

THE NEW GATE



From the Director:

Greetings in the name of Christ!

Praises be to God, from whom all blessings flow! I have now completed my first year as Executive Director of Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries and I thank God for this opportunity and for each and every one of you. By God’s grace and your hard work and generosity, CJAMM has finished solvent for 2013; roughly \$19,000 in the black. I want to extend my appreciation to all of you who financially contributed to CJAMM and want you to know we will continue to answer God’s call of serving as good stewards of your gifts.

What is Happening in the Life of CJAMM

CJAMM’s Board of Directors have elected their officers for the year and have now organized themselves into cyclical classes that will enable us to bring new voices and resources on the board every year. The board is also still developing our strategic plan with Dr. Bob Spinks and is looking forward to completion.

Penn Ave. Redemption UMC and Aldersgate Redemption UMC have both elected to begin the process of becoming Mission Congregations. They will still be organized in the same manner and have the same rights and powers as any local church. However, this change will imbue these congregations with more financial stability so they can focus on the mission of ministering to prison inmates and their families.

We are also excited about the prison ministries that individual congregations are doing around the state. Mangum First United Methodist Church is ministering to inmates at the Mangum Work Center as well as the *Oklahoma* State Reformatory, in Granite. Pond Creek United Methodist Church ministers to prison inmates at the James Crabtree Correctional Facility, in Helena. Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, in El Reno, has begun a ministry with inmates at the Federal Correctional Institution, in El Reno. If your church is participating in ministry with prison inmates and their families, we want to be your resource and do whatever we can to help. Please contact me and let me know how you are living out your call and CJAMM will do whatever we can to help. And if your church is not currently participating in ministry with the prison inmates and their families, then contact us and we can share some ways how you can!

How You can Help

New Day One (June 8-13) and New Day Too (July 20-25) are coming up soon and we need volunteers! I firmly believe serving as an adult leader for New Day Camp is one of the most rewarding and transformative experiences of servant leadership a person can have. These children are the forgotten victims of crime and too often they are ignored, pushed aside, or lost in the shuffle of our criminal justice system. However, we do not just have to lament their situations; we can do something about it! At New Day Camp we have two goals. 1.) To break the familial cycle of crime, in which many of these children find themselves and 2.) To provide an opportunity to let these kids just be kids. If that sounds like something you want to be a part of, please contact me or Lesa Rhoads.

As we approach Holy Week and remember how God changed the world in three days, I invite you to reflect upon how you might change a child’s life in a week.

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Adam Leathers

Calendar of Events 2014

CJAMM Volunteer Luncheon
March 15 11 am—1 pm
First UMC, Oklahoma City

CJAMM Board Meeting
April 22 10 am—3 pm
UM Ministry Center

New Day Camp I—8-11 yrs
June 8-13 Sun-Fri
Camp Cross Point, Kingston

New Day Camp Too-12-14 yrs
July 20-25 Sun-Fri
Camp Cross Point, Kingston

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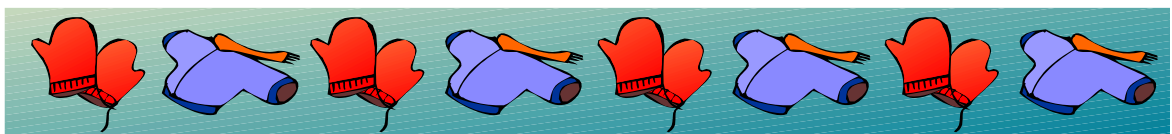
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TULSA REDEMPTION CHURCH

Greetings from Tulsa

The new year brings us further opportunities to make disciples for Jesus Christ in this unique ministry setting. We are blessed to have three new volunteers and one intern join us at Redemption.

Rev. Debra Moore, an Elder in the Free Methodist Church is teaching Bible Studies at Redemption as well as assisting with worship. Debra is a teacher in the Tulsa Public Schools. DeBorah Page is also a teacher in the Tulsa Public Schools. She is working with the orientation class, and is helping contact children for New Day Camp. Cruella Catron, who has recently been released from Turley Correctional Center, is also a new volunteer and Class Assistant in our Bible Study Classes.

We are enjoying a growing relationship between the Department of Corrections staff and our ministry.

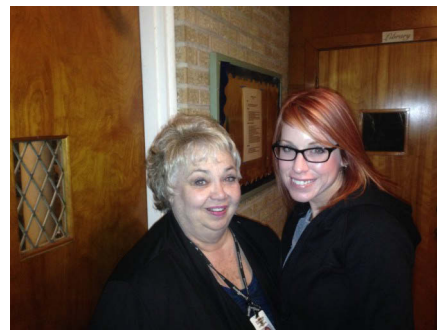
Floyd Long and Lovie Byrd are both Re-entry specialists. They each focus on assisting long time offenders who have completed their sentences and need additional help transitioning back into society. Floyd has been instrumental in facilitating the release of two former Avalon Residents who had been accepted into Tulsa Exodus House. Ms. Byrd is a new member of the Operation Hope Prison Ministry Board.

We appreciate the recent donations received for special needs in our ministry. One of the Computer Class Instructors noticed that some of the students could not see the computer screens well enough to comprehend the lessons. We would like to thank those who graciously provided funds which were made available to purchase glasses. RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) had some left-over gifts from their projects, and offered them to Redemption Church.

We were delighted to provide more children with Angel Tree gifts this year because of their generosity.

I would like to say thanks to everyone who gives so much to make this ministry thrive! May God bless you this year.

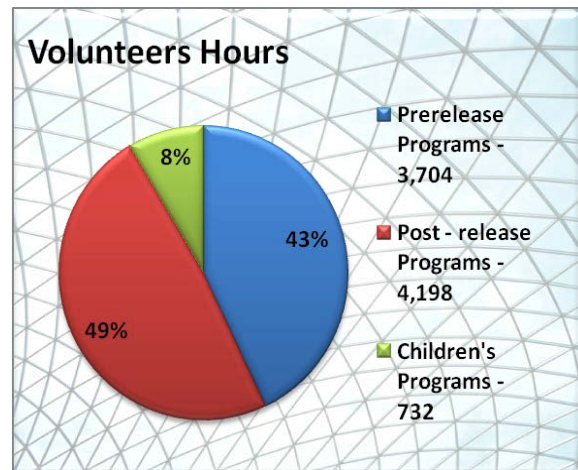
---Brantley Tillery



Kelly Due Redemption/Exodus House Volunteer (on left) and T.C.C. Intern Sara Farmer.

OPERATION HOPE PRISON MINISTRY

Operation Hope served 3,824 clients in 2013 with direct care by 3 staff and 198 volunteers. *The ultimate goal of our mission is to improve our neighborhoods by reducing crime. On a more specific level, changes need to be made not only from the point of incarceration of the offender but getting involved in the lives of the offenders' families. We can give support by caring Christians seeking to instill different mindsets through education and mentorship. For this purpose, Operation Hope Prison Ministry (OHPM) has developed three major programs: Pre-release, Post-release and Children's Programs. Through our Volunteers and partnering organizations, OHPM can give service in each area with wise discernment. The OHPM goal is to give a hand up and not a hand out. Thank you Volunteers for making OHPM possible.*



LAWTON ALDERSGATE REDEMPTION CHURCH

Aldersgate Redemption has had a good year. We finished the year in the black. We were able to pay 100 % of both district and conference apportionments. We received a lot of support from Chris Tiger, Lawton District Superintendent. He allowed us to share about the ministries of Aldersgate Redemption by being the main speaker at the Lawton District Conference this past year. At that conference a special offering was taken and given to Aldersgate Redemption. In December, a Christmas Benefit Concert was given at First United Methodist Church in Lawton to help Aldersgate Redemption. We are so grateful to our District Superintendent and the Lawton District churches for their support in the past and the continuing support they provide to us. May God bless them richly for many years to come. —In Christ, Rev. Rick Forthman

OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

Rev. Adam delighted our congregation December 20th with an Ancient Christmas Eve Service. Among many new experiences for us, some of the memorable moments were Rev. Adam reading the scripture to us in Hebrew and Greek, the unleavened Communion bread was made by Rev. Adam J, then passing the peace and lighting a yule log. We all shared our joy and a cup of warm Wassail afterwards! It was an awesome and moving experience!

We hosted the Department of Corrections Volunteer training in January. It is a joy to see the faces of those who go through training and share in their delight!

We have again been blessed to have Rev. Adam Shahan, Moore First; Rev. Brad Rogers, Rev. Dr. Elaine Robinson, and Rev. Steve Byrd fill our pulpit when Rev. Adam has been out of town. Thanks to each of you for sharing God's Truth with great heart and Godly wisdom ~ we are richly blessed, indeed!

We are continuing to host the AoRP Second Chance Network monthly meeting the second Thursday afternoon of each month. Redemption UMW was honored to host the South District UMW Mini Mission U February 1st. Deacon Jeni Markham Clewell, Director of St. Stephen's Children Ministry, Norman, presented the study on Living Sacramentally. This is the study the Redemption ladies (those incarcerated) attended. They are still talking about all they learned! Rev. Trina Bose North, Epworth UMC, led the study on Roma. All had a wonderful time. It brings a great deal of joy to us to have the District UMW ladies here!



Nichols Hills UMC blessed our children with a fabulous Christmas. Thank you so very much for your hard work, your generosity, and the joy and smiles you gave to the children! Our kids had an exceptional Christmas!

We have a quantity of folding chairs that we would love to pass on to a church or ministry in need. We also have several pianos that could use a good home. There are two upright pianos, two spinet, and one baby grand. We also have an organ. If you are a church or ministry that has need of any of these items, please call the church office at 405-528-0963.



Our volunteers are so faithful and generous in giving of their time, talents and love. We so appreciate all you do. I say this often and will continue to tell you: THANK YOU for your faithfulness, commitment, your heart and your presence! We would not be able to provide the level of ministry we do if it were not for YOU. You definitely bless us ~ but most importantly you bless those we are here to minister to. God bless each of you. With a grateful heart, Marcia

OKC Exodus House

Many thanks to Church of the Servant and Christmas Grace for providing Christmas to our residents and their children, to Piedmont UMC for your gifts to the children here and to Choctaw UMC for the food baskets for our residents and families. We had a wonderful time with lots of children living here (7) and visiting (4) this Holiday Season.

We rang in the New Year at Sherry Miller's House in Wellston. We always have such a great time doing the White Elephant Party there and all the antics and gift robbing that goes on. Thank you Sherry for opening your home to us and for all the effort you put into us having a good time.



Angel & Meagan,
Remerge Program

We are currently full and continue to serve families with children. We have two fathers who were released from incarceration and whose children immediately came to live with them. Welcome to Matt and his three children: Zach, Waylon and Sarah and to St. Andrews, who sponsor's Apt # 12 and have helped Matt and his children make a smooth transition as well as Adam Lisitano and 2yr old Dominic.

We are proud to have Angel and Meagan here from the Rmerge Program, which is a diversion program and an alternative to incarceration. Both ladies are doing very well in our program and we are very excited about partnering with the Rmerge Program.

We want to congratulate our recent graduates: Rob Wright, Amanda Richards and Johan Dyck. We want to congratulate Christine Jeffers who is a graduate of Exodus House and recently became a DOC badged volunteer and will be teaching Relapse Prevention class at Redemption Church on Thursdays and also to Carri Adams who is also a former graduate and has started her own vocational training school Americare and is active in hiring and finding employment opportunities for Exodus House residents. She has also applied to become a badged volunteer.

We would like to thank **all** our apartment sponsors: St. Andrews UMC, Choctaw UMC, Seminole UMC, New Covenant UMC, Church of the Servant, and New Hope UMC for your ministry to our residents and your continued support. We welcome First UMC Church of Moore, Rev. Adam Shahan as our new apartment sponsors for Apt # 6.

We are always in need of furniture, household items and hygiene's, **towels, washcloths** and linens for twin and full size mattresses, **dressers, T.V.'s, convertor boxes**, microwaves, washers, dryers, end tables, coffee tables, **couches**, etc.

For all those who I may have left out **Thank You** so much all for your continued support, your prayers and your many gifts to us. God Bless You!! -----Robin Wertz, Case Manager, 405-525-2300 -----Doyle Hines, Donations, 405-417-1189



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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!

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

Tulsa Exodus House has been blessed with the gift of new technology solutions. Thanks to a generous donation provided by Sue Brothers, Exodus House has been able to purchase a brand new computer and monitor as well as a new router which is powerful enough to provide internet access to the entire campus. Sue is a member of Boston Avenue UMC and a longtime St. Luke's Redemption/Exodus House Volunteer. We would also like to thank Marvin Lee (Exodus House/Redemption Volunteer and Apartment L Sponsor) and Exodus House Resident Joe Davis for implementation of our new wireless network.

Congratulations are in order to Exodus House resident: Kris Wood, Exodus House graduates: Jeannine Bezotte, Darren White and Chris Knudsen and Parsonage House resident: Samm Vicchio. They have each been selected to receive one of the 5 annual full-time tuition waivers awarded to Exodus House/Parsonage House by Tulsa Community College. We owe Al Nordean a special thanks for all his hard work in overseeing this program!

Hats off to Graduates: Bethany Willyard (Christ UMC), Eddie Roques (Tulsa First UMC) and Kris Wood (Faith UMC). Our prayers are with them as they set out into the world on their own. We are very proud!

Access to dental care has been almost non-existent for our residents. Many were released from prison with deplorable dental problems and often in great pain! We are now able to address that problem through the extraordinary service of the Oklahoma Dental Foundation's Mobile Dental Care Program. The Mobile Unit visits Exodus House Tulsa every month or two, providing our residents with dental care at no cost to them. We want to thank Nalani Nordean whose tenacity and diligence initiated these visits.

We want to thank everyone who has donated their time, money and prayers to make this life changing program possible!

As always, we would like to invite you to visit Exodus House Tulsa, just give me a call to let me know when you are coming. Darlene Lorenz 918-231-4013

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Tulsa Tech Dental Observers: Maegan Barry and Mary Temple, Dentist: Dr. Clint Miner, Driver: Steve Hudson and Dental Assistant Mikia Harrington stand ready to provide much needed dental care for Tulsa Exodus House/ Parsonage House Residents.