, they don't have a clue what a normal family is and, I've got news for you, the average parent's not sure either.

And so, a parent's challenge is what? How do we not get her children through land mines of change, of moral relativism, of information overload, of drugs, of alcohol, of peer pressure and sexual morality? The question I'm asking as a parent, and the question most parents

that I know well are asking: "How can I be an effective parent in a defective world? Is there a way that I can navigate my child through this mess that we call our culture? Is it possible for a kid to grow up in all this mess and be godly?"

And I wanna tell ya, "Yes! God has a plan. There is hope." I mean, this Book is filled with stories of cultures more vile, more evil, more negative than we're facing right now, and God choosing a little teenager that He chose to come to the planet on – a little girl named Mary. He chose another teenager in one of the most perverse cultures in Persia. His name was Daniel and he revolutionized the entire future. God can take a normal parent like you, an ordinary parent like me, and with His Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit, He can teach you and He can teach me to help our kids break right through the culture.

You will fail at times? Yes. I mean, big disclaimer. I have four kids – 15, 22, 28 and 28. I've been through seasons of rebellion with them. I've been through times where Teresa and I sat up in bed, like many of you have sat up in bed, and literally cried not knowing what to do with one of our kids, we were so frustrated. At other times I've been so mad I had to stay in the bedroom before I talked to 'em, because I'd do something stupid. Parenting is hard. There's times you're gonna get discouraged. There's times you think your kids are never gonna change. There's times you're gonna think it's impossible. I want you to know, don't give up and don't give in.

Principle No. 1: Positive Parenting Begins with Positive Clear-cut Objectives

Principle No. 2: Positive Parenting Demands We Practice What We Preach

Principle No. 3: Positive Parents Build Relationships that Bond

Final Principle: Positive Parenting Requires Constant Repair and Ongoing Maintenance

Copyright © 2008 by Chip Ingram
www.lote.org

Chip Ingram's 4-part series titles:

- How to Raise Positive Kids in a Negative World
- How to Develop Your Child's Full Potential
- How to Discipline Your Child Effectively
- How to Prepare Your Kids to Win Life's Biggest Battle

Chip Ingram's 4-part series on raising children can be obtained on his website:
<http://store.lote.org/store/product/158>