

# THE NEW GATE



## From the Director:



Greetings in the name of Christ! I hope you are having a terrific summer and are keeping safe from the heat. It has been a productive summer for CJAMM. Thanks to hundreds of hours from our committed volunteers and staff, we were able to hold both New Day Camps despite the flooding that took place at Cross Point Camp. We held New Day One at Canyon Camp and held New Day Too at Cross Point and floated all of our supplies, campers, and adult leaders into camp. Both camps required a lot of adjustment on our part and the logistics were, shall we say, challenging. However, we revamped our scheduling and curriculum and as a result, over 120 children of incarcerated parents, *the forgotten victims of crime*, had a great camping experience. Special thanks to Ken Long at Cross Point and David Combs at Canyon Camp, for making it possible. I also want to recognize the special hard work of Tony Altizer, Rev. Steve Byrd, Carletta Denison, Traci Jacomo, Kaiti Powers, Debi Self, Rev. Gary and Lynn Wilburn, and countless others who put in even more time and effort than usual into making sure we were able to have camp. CJAMM's staff and volunteers were not about to let a mere flood get in the way of doing ministry!

### How you can help

You may have noticed an insert in your New Gate. We are beginning a brand new fundraising campaign that involves the 2 best activities in the world—Doing good for the needy and climbing rocks! I am going to compete in a rock climbing competition in Horseshoe Canyon Arkansas on September 26, 2015 called "24 Hours of Horseshoe Hell," where I will try to climb as many different routes and climb as many vertical feet as I can in a 24-hour period. I am asking people to pledge an amount of their choosing for every foot that I climb to support CJAMM. Last year I climbed about 4,500 feet and I am hoping to climb a vertical mile this year. If you pledge a nickel per foot, it will be a gift of about \$260. If you pledge a penny per foot it will be a gift of about \$50. If you pledge a \$1 per foot, it will be a gift of about \$5,000. Every bit helps! You can make a pledge online by going to our Facebook page or website or you can just e-mail me at aleathers@okumc.org with your name and the amount per foot you would like to pledge. Also, you can also watch my progress that day on Facebook! As of when I wrote this article, we are 16% of the way to reach our goal of \$10,000 or roughly \$2.00 per foot. With God's help, we will make it!



Your 100% tax deductible donation will be put to good use providing a great camping experience to forgotten victims of crime, sustaining housing and addiction recovery programming for those who need to break the vicious cycles of chemical dependence, and offering hope to those whom Christ called "the least of these." Together, we can change lives! I pray God's blessings upon each and every one of you.

Your brother in Christ,  
Rev. Adam Leathers



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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!

## ST. LUKE'S REDEMPTION CHURCH TULSA

It is hard to imagine that I have already been here two months! I seemed to have hit the ground running and haven't stopped. The thing that impresses me most about St. Luke's Redemption Church, Exodus House and the Parsonage is the quality of the volunteers and staff. They are all dedicated to this ministry and have a servant's heart which makes being here a joy.

The residents at both facilities have been a blessing to me and an encouragement as I watch them grow and change through their faith in Christ. It is a great group and I look forward to meeting with them each Tuesday night at dinner. Currently, we are working through Cloud and Townsend's book SAFE PEOPLE which will run through the end of August.

In June, we lost an important member of our St. Luke's team as Sue Brothers passed away. I first met her at the hospital two days before she died and I was glad to have known her albeit for just that brief time. She will be missed enormously by many here at the ministry.

One of the biggest adjustments in my new role has been preparing two sermons a week. As an associate at St. Paul in Muskogee, I preached once a month (whether I needed to or not) and now I preach about eight times a month (although I have had a few guest speakers to help with the adjustment)! This month I am preaching through the book of Ephesians and God's great plan for us through Christ!

I'd like to thank the following people who have helped me immensely in these first two months: Virginia Gray, Steve Bear, Darlene Lorenz, Dolores Ritter, Janice Shannon, Adam Leathers, Lesia Rhoads and a multitude of volunteers (insert your name here). I look forward to working with you for Christ's sake to make a difference in the lives of others. In Christ, *Greg Boyd*

We extend a warm welcome to Deloris Crawford, our newest CJAMM family member. She comes to us through Operation Hope's AARP's work program and divides her time between Redemption Church and Operation Hope. Deloris keeps Redemption attendance records up-to-date and is the go-to person on Thursday program nights for certificates, copies, and anything else our teachers might need. She loves this ministry and is already finding a place in the hearts of our residents and teachers.

A big thanks goes to Steve Bear for teaching a CDL class this month. Volunteers, staff and residents attending are Bob Jones, Virginia Walkup, Jason Snow, Daniel McKenney, Ben Naifeh, David Sakariason, and Ryan Miller. This CDL class could be the answer to our prayers for good paying jobs for our residents and more volunteer drivers for Redemption transportation.

Two of our earliest volunteers, Nell Dasher and Sue Brothers, passed from this life recently. They were remarkable women, each in her own way. We also grieve the loss of Don Cole, member of Sand Springs UMC, who chaired the committee from that church for the Exodus House apartment they sponsor.

I can hear them now telling God how Christ's love flows through this ministry changing lives and furthering His Kingdom. Each will be greatly missed. —*Dolores Ritter, Education Coordinator*



Deloris Crawford

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### Calendar of Events 2015

**Labor Day Reunion**  
Tulsa Exodus House  
September 7 4 PM  
2624 E. Newton, Tulsa

**ROCK CLIMBING FUNDRAISER**  
Sept 26 Adam Leathers  
Horseshoe Canyon, AR

**CJAMM 1st Annual Dinner & Celebration**  
Sept 29 @ 7 PM  
Place: TBD

**OHPM 14th Annual Fundraiser**  
Asbury UMC, Tulsa  
Oct 9—6:30 pm—8:30 pm

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### OKC EXODUS HOUSE

We have been really busy over the last few months and are grateful for all of God's blessings to us here at Exodus House and the opportunities to work with some of our apartment sponsors and local churches. This summer has been packed with fun and we would like to thank Sherry Miller for having us at her house for our annual pool party. All of our residents went and we had a BBQ and lots of fun in the sun, water fights and good food.



We had the chance to be a part of helping with Shiloh Camp this year with Kathy & Mark Sewell, Gene Calloway and New Covenant UMC. We helped serve dinner last year and wanted to help again this year. One day all of our residents helped make and serve the sandwiches and snacks for lunch and also helped serve dinner one evening. What a blessing to be included and to teach our residents about giving back and being the hands and feet of God.

We have also had several work days here at the Exodus House and are still trying to get Tony's apartment finished. Nichols Hills UMC, New Covenant and Wesley UMC were here to help remove

some shrubs in front and clean and organize the garage and work on Apt # 7 & Apt # 8. We would like to thank Lew McGinnis, Trevor Smith, John Lingo and Kathy Sewell and all those who gave their time to help with these projects. We continue to ask for any men's groups or any crews that may be interested in helping with the remodel of Tony's apartment to please contact Tony at (405) 417-1189 to discuss that project. We must have it completed within the next 2-3 weeks so we can use his current apartment for incoming residents.

Our goals for this year are to paint our apartment building and stairs and to plant new flowerbeds. Our biggest project is to totally remodel our courtyard by tearing it out, repaving, stamping and staining it and putting a drain down the center to resolve the flooding issues we have. We are excited to say we have a bid for the tear out and completion of the project for \$9,650 and \$4,000 for that project has been donated to us by one of our apartment sponsors. We also received two new bike racks by another. It is our dream to have a beautiful and inviting courtyard for all those who visit or tour our facility and especially for those who live here.

We have celebrated 10 graduations this year and served 28 residents and are expecting 7 more within the next month. We are in need of towels and washcloths, and hygiene products for incoming residents and still need more microwaves, coffeepots, can openers, vacuums, TV convertor boxes and antennas, beds, dressers, furniture and household items.

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 for all 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

### OPERATION HOPE PRISON MINISTRY

God continues to bless Operation Hope Prison Ministry (OHPM) with diligent volunteers who continue to devote an immense amount of their time to help OHPM clients make the necessary life changes needed to lead successful lives. A new Bedtime Stories program is now being facilitated at John Dahl Correctional Center. Dads are recorded reading bedtime stories to their children, and those recordings, along with the book and messages of love, are mailed to the children from their incarcerated dads. This contact keeps the families connected and helps alleviate some of the problems the children encounter when a parent is incarcerated. Also, a new class called Uprooting Anger will be taught at JH Lilley C. C. and Jess Dunn C.C. This class teaches the inmates how to identify



the symptoms, deal with and overcome their anger issues. On July 16, 2015, Operation Hope volunteers and staff transported 20 children to Eddie Warriors C.C. to visit their moms. It was a wonderful event, and the children and mothers enjoyed spending time together.

Operation Hope's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fundraiser is scheduled for October 9, 2015 and Operation Hope's Golf Fundraiser is scheduled for October 19, 2015. Through the fundraisers, OHPM is able to raise funds to continue to provide services through Operation Hope's Pre-Release, Post-Release and Children's Programs. These programs help break the cycle of generational incarceration, lower repeat offenses, and assist in reconnecting family ties. If you are interested in attending a fundraising event, volunteering, donating or being supportive please give us a call at 918-599-0663. Operation Hope is grateful for all of our supporters, volunteers and staff for being the hands and feet of Christ.

—Heather Sisson-White, Director OHPM



### OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

Richard Giles, one of our valued volunteers, has spoken recently about the ministry and work of CJAMM at Newcastle UMC and at Lambuth UMC, his home church. His sharing about this awesome ministry has brought new friends to OKC Redemption Church. Tammie Cobble, Cups of Love Ministry, Newcastle UMC, has brought 20 hygiene kits, mops and buckets, medical gloves for the clinic, and a baby gift for Robin Wertz's new grandson Cole. Wow! Tammie, Cups of Love, Newcastle UMC ~ thank you so very much for your caring hearts and filling the needs so quickly and so generously! You are a blessing! Richard ~ thank you for sharing about the work of this ministry. We would like to welcome Chris Sullen and Mike Rogers, both from Lambuth UMC. These delightful men generously give their Thursday evenings to bring an AA meeting to



OKC Redemption for our male congregants. We would also like to welcome our newly trained volunteer, Phil Brown. Thank you for taking the time to go through training and for sharing yourself in teaching Men Mentoring Men on Thursday evenings. You bless us all! To each of our volunteers who so generously donate their time, energy, talent and caring hearts on Thursday evening to teach classes, drive/ride buses and vans and share Christ's love with our congregants ~ WOW! ~ each of you are awesome ~ thank you so, so much! The ministry at OKC Redemption could not be without each of you.

We were blessed to be one of the recipients of the New People, New Places grant. This money is helping us provide a special meal on the first Sunday of each month. We have named this our new

Invitational Sunday. We each invite someone new to Redemption Church to come hear God's Word, share their strength and hope, and share in this special meal.

One need we have right now is 9 oz. **plastic** cold beverage glasses for water. We have worked hard to go green, and this is the last item we need to replace. The need would be for approximately 50 glasses. Thank you for your consideration! 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. We so appreciate all you do! You definitely bless us ~ but most importantly you bless those we are here to minister to. God's blessings, Marcia

### TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

Exodus House Tulsa has once more suffered the loss of a beloved volunteer. Sue Brothers passed away June 5<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with Pneumonia. Sue has been volunteer, friend and benefactor for Exodus House Tulsa since its inception in 2002. She will be sorely missed. We wish Pastor Rick Forthman and his wife Maggi great joy as they move to their new appointment in Helena. Having had the opportunity of knowing them has been a privilege for Exodus House/ Parsonage Staff and Residents. As we say goodbye to Rick and Maggi, we welcome Pastor Greg Boyd and his wife Susan to our Redemption/Exodus House family. If the first few months of Greg's time with us is an example of things to come, we are in for a great ride! It certainly won't be boring, Greg has a wonderful sense of humor and he knows how to keep us on our toes.



Exodus House Graduate Jim Cargill and current Exodus House Resident Jerry Harris pose in front of one of Jim's trucks.

We congratulate Exodus House Resident Jerry Harris who has not only joined his sponsor church (Asbury, Faith Builders Community), but with their encouragement and his tenacity, Jerry has achieved his lifelong dream of getting a CDL and becoming a truck driver. Many thanks to Exodus House Graduate Jim Cargill who is the poster child for success. Jim now owns *Work Zone Trucking* and has his hands full keeping 7 dump trucks on the road. However, Jim has not forgotten us, he continues to give back by hiring our residents. Over the years Jim has given many Exodus House Residents (both men and women) with a CDL a chance to drive his trucks. Jerry is proud to be working for Jim!

The E-Team served a homemade dinner of fried catfish and hushpuppies at the Community Meeting on July 14. We give a special thanks to Mike Stansifer who brought his fish fryer, cooking oil and LPG gas tank. He and Al Nordean braved 100 degree heat to fry three large bags of catfish. There were 25 at the gathering. It was a great time. The fish was divine!

Once again, we are anxiously anticipating our Annual Labor Day Reunion. We will be looking forward to seeing you here at Tulsa Exodus House, Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. We are located at 2624 E. Newton St., Tulsa, OK 74110. If you can't make it here for the Reunion, we'd be delighted to give you a tour. You can contact Darlene Lorenz at 918-231-4013. ---Darlene & Virginia

