

THE NEW GATE



From the Director:

The past three months have completely flown by for me. I have met numerous amazing people who let me know I am right where God has called me to be. CJAMM has the most amazing volunteers I have ever met.

Our Exodus Houses are doing tremendous work. Darlene and Virginia in Tulsa have the outside flowers looking beautiful. The hours and weeks put into this is amazing. I am anxious to attend the Labor Day Reunion in Tulsa. Robin and Tony in Oklahoma City were able to raise funds to complete a landscaping project. The volunteers and people came together to make the Exodus House in Oklahoma City look completely different. Both properties look beautiful and I would encourage everyone to drive or stop by both houses.

I have gone to visit Lawton, Oklahoma City and Tulsa Redemption Churches. They are really organized and running well. Greg, Janice, Roger, Marcia, Lory and Julie are all proactive in making sure operations go off with very few hiccups. Lawton recently opened a community garden. Oklahoma City and Tulsa have made their facilities open to trainings for Department of Corrections volunteers.

Kairos is moving in ways they never have before. They were able to do a weekend in a maximum security prison in Holdenville. As I spoke with Jim Key about the weekend, I got goosebumps from how the spirit moved with those men even in the confined environment they were in. This is definitely a first and it should not be last weekend in maximum security.

New Day Camp I and New Day Too were the best part of my summer. (Shhhh, do not tell my kids.) I felt humbled to be included in the camps. Not only did the volunteers jump in to help the children, we were all united as a family at both camps. The selfless actions of each and every person were beyond amazing. I did find ways to participate to stay cool and keep myself young (even though when the week was out I did feel my age).

At the first camp, I had a reality moment of how our ministry is alive and working. I walked by and Tony from Exodus House OKC was making a water bottle into a detergent bottle which was a service learning project. As I watched him interact with the children, knowing he is a successful graduate of Exodus House and member of Redemption Church, it was sheer joy that I could feel in my heart. We are all working together for the greater good and letting God use us.

At New Day Too, I went to each activity scheduled for the children. The fourteen year olds are taken on a camping trip to see if they can survive and become "LIT's" or Leaders in Training for camp the next year. As I watched the kids cook, clean, have fun, sleep outside and enjoyed conversations with them I realized real quick this had nothing to do with me but all to do with God.

Through generous donations and answered prayers, the Parsonage in Tulsa is being remodeled. The driveway has been completely redone. We now anticipate changes to not only the foundation and its repairs, but to the kitchen and other areas as needed. Darlene has worked on this project tirelessly for many months. We are not only appreciative of the donations, but to the laborers and Darlene as well.

Blessings,

Kristen Harlin



Calendar for 2016

**Tulsa Exodus House
Labor Day Reunion
September 5, 2016
@ 5:00 pm**

**CJAMM Board Meetings
are the 3rd Wednesday of
the month at the United
Methodist Ministry Center**

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OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

Six of us went to training/retraining for the Department of Corrections. We spent the day with Kristen learning a few new tips and enjoyed sharing a meal. Thank you Kristen, Bob and Lottie Nelson, Michelle Hines and Harri Williams for taking time out of your busy schedules to renew your DOC Volunteer status.

We would like to lift up our Music Director, Virgil Brian, who had major surgery this past week. Thank you for your prayers for his speedy recovery.

We continue to pray, ask and share our need for God's servants willing to drive a van, ride in a van, or a bus (CDL license needed for bus only), teach a class, and/or fill their hearts by mentoring and encouraging those we bring to church. Please call the church office, 405-528-0963 to discuss the possibilities. Thanks!

We offer many thanks to Kylie Rogers and Brandon Smith for filling in for Virgil during his absence. Kylie is our Pastor Brad's daughter and Brandon is her boyfriend. Their presence, talents and gifts blessed us beyond

measure.

Rev. Dr. Stan has been out of town quite a bit this summer. We have had the blessing of Lonnie Lino, Tony Altizer and Robin Wertz sharing their testimonies. Rev. Stephanie Stephens, Rev. Steve Byrd, Chris Noland and Yolanda Faye Perry have filled our pulpit. All sharing God's Word with meaning and humor. Thank you so much ~ each of you has blessed us beyond measure.

We hosted two weeks of training for the OK Department of Corrections. They used our church to train teachers for Victim's Impact and Thinking for a Change. It is always a joy to share the week with them!

The Oklahoma City Community Choir once again filled our sanctuary with beautiful voices singing praises with joy. Thank you for loving to be here ~ we so enjoy you!

Rev. Marla Lobo from Wesley UMC brought about 25 middle school youngsters for an in-service mission project for Vacation Bible School. They helped

us clean the kitchen and fellowship hall on a Thursday evening and joined us for worship. Fun evening!

We hosted our Missional Area meeting with Cornerstone UMC, Clark UMC, Skyline Urban Ministry and Linwood UMC. We had a delightful evening sharing about ministry including our needs and possibilities. Thank you to everyone for your interest and commitment to this ministry.

A huge thank you to each of our volunteers for your positive influence, your tireless spirit and your ever faithful heart you bring to this ministry. We so appreciate all you do! You definitely bless us ~ but most importantly you bless those we are here to minister to. God bless each of you! The ministry at OKC Penn Ave Redemption could not happen without each of you.

God's blessings,
Marcia

CJAMM 2ND ANNUAL AWARD & BENEFIT DINNER

Nearly 100 people attended CJAMM's 2nd Annual Award and Benefit Dinner on Thursday, August 11th at Nichols Hills UMC. This year Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr. was awarded the *Stan Basler Award* for his support of CJAMM over the past 12 years. Rev. Dr. Stan Basler presented the award to Bishop Hayes. Lonnie Lino, Penn Avenue Redemption Church member gave her testimony and touched many hearts. Carletta Denison shared her love of New Day Camp. Carletta has been involved with New Day Camp since its inception in 1995. Zach and Grace Wallace provided music during the wonderful meal prepared by caterer, Mary McIntire of First UMC, OKC. Exodus House residents and graduates not only served the food but also sat with the guests at the tables and told their stories. The evening ended with a few words from Bob Spinks, CJAMM Board Chair. CJAMM is a ministry that changes lives and attendees got to see this first hand. To help us continue this great work please send donations to CJAMM, 1501 NW 24th Street, OKC 73106 or donations can be made online at www.cjamm.org.



Lonnie Lino, member of Penn Avenue Redemption



OKC Exodus House residents before the dinner



Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr. and Kristen Harlin, CJAMM Executive Director

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

Summer is always a busy time of year at Exodus House and this year is no exception. Preparing for our reunion is a labor of love. Our residents and staff have once again succumbed to “Reunion Fever”. You can tell they are inflicted by the sweat on their brows and the dirt on their hands as they scramble around the courtyard digging, pruning, watering and planting. Each one determined to make this, “the best reunion ever”. Of Course, Owasso’s First United Methodist Church, “Change the World Weekend” got us off to a wonderful start this spring! They not only provided funds for our annual plants, soil & fertilizer, they also provided the manpower, womanpower and childpower to get the job done. We are so grateful!

This summer we have been blown away by the overwhelming generosity of Asbury’s Faithbuilders Adult Community. When we discovered that our ‘Parsonage House’ was suffering major foundation problems under the garage, we called longtime friend and Exodus House apartment sponsor connection, Michiel Conner and boy did he help! In fact, the entire Faithbuilders Community pitched in with money material and dearly needed advise. Not only has our foundation problem been corrected, but they are planning for the house to be renovated with a new bedroom with full bath. A special thanks to Ken and Barbra Weikel who are turning their ideas into a reality while adding a lot of ‘sweat equity’ to the project. Ken is active in the Home Improvement Industry, Barbra is a Space Planner and Michiel is an Architectural Designer. We also thank Wes Herring who attends ‘Sanctuary’ church in Jenks, Wes is the concrete contractor who has already provided a beautiful new concrete driveway and is donating a lot of his personal time and expertise to provide the renovation framing.



We congratulate Exodus House Graduates: Tom Seslar (Boston Avenue’s Pilgrimage Class) and Laietis DeFreitas (Boston Avenue’s Maranatha Class). Congratulations are also in order for Johnny Wilson a Parsonage House Resident who has moved on to a new job as well as a new home out of state. Johnny has not only been a great resident but also a valued volunteer. He will be missed!

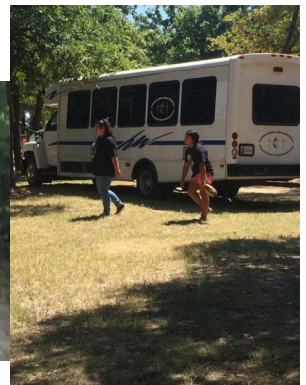
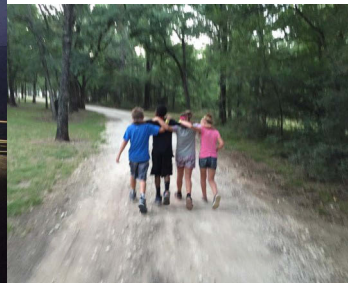
Wes Herring is hard at working getting the concrete poured at the Parsonage House, while Asbury’s Ken Weikel and Enos Moore look on with approval. The Parsonage House is a satellite of Tulsa Exodus House.

As always, you are invited to our yearly Reunion. We hope to see you this Labor Day, September 5, at 5:00pm. Exodus House is located at 2624 E. Newton St. Tulsa OK 74110. If you can’t make the reunion we’d love to give you a tour, just give us a call and let us know when you are coming, 918-231-4013.

---Darlene & Virginia

NEW DAY CAMP I AND TOO 2016

New Day Camp 2016 was once again a huge success. We blessed the lives of 121 campers ages 8 –14. We had 3 ex-campers who served as adult leaders and 8 ex-campers who served as LITs (Leaders-in-Training). LITs are 15-17 years of age and are a big help to the adult leaders and staff. Transportation is provided for ALL campers no matter where they live in the state. CJAMM incorporates the aid of United Methodist Churches and individuals throughout the state to make this possible. This year we faced more challenges than normal in this task. Perhaps your church could help next year —we particularly needed help in the Oklahoma City, Enid and Ponca City area. Call Lesa Rhoads, 405-530-2014 if you want more details on how your church can help with this important part of the New Day Camp ministry.





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Make an online tax-deductible donation!



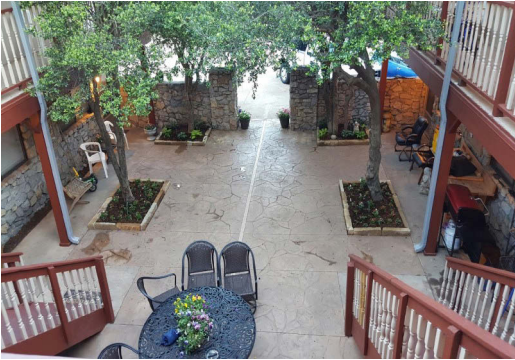
If you would like to save CJAMM postage, you can receive the *New Gate* via email. Just send an email to lrhoads@okumc.org. Thank you!

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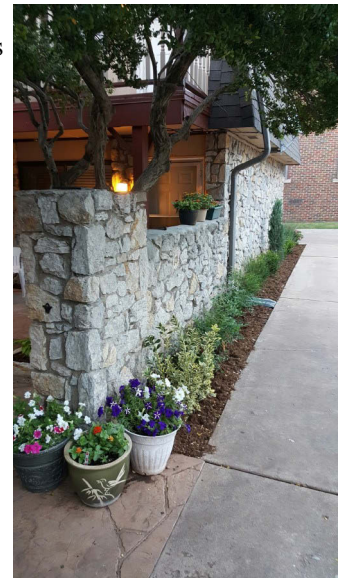
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OKC EXODUS HOUSE

Exodus House OKC is excited to say we have completed our landscape project and with the recent paint job and new courtyard, our place has truly been transformed to such a welcoming and beautiful place for our residents and for all those who visit us here. We want to say “Thank You” to all of those who dedicated their time, resources and financial assistance to make this happen: New Covenant UMC, Choctaw UMC, Church of the Servant UMC, Yukon UMC, Connect UMC, Seminole UMC, New Hope UMC, St. Andrew’s UMC, First UMC of Edmond, Lew McGinnis, Phil & Janis Brown, Yukon UMM, Nichols Hills Work Group, Brian Courtney of Heartland Landscape Group, Dale & June Krumme, Kathy & Mark Sewell, Russ Kline, Lesa Stiger, Nancy Paulger, Jim & Linda Hill, Matt Patrick, Don Vaught, Shane Vaughn and to all those I might have missed I want to say a special thanks to you!! We are so proud of our new home and so blessed by its beauty.



Tony Altizer, our Facility Manager and one of our new resident’s Shawn Pendergraf had the opportunity to go and experience New Day Camp 1 this year. It was such a wonderful experience for them both. We also had two of our kids go and it was exciting to hear their stories of the fun they had, the challenges of facing some of their fears (the ropes course) and overcoming them while at camp. Many great times were had by all!!



We have had 8 graduations and 4 residents get their Driver’s License back and several more in the process of getting theirs. We currently have 4 children living here and they are gearing up for school to start next week. It’s been a great summer and we are looking forward to the fall and the holidays with our Exodus House families, sponsors and friends.

We continue to need household goods and furniture donations, clothes, towels and washcloths, linens, microwaves, pots & pans, kitchen utensils, coffee pots, toasters, dressers, electric stoves (some of ours are on their last leg) and would like to start receiving flat screen TVs to put in our apartments so we can get away from convertor boxes and their expense. We still need convertor boxes until that time. Any household items are appreciated.

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! Special thanks to our sponsors and to 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 (Donations) ----- (405)-417-1189