

THE NEW GATE



From the Director:



Greetings in the name of Christ! It has now been two years since I have been blessed with the unique opportunity to serve as Executive Director of CJAMM and I give thanks to God for every moment. Financially speaking, CJAMM had a very healthy year. It is the goal of most non-profit agencies to try to zero out the budget at the end of the year so we are able to not only be good stewards of our resources but also do the most good we can with them. I am happy to report that CJAMM did not spend more resources than we raised for the year. Unfortunately, the third installment of a funding source of ours did not make it in time to be counted toward the 2014 budget but it will give us a jump start for 2015. Because the extension ministries of the Oklahoma Annual Conference (including CJAMM) will be receiving reduced amounts of apportionment dollars, we are developing fundraising strategies so our outstanding staff and volunteers can keep doing the work of Christ.

What is Happening in the Life of CJAMM

Our staff and volunteers have always worked directly with Oklahomans affected by incarceration; both in and out of prison. However, Christ has called us to be a voice for the voiceless. Thus, we have been engaging in advocacy on behalf of those affected by incarceration. We have been blessed to work in conjunction with Oklahoma Watch on the true impact of incarceration and as a result, a series of articles is being released. We are hoping it will give a sobering and much needed glimpse of the sentencing problems and financial burden placed on those who are incarcerated and their families and hopefully encourage our leadership to approach justice in a more restorative manner.

We are also happy to announce that a group of dedicated volunteers from Chapel Hill UMC, in Oklahoma City will begin to lead a Bible study at the William S. Key Correctional Center at Fort Supply. The volunteers are KAIROS graduates/participants as well as Rev. Stephen Hale.

How You can Help

New Day One (June 7-12) and New Day Too (July 19-24) are coming up soon and we need volunteers! Most importantly, we need musicians. If you or someone you know would like to offer hope to these forgotten victims of crime, please contact us.

Also, we invite you to make a contribution to New Day Camp. New Day Camp is not funded by apportionment dollars and subsists entirely on donations from generous people, just like you! Finally, if I have not visited your church family to share what CJAMM does and how you can be involved, then please give me a call. It is a joy to be able to let congregants know what their apportionment dollars are doing and how they can be involved in prison ministry.

I pray God's blessings upon each and everyone of you and look forward to continue to partner in ministry.

*In Christ,
Rev. Adam Leathers*

Calendar of Events 2015

**CJAMM Volunteer
Appreciation Luncheon**
March 14 11—1
First UMC, OKC

CJAMM Board Mtg
March 19 10—3
UM Ministry Center

New Day Camp I
8–11 years of age
June 7-12
Camp Cross Point

New Day Camp Too
12-14 years of age
July 19-24
Camp Cross Point

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OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH



We are very excited to announce that we have joined forces with Manos Juntas Medical Clinic ~ the last remaining completely free medical clinic in the Oklahoma City area! We have been

in dialogue with them for the last several months. March 7th is their official opening date! As I write this the shelves for the medical records are being installed! Dr. Boyd Shook, an internist with OU Medical Center, is the founding physician of the clinic. Ms. Kris Barnes is the Executive Director. Both are delightful people with an awesome mission! We believe this is truly a work of God's hand in joining our ministry and theirs. They have been in business at Epworth UMC for 20 years. We just celebrated our 20th anniversary the first Sunday of Advent. The Clinic serves the uninsured population of Oklahoma City. All zip codes are welcome. The clinic keeps its cost low by volunteer staff made up of pharmacists,

physician's assistants, and medical students. The phone number for the Clinic's office is 405-605-3101. Although the clinic is open to all with medical needs, they treat a large number of patients with diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol conditions. The third Monday evening each month the clinic offers a diabetic cooking class teaching those with diabetes how to properly manage their condition. The clinic is open 50 Saturdays a year, taking off only for Christmas and Fourth of July. Sign-in times are 8:30 AM to about 11:30 AM each Saturday. We encourage you to come by for a visit ~ and to see one of the medical staff if you have a need.

One need the Church continues to have is hygiene for those incarcerated. If you have shampoo, deodorant, soap, lotion, toothbrushes, shaving cream, razors and mouthwash you would like to donate, it would be most appreciated! Please call the

church office at 405-528-0963.

I know this is said in every article, but it is just so true: we are blessed beyond measure with God's hand on this ministry! It is such an honor to be a small part of the work Christ does through CJAMM and OKC Penn Ave Redemption UMC. A huge thank you to each of you for your positive influence, your tireless spirit and your ever faithful heart you bring to this ministry. 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. *God's blessings, Marcia*

TULSA REDEMPTION CHURCH

God has richly blessed us with faithful volunteer teachers who show God's love through their examples and lessons. Most of these remarkable teachers come once a week, but we are especially blessed with three who come both Sunday and Thursday. Kelley Due teaches Men's Anger Management on Sunday and Women's Anger Management on Thursday. Janice Shannon teaches Victim Impact both nights. Debra Moore teaches Women's Bible Study on Thursday and assists Kelly with the men on Sunday. Through the efforts of all of our teachers, eleven residents completed DOC credit classes in January and seven so far in February.

Sherry Clark, RSVP, brought a basket filled with Blossoms of Hope for our people to take as they left the church service during the Christmas season. The blossoms were crocheted by RSVP volunteers. RSVP had extra dolls and toys for us to finish the Angel Gifts at Christmas for children of the residents who attend St. Luke's Redemption. Sherry Clark also recruits our talented volunteer PowerUp Computer teachers. We thank God everyday for these amazing volunteers.

Dolores Ritter, Education Coordinator

Virginia Gray, Volunteer Coordinator



LAWTON REDEMPTION CHURCH

I am certain that all of you have been facing some of the same interesting challenges in recent days that we have here in Lawton and Southwest Oklahoma. There have been the changes to the training schedules, all the new online registration that has taken place and then, for some of us, had to be redone for various reasons. Of course, as always, the changes within the offender population are a constant source of wonder. However, in the midst of all the changes that are going on, we have been having some very positive things come about as well. For example, we found out that a long-time apartment building here was recently purchased by new owners, who then made it known that they would be willing to work with anyone coming out of prison in a positive way. Because of their wonderful spirit, we have at least two of the offenders at the Lawton Center who will be requesting a home packet at that location. This is exciting and we are looking forward to getting to know these new owners much better.

Another exciting event here, we have recently submitted the curriculum and study guides for a new class to be taught here on "Life's Healing Choices." A former offender who is now a badged volunteer, Tommy Lingo, has been pursuing the training to be able to instruct this class on his own time and we are awaiting word from DOC as to the possibility that they may actually grant "days" for this class.

We are starting to see our recruitment pay off in other ways. We have at least one new person who has applied for the training to receive their badge and another one who has said they will be doing the same in the next week or two. That is worth a "happy dance!"

Finally, another of our former offenders who is now one of our badged volunteers, Mark Wheeler, and his wife Marian, have become first-time home-owners here in Lawton! We are so excited and thrilled for them. Their plans are to become foster parents now that they have this beautiful new home.

Here's hoping that spring is around the corner with enough rain to get us through.

Blessings to each of you,

Rev. Lory Fahle, Lead Pastor, Lawton Aldersgate/Redemption Church

OKC EXODUS HOUSE

Exodus House OKC would like to thank everyone who made our holiday season such a success. We would like to say a special thanks to Church of the Servant for providing all the gifts for our residents and their children and for the food baskets for Christmas. To New Hope UMC and to Richard Foster for playing Santa for 21 kids here and to Jackie & Jeff Keyser for presenting a Christ Cake and story of the true meaning of Christmas. As well as Choctaw UMC for their donation of food baskets at Thanksgiving for our residents and we would like to thank **all** our other apartment sponsors: St. Andrews UMC, Seminole UMC, Yukon UMC, New Covenant UMC, First Church of Moore, Connect Ministries and Harrah UMC for your commitment to our ministry, our residents and your continued support.

We have a lot of vision for this New Year and are planning on a total upgrade and repaving of our courtyard area and to remodel and expand our laundry room to include an exercise area. We expect to have our second stairway rebuilt this month and completion of the exterior painting of our facility done shortly. This is a costly venture

for us and we have some funding from New Covenant UMC for this vision and are asking that anyone who would like to help with this financially to contact me or Kathy Sewell at 405-740-5470 (New Covenant UMC, Project Coordinator) and to personally thank Johnny Floyd who has spearheaded this project and



Doyle & Michelle Hines

vision to make it a reality for us. We would like to say goodbye to our Facility Manager, Doyle & his wife, Michelle Hines, who will be retiring due to health issues.

Doyle received a new liver at Christmas and is doing great!! Thank You for all your prayers and support throughout his illness and for his continued recovery. We want to say Thank You for your 6 years of service to Exodus House and our Ministry and we will miss you both and wish you well on your new journey!!

We also would like to welcome Tony Altizer as our new Facility Manager. Tony is a graduate of Exodus House and a former maintenance man and has owned his own landscaping business. Tony has been very

helpful and given much of his time and skills to help while Doyle has been ill and recovering and we are excited to have him as part of our team. We will be working on remodeling Tony's apartment when Doyle and Michelle move out this month and will be looking for any men's groups or any crew's that may be interested in helping with that project so that he can move into the apartment in a timely manner. Please contact Tony at 417-1189 to discuss that project.

We invite anyone interested in taking a tour of Exodus House or anyone who would like us to come speak about our ministry to please give us a call. We would love to share our stories and our mission with you!

We are especially in need of beds, dresser's, T.V. convertor boxes and antennae's, microwaves, coffee & end tables, kitchen dining room sets, towels and washcloths and any furniture and household items.

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

-----Tony Altizer, Facility Manager

OPERATION HOPE PRISON MINISTRY

Operation Hope Prison Ministry served 2,400 clients, with a calculated 6,351 total volunteer hours for 2014. Thanks to continued support through the Operation Hope's Fall Fundraiser, Golf Fundraiser, and additional contributions; Operation Hope will be able to continue to assist families, children and individuals who have been impacted by incarceration throughout 2015. We look forward to serving a larger community this year, and meeting the necessary needs of those who come to us for assistance. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and staff, Operation Hope continues to educate, and bring hope and encouragement to those who struggle daily with the difficulties of life changes and

imprisonment. In addition to assisting those being released from prison with the basic needs, Operation Hope teaches classes at Dick Conner, Jess Dunn, and J.H. Lilley Correctional Centers. In addition to working at adult prisons, Operation Hope has volunteers who work with juveniles, being held at David L. Moss Tulsa County jail, pending resolution of their charges for violent crimes they are accused of. In March 2015 we will be transporting children to Eddie Warrior CC to visit their mothers and grandmothers for Play Day. We are looking forward to being a part of this event that helps bring children and their mothers together for the necessary bonding time needed for healthy growth. Operation Hope has been blessed with a great team of staff and volunteers to help

orchestrate all of these programs! Last but not least, Operation Hope has a new Director. She began several years ago as an Operation Hope client, has worked for Operation Hope since July of 2012 and is now in the process of acquiring her Masters in Social Work. Her name is Heather Sisson-White. She is truly grateful for the opportunity to serve Operation Hope clients and to find ways of breaking down the barriers that ex-felons come against once they are released from prison. Operation Hope is presently looking to fill the Administrative Management position that is now open. Also, Operation Hope has recently added two new members to its Board of Directors. One of the members is a Certified Public Accountant.

ATTENTION CJAMM VOLUNTEERS!!

The 13th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 11 am—1 pm at First UMC, 131 NW 4th, OKC

Guest Speaker will be Jari Askins, Former Lt. Governor of Oklahoma Please RSVP to Lesa Rhoads by Thursday, March 5, 2015.

(405) 530-2014 or lrhoads@okumc.org





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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

The new year has once again brought changes to Tulsa Exodus House and Tulsa Parsonage House. Both facilities are blessed with new staff.

We are proud to welcome Virginia Walkup as our new Facility Manager. Virginia is an Exodus House Graduate who lived in the apartment sponsored by Christ UMC. We thank Christ UMC with a special thanks to Bobbie & Connie Ratcliff and Doug & Jill Pray for all they did to help Virginia transition so successfully. Although Virginia has joined Christ UMC, she has moved to the staff apartment sponsored by Claremore 1st UMC. The Claremore Team, led by Martha Starr, have provided Virginia's apartment with a facelift! The entire apartment was painted and new carpeting installed.



We also welcomed Robert Guoladdle back to Tulsa Parsonage House as House Leader. Robert had successfully completed the Parsonage House Program in 2014. We were delighted when he agreed to return as the Parsonage House Leader. Robert, who is a member of the Kiowa Tribe from Southeast Oklahoma, said, "This is a new beginning for me and maybe, in some little way, I can help someone else to be a better person."

This year's Christmas Party at Redemption Church was bigger than ever! We hosted residents' apartment sponsors as well as family and friends of both Exodus House and Parsonage House. Once again our "E" Team was up to the task.

We thank E Team's Janice Shannon, a member at Southern Hills UMC, as well as Al & Nalani Nordean and Lloyd & Paula Applegate, members at Bixby UMC. (Al & Nalani Nordean also provided a Turkey dinner with all the fixings for the Exodus House/Parsonage House residents who had no place to go on Christmas Day.) The sponsor churches went above and beyond the call of duty in providing cards, goodies and gifts not only to their residents, but also to all the residents of both Exodus House and Parsonage House. No one was left out and a good time was had by all.

Sisters, Clara Perkins and Karen Hicks, continued their tradition originated over 10 years ago. Each Christmas they provide huge platters overflowing with Christmas goodies to every Exodus House resident. This year the platters included: homemade banana or pumpkin bread, candy, cookies and a ton of love! Karen Hicks, along with Broken Arrow UMW, also provided our residents with beautiful handmade Christmas Wreaths which were proudly displayed on each door.

We thank Don Cole and the Sand Springs Team for giving up part of Valentine's Day to redecorate their apartment in anticipation of their new resident. We also thank Karen Gaddis and Darren White from Boston Avenue UMC "Pilgrimage Class" for all the hard work involved in getting their apartment ready for a new resident.

We thank all the volunteers who gave of their time, money and love to make Exodus House/Parsonage House possible. Without them we could not continue to keep our doors open. We are ever so grateful!

As always, you are invited to Tulsa Exodus House/Parsonage House for a tour or a visit. Just give Darlene a call at 918-231-4013 and let us know when you can come.

----Darlene & Virginia

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