

THE NEW GATE



From the Director:

Upcoming Events 2018

CJAMM Board Training
 Nov 14 10 AM
 United Methodist Ministry Ctr

CJAMM Staff Christmas Party
 Dec 3 6 pm—??
 TBD

Looking Ahead to 2019

SAVE THE DATE:
Tulsa Annual Dinner
 February 19 6 pm—8 pm
 Boston Avenue UMC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
New Day Camp One
 June 3—6
 Camp Cross Point

New Day Camp Two
 July 15—19
 Camp Cross Point



Hello CJAMM Family,

It is definitely that time of year, the school year is well underway and the crisp fall air has arrived. It is the time of year when we begin to embrace our routines.

Our Exodus Houses have new residents arriving daily in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. We have made changes to the programs to make the programs run smoothly and in a more meaningful manner. Site Directors Robin Wertz and Estelle Turbyfill are working to make sure the community is involved and working hard to reintegrate into society successfully. Our Redemption Missions are plunging ahead offering classes and worship services to those seeking to find answers. New Day Camp Deans are meeting to plan next year's camp to ensure success. Our inside prison programs are assisting people weekly in making needed changes to prepare them to make better life choices. It is also the time of year when I am able to travel to meet with volunteers, churches, donors, and interested parties to discuss the future of CJAMM as a whole.

In 2019, we will no longer be an apportionment with the Oklahoma United Methodist Conference but a Connectional Giving Opportunity. We are asking churches, sponsors, and donors to please keep us in mind for the end of year giving in 2018 and the beginning of the year as we transition to no apportionment money.

We have launched our "Reaching Up and Reaching Out" pledge drive so that we can budget for our support that is coming in. You should have received a pledge letter, if not please contact our office or visit us at www.cjamm.org.

Why is CJAMM so important to Oklahoma? Our incarceration rate in Oklahoma is now higher than anywhere else in the United States. I heard a speaker say Oklahoma is now gender friendly as women have been incarcerated at the highest rate of anywhere for 30 years. Why Exodus House? We have a 1.7% recidivism rate, meaning 98.3% of our graduates do not return to prison. USA Today named us one of the best transitional homes in the United States in October of 2017. Why New Day? Children are the silent victims of crime, they deserve to be a kid. Studies show children with positive mentor and strong adult relationships are less likely to become incarcerated. Why Redemption Missions? People who are incarcerated are being educated and are being nurtured with Christian relationships to break the generational cycles of incarceration. Why visit those in prison? Jesus tells us to go visit and not forget our people in prison. Our entire newsletter, will focus on "*Why CJAMM?*"

So, Why CJAMM? Below is a picture of Dayon who graduated camp, became a leader in training as a teen to help the 8-11 year olds for 2015-2017. This year she attended both camps as an adult leader and we helped provide items to send her off to college at Oklahoma State University. Dayon is one of *my* many reasons.

Blessings,
Kristen Harlin

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TULSA REDEMPTION MISSION

In February of this year, Shannon Prater stood in St. Luke's Redemption Mission and accepted his completion certificate. Nine months later his journey may have lead him across the state, but he does not know where he would be if he had never walked into a Redemption program.

In 2004, Prater walked into Penn Ave Redemption Church in Oklahoma City. He was finishing his last six months of his prison sentence. Eight years passed and Prater found himself in a less than desirable situation and he went back to prison. Prater returned to Redemption.

Prater worked with staff at both Redemption Mission and Exodus House in Tulsa. He was accepted into the program and recalls "the love, outpouring of support, and care for the people who came there and how the volunteers and staff wanted people to succeed." Prater recalls facilitating "Thinking for a Change" and "Life Skills" at Tulsa Redemption Mission to help others. He explained that he enjoyed volunteering.

Prater completed the program in seven months. He was sponsored by the Asbury Christian Explorers. He gained a job that was guaranteed on program completion with Stat Carrier delivering pharmaceutical supplies (he still works here today). He currently lives in his town-

house in Warr Acres with his puppy Sassy. There was joy in his voice as he stated he still had the furniture from graduating the Exodus House program and has been able to add to it.

"My time at Redemption allowed me to be a human again instead of feeling like a number," Prater thankfully stated.

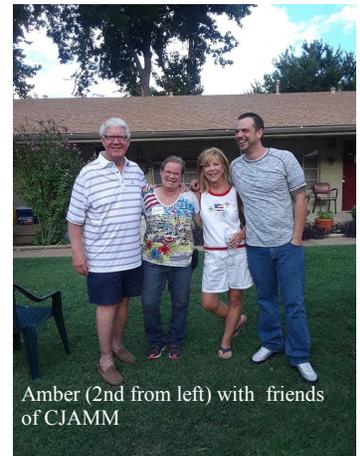
Pictures are Shannon Prater's transformation from incarceration to who he is today—volunteering at Habitat for Humanity.



TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

Why CJAMM??

Amber Smith-Young is bearing fruits of HIS spirit. Her laborious days are many and her fruits are plentiful. She is a bouncing bundle of joy, and she shares this joy with anyone in her path. She reaches out and hugs everyone, even if you're not a "huggy" person because she wants everyone to feel loved. Amber was sentenced to 20 years times 2 and served only 5 years. While she was incarcerated she put her time to good use and took all the self-help classes she could. She was through with the old life. She knew she had to do something to better herself. Amber took AA, NA, RTP, HIV awareness classes, Life skills, Parenting, Cage your Rage, Anger Management, and anything else that was available for self-improvement. Amber steps up when needed at Tulsa Redemption Mission. She started out keeping attendance in Life Skills and now teaches several of the life skill classes. When her sponsor church serves at Redemption, she is there to help. When the worship team needs her she is there and leads worship in any way she can. Amber was so active in church and a leading example of an outstanding resident that she was asked to take a position with Operation Hope Prison Ministry. In that position, she was recently interviewed by *Tulsa World* and is featured in the *Tulsa People Magazine*. Yes, this is a woman after God's heart, a woman of integrity, a woman willing to work hard to overcome the obstacles in her path. She is doing a great job of being a successful member of society. A great friend to those around her and a great coworker. She will do well in life. This is how CJAMM affects people like Amber.



Amber (2nd from left) with friends of CJAMM

Susan Wood graduated on October 23, 2018. It was held at St. Luke's Redemption Mission. Susan says the following about CJAMM, "It provided me a safe, secure and sober living environment. It assisted me in making positive decisions regarding my life, encouraged and supported me in all aspects pertaining to me and made me a better person."

Billy Jagger will be graduating on November 13, 2018. He has decided to move to Missouri with his children. We invite all to come out and celebrate his graduation with him. Billy has been another outstanding resident at Exodus House. He is willing to help with donations, help with any problem or ready to help find a solution to the problem. We are thankful to Billy for his willingness and passion for this program.

Our other residents are great leaders amongst the church, amongst their sponsors' churches, at work and with their families. Family reunification is alive and well throughout our facility. Kathy is helping her sister take care of her nephews while her sister is in and out of the hospital while she works and does her Exodus house program. Billy Lathrop is a grandpa again for the 12th time. We now have an open AA meeting here on site on Monday evenings from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. Life is so much better, clean and sober and transitioning with the help of CJAMM / Exodus House Ministries.

—Estelle Turbyfill, Site Director

OKC EXODUS HOUSE

What a beautiful time of year to welcome the Fall and to be grateful for those in our lives and Christ's blessings each day. We are grateful for all the lives that have been transformed through our Exodus House OKC Program. During a time when many hearts are led to give to help others throughout the Holiday Season... You might ask *Why CJAMM??*

April Weiss and Marissa Reyes are just two examples of lives changed because of CJAMM. April is a graduate and has been here for the last year and in that time has set many goals for herself such as getting a career track job. She now works at MD Manufacturing as a forklift driver and has helped several of our new residents get jobs there as well. She has had her driver's license reinstated and worked very hard and at great financial cost to make that happen. She has a vehicle and the best part of her story is she was able to get custody of her twin daughters, Kylee and Rylee and is now working on visitation with her oldest daughter. She has had many obstacles and struggles but remains very committed to making a future for her and her daughters and to growing in her faith life. She has her apartment sponsor St. Andrew's UMC and attends church at Wesley UMC with her children on Sundays and attends Penn Ave Redemption Church on Thursdays. She mentors incoming residents and is moving into our aftercare 2nd Chance apartment next month, which provides our graduates with continued support, meetings, group therapy and church mentorship for one year.

Marissa Reyes is a current resident who also has had her two girls, Mia and Jasmine move in with her and will graduate next month. She is currently working a career track job also and will be getting her license before leaving here. She will be on extension and is such a joy to have here and also attends Wesley UMC and Penn Ave Redemption UMC.

We are honored to be a part of these ladies and their children's' lives and to give them the opportunity to have their children with them and to be a part of their futures. CJAMM has given them a chance they otherwise would not have had and continues to hold a 1.7 % recidivism rate for those graduating our program.

We want to thank all of you for your love and support for CJAMM and invite you to come take a tour of the Exodus House facility, bring a work group or invite us to do a Speak Out!! We would love to tell you more about us and how you can be a part of our ministry!!

God bless you and may the Holidays bring you much joy and peace. Thank you for being a light of Christ to our residents, for second chances and hope for a future otherwise unimagined!! You make a difference and we are grateful!!

—Robin Wertz, Site Director and Tony Altizer, Facilities Manager



L to R: Kylee, Rylee, April Weiss and Marissa Reyes, Mia and Jasmine.

PENN AVE REDEMPTION CHURCH



Crystal and her family

Why CJAMM?

Hi! My name is Crystal King. CJAMM has touched my life at every turn since my release from prison in February 2017. I began attending church at Redemption while I was incarcerated at Kate Barnard Community Corrections Center. Immediately, due to the welcoming, warm care of the people at Redemption United Methodist, I became more involved in the church itself, attending UMW with Marcia on Saturdays and developing a stronger relationship with Jesus in the process. We enjoyed Christian fellowship, a great meal, helped out with cleaning and other tasks around Redemption. I fell in love with the people and the Church.

As my release date approached and I considered my options- something I hadn't really done in my 3 years of incarceration. I became aware of Exodus House. Realizing I needed a change, and a place that wasn't

where I came from, I applied for Exodus House and interviewed with Robin one evening during service. Robin was pretty blunt about what she would expect of me and I felt Exodus House was just what I needed.

Walking out of prison after 42 months of incarceration I had nothing but a property bag and a box with my name and DOC number on it and a big ankle bracelet on. Tony picked me up at the probation office and when I got to Exodus House I found a fully furnished apartment, complete with food, bedding, towels and even kitchen stuff! Something you don't think about when someone has prepared your meals for 3 ½ years.

Exodus House was such a blessing! I was able to save money, work on my recovery, become even more involved in Redemption and learn how to pay bills again and function in the real world. I graduated Exodus House in July of 2017 and was able to stay until September and my ankle monitor was removed.

Transitioned now, back into the world, Redemption Church is still a part of my life daily. I am a full time employee in this awesome church, working with the children and youth and also for Red River Roasters- our nonprofit created to employ those once incarcerated. The lessons learned at Exodus House I still use every day. In October 2017 my husband and I were married at Penn Avenue Redemption. We just celebrated our one year anniversary! These programs and the people who are involved in them made all the difference in my life and where I am today. I am 5 years sober and still loving Jesus every day! Thank you CJAMM for providing these wonderful opportunities! Now I am able to pay forward these blessings to those coming into Redemption today. Change is possible! Without Redemption and the Exodus House I am sure my life would be so different today. —Crystal King



Crystal at Red River Roasters

FALL 2018



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(check out our new website)



Make an online tax-deductible donation!

If you would like to save CJAMM postage, you can receive the *New Gate* via email. Just send an email to lrhoads@okumc.org. Thank you!

LAWTON REDEMPTION MISSION

We have had so many stories of lives not just changed somewhat but completely transformed. Some of those have included Jon Lemon, who went from an addict without a future, other than the revolving door of prison, to being married, becoming a step-father, even owning his own business. He has become well-known in this area for his beautiful tile work, as well as his excellent skills in construction.



Jon has also become a strong presence in the lives of his stepchildren. He has been there for them in several ways, proudly watching his stepdaughter graduate from high school and go on to enter college at Cameron University. He is also in attendance at his stepson's many athletic activities, especially at his baseball games, and now as he has begun showing lambs in FFA.

For two very busy people, Jon and Bonnie remain as active as possible with Redemption Mission in Lawton. This has included going so far as to purchase all the food, bring the grill, and grill up enough steaks to feed each of our attendees with all the marinated, grilled to perfection, steaks that they could stand! They even had hamburgers and hot dogs for those who might not want to eat steak. This was our 4th of July meal and everyone loved it.

Jon Lemon is only one of many of the great stories that we have, especially of those who have remained in the Lawton area. We have connections with some others who have moved out of Lawton who are also doing well, such as Huy Vincent Tran, who is living in the Oklahoma City area and is the crew boss for a company installing hot tubs, saunas, and other recreational equipment. Or Deon Johnson, who now lives in the Tulsa area and working as a job foreman in that area. Both men are staying clean and sober, and staying in contact with us. Deon has married, and Vince is engaged to be married next March, which is to take place at Lawton Redemption.

We are blessed and excited by all that God has done and cannot wait to see what comes next.

—Rev. Lory Fahle

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