



## Boston Avenue Youth Day

When wise King Solomon was writing the proverbs, he had the youth of Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in mind. The Tulsa group recently practiced discipleship of Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Nearly 30 young people (pictured above) spent a service day at Exodus House Tulsa manicuring the flower beds and planting additional flowers. The clients, who get to enjoy the beauty of their labor, certainly appreciate their kindness.

To close out the service day, Site Director Georgia Sparks shared the mission of the Exodus House. She said, “almost every youth had a question about the ministry. It’s great to see their minds working.”

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### In His Time

St. Luke, the evangelist, wrote in Acts 20:35 that it is more blessed to give than to receive. The folks in Faith Builders Sunday School class at Asbury Church in Tulsa certainly understand that promise. They are builders and givers.

Jim Cooper, the class’s representative for Apartment C at Exodus House Tulsa and a retired counselor from Jenks Freshman Academy said, “God just has a plan that everything falls into place.”

For somewhere close to 20 years, Faith Builders have been loving on the clients at the Exodus House, offering emotional and spiritual support, a safe and comfortable apartment, and even a helping hand when needed. Recently Apartment C was in between residents and Jim decided it was time for new carpet. He mentioned it to one of the Asbury staff who said, “there’s some leftovers from the recent remodel upstairs.”

Jim checked it out and it was exactly enough to carpet the apartment.

When it was time to lay the carpet, he reached out to a local flooring company who gave him the name of Bronco Anderson, a possible installer who might provide a discount.

Jim said, “Bronco installed the carpet at no charge. He’d been incarcerated and wanted to pay it forward.”

Then the apartment needed a replacement hot water tank. Cooper mentioned it to the Faith Builders. Someone popped up, “I’ll write a check for that.”

Apartment C has a new facelift...paint, carpet, trim, hot water tank, furniture, and the prayers for giving the next occupant a gift of a second chance.

The faithful are blessing others’ lives every single day! Thank you, Faith Builders!



Tulsa Exodus House Site Director Georgia Sparks with Faith Builder Jim Cooper

# CJAMM - The Place with Miracles Every Day

By Keith Dobbs, Executive Director

It was one of those days. Busy, hectic, and Oklahoma hot and humid. I'd just left a New Day Camp lunch meeting in northwest Oklahoma City and was headed to afternoon meetings at Exodus House Tulsa. And, of all days, my air conditioner stopped working.

As I looked down at my car thermometer, it said 101 degrees.

I started praying in a discouraged tone, wondering what I was doing with life and if I was making a difference running all over in the hot weather. I needed a confirmation.

Up ahead of me on the Turner Turnpike, I noticed a black car parked on the side of the road with its emergency flashers on. A young black lady walking, a purse over her shoulder, wearing all black. I passed her at 75 miles per hour and immediately felt something tugging at my heart. A half mile down the road, I pulled over to the shoulder and start backing up to meet her. When beside her, I spoke to her through the passenger window to ask if she needed help.

"I ran out of gas."

I told her to jump in and we'd go get some gas. She looked miserable in the heat and my air conditioner wasn't working but at least it should be a bit cooler than walking on hot asphalt.

She was hesitant. A young black girl in her early 20's, a mature white stranger.

She got in.

All of the sudden, my air conditioner started blowing at full blast.....cold cold air!

Accident? I don't think so. More like an answer to prayer and a better-than-Hallmark-miracle.

Jazzie, short for Jasmine, had left Austin on a trip to New York City for a dancing job. She'd had car trouble and had spent all her money to get her brakes worked on in Oklahoma City.

We drove from mile marker 190 to the Bristow exit, found a gas can at Tractor Supply, filled it up at the nearby gas station, had a restroom break, and got bottles of cold water. Then it was time to make the trek back to her car.

It was a good time to visit about her childhood memories of trips to her grandfather's place in Okemah, riding horses, and Oklahoman's friendliness.

After looping around on the turnpike, I pulled in behind her car, turned on my emergency flashers and we poured the five gallons of gas into her tank.

She started up her car, cranked on her air conditioner, and stepped out to say thank you. She seemed genuinely appreciative. I gave her the money I had in my pocket to get to Tulsa and call her grandmother to wire her some cash.

She continued to thank me and asked how to pay me back....in which, I just responded to pay it forward when she got a chance along life's way. It just made me think that I'd want someone to help my daughter who was about the same age if she ever got stranded.

With a wilted wave, she was on her way.

Was all of this an accident? I don't think so. It had to be God's Divine timing. By the way, my air conditioner is still blowing at full speed. God's speed!

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6*

*Keith is available to share those CJAMM miracles at church services, United Women of Faith meetings, UMM groups, support meetings, or even civic groups. Call 405-525-3522 or email [keith@cjamm.org](mailto:keith@cjamm.org).*

# New Day Camp 2022

## Challenge to Sponge

Christy\* went from challenging to a sponge at New Day Camp. The 11-year-old started out on a sour note when her small group leader asked for her cell phone.

“For the next hour, she continually asked when can I get my phone back?” shared Kat Davis, a first-time volunteer at camp. Christy said to the volunteer, “I can make your life miserable over the next few days.”

Kat invested time with Christy, listened to what she “wasn’t” saying, and gradually learned Christy’s story that it wasn’t cool to be vulnerable. Her father was incarcerated and her mom was in and out of jail. She lived with grandma.

“Gradually she let her guard down. She was very quick and smart.”

By the end of camp, Christy had experienced a dose of God’s love and was like a sponge absorbing everything she could learn at camp with others from the post-COVID generation.

“When she asked if I’d be back next year, I knew it hadn’t been a waste of my time,” stated Kat. “She learned that people can care about her.”

*\*name changed to protect the child*



Pictured Small Group Leader  
Kat Davis

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On the final day of New Day Camp at Crosspoint, we worshipped at the cross overlooking Lake Texoma. Many campers received communion for the first time, and it was a joy to walk through each step and name why we do what we do and that the real presence of Christ is made known when we break the bread.

I invited campers who felt ready to receive Jesus into their hearts to come forward and join me in prayer. We talked about how this is the first step of a lifelong journey toward the perfect love of God in Jesus Christ.

Fifteen campers came forward! It was a holy moment at the very spot where I publicly named my call to ministry twenty-five years ago.

When I’m at the Cross Point outdoor sanctuary, I always think of the old hymn: “At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light and the burden of my heart rolled away; it was there – by faith – I received my sight, and now I’m happy all the day.”

—Rev. Adam Shahan, Senior Pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church



L to R: Campers Amera, Gracie & Abbi



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## God and the Tooth Fairy Visit New Day Camp

Hunter got a special New Day Camp surprise. In addition to hearing about “How God is Good,” the theme of this year’s camp, he lost a tooth.

All the other boys told him to put the tooth under his pillow at camp and see if the tooth fairy would find him way down near the Oklahoma-Texas border.

George Warren, CJAMM Board Secretary and the boy’s small group leader, said, he heard the tooth fairy fumbling around in the night trying to find that tooth under a pillow on the top bunk. WINK! According to George, the fairy never found the tooth but left a \$5 bill anyway.



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# The Only Option

During an emotional graduation from Exodus House OKC, Roxana Jansen shared that while incarcerated, “God told me that Exodus House is where I’m supposed to go. I just knew it. I have to go to Exodus House, that is it. That is my only option. I will not take NO for an answer. That’s where I am going.”

She shared how while in prison, she was always in her Bible or praying. “I just knew that Exodus House was the best place for me. (Pointing to other women in the table) And her, and you, and Willow.”

Several of Roxie’s friends came to Exodus House after she’d made the spiritual connection with the re-entry program.

“God did it! I love my support, my church support (Wesley UMC OKC), you guys (meaning Exodus House/CJAMM team). I just love this whole place.”



Roxie with her best prison friend Mandy Duncan who is also an Exodus House client.



Roxie’s church family, Wesley UMC OKC supported her during her Exodus House journey and graduation. Pictured (l to r) Sara Schieman, Roxie, Mary Flanagan Sheets and Rev. Adam Shahan.

## Current wish list for Exodus House OKC & Tulsa:

Men & women’s underwear & socks  
Laundry detergent, dryer sheets  
Toilet paper & paper towels  
Full size sheet sets, pillows, laundry baskets, wash cloths  
Storage containers for organizing  
Men & women deodorant, men’s body wash, razors  
Mosquito traps