

OASIS

Oklahoma Academy Students in Service

Are You Ready

Fall 2022



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Karen Holland

President's Message

Bump...Silence...Thump, thump, thump. What was that? I had made a rush visit to the UPS store and was on my way to arm therapy. Just after merging onto I-35 I heard the noises and felt the bumps. What could it be?

My heart sank when I looked at the right rear tire that was totally flat. I was alone and cars were whizzing past me. Changing a tire there seemed like a dangerous thing to do. Since I had stopped just before the offramp, I could see a gas station on the other side of the interstate and decided to slowly make my way there.

Pulling into the station I found the air pump. It seemed to not be working because when I hooked it up to the tire nozzle, nothing happened. Is the pump broken? A second and third try gave the same results. I called to let the therapist know I wouldn't make my appointment.

What now? I pulled forward out of the way of the air pump and decided to call my husband. "AAA" he said, "This is why we have

it." A call to AAA revealed that, yes, they could come, but because it was a very hot and busy Friday afternoon there would be a six hour wait. Groan. That meant close to 9:00 p.m.

Maybe I could change it myself. I had previous experience. But this was a new-to-us car with an untried jack, and I still wasn't too strong after breaking my elbow. I got out the equipment, put the lug nut wrench on and tried to turn it...a pain shot through my elbow and nothing moved. I stood on it...still nothing. Might as well put it all away.

I hadn't been back in the car very long when a wrecker pulled in and parked directly behind me. AAA?! Already?! I got out to greet him. "Are you with AAA?" I queried. "No," he replied. My heart sank. "What's the problem?" He asked hesitatingly. I explained. "Did you try putting air in it?" "Yes," I said. But I wasn't sure I had done it correctly since nothing had happened.

He got the air hose off his truck and

I heard the noises and felt the bumps. What could it be?



hooked it up to the tire. Nothing happened. He wiggled it around. Still nothing. Then he began to examine the tire. Something was in it.

The sun was hot and he was a reluctant helper. I told him I had tried to change it, but I couldn't. Little by little he started the process. Did I have a spare? Yes! Did I have a jack? Yes! Did I have the lug wrench? Yes! He was a large man...even with all that strength and weight, he had a difficult time with the lug nuts. Step by step he changed my tire.

As he was finishing, I told him he was my angel and profusely thanked him. He said, "Well, I couldn't leave you here. This is not a good part of town." I thought I should give him some literature, but we didn't have any in the car. Then I remembered the home-

less package with glow tracks in it. Looking in my phone wallet I took out all the cash I had (\$15) and gave it to him along with the glow tracks and thanked him again.

Our theme for this school year is "Be Ready." In other words "Expect the Unexpected" and be prepared for it. I certainly was not expecting a flat tire that Friday afternoon. Fortunately we had made some preparations, AAA, the right equipment in the car, a homeless package with glow tracts. At the end of the day, however, it fell short. God's intervention added what was lacking to my preparations.

Matthew. 24:44 (NLT) says "You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected." Are you prepared?

Amazon Wish Lists

Check out our [Amazon Wish Lists](#) to donate something specific and tangible that a department needs.

- Academic Dept
- Cafeteria
- Country Store
- Janitorial
- Maint & Const
- Media Dept



<https://www.oklahomaacademy.org/donate>

Upcoming Events

Nov. 11-12
Arkansas Chorale Trip

Nov. 20-27
Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 18-20
Family Weekend & Concert

Dec. 22- Jan. 8
Christmas Break



Editor: Julie Shurley
Layout & design: Caleb Brooks
Photographer: Areli Tenorio
Journalist: Annelise Jagitsch

Photo Credits: cover - Tamas Tuzes Katai Unsplash, p. 2 - Steward Masweneng Leylkg Unsplash, and p. 12 - Ewan Robertson Unsplash



Dear friend,

I graduated from Oklahoma Academy last May. Miguel, Caleb, and I spent the summer here at OA working on our pilot's licenses. We did lots of cool and exciting things. One of which I would like to tell you about.

I soloed. That means I successfully took off, flew, and landed (praise the Lord!) our beloved Cessna 172 all by myself. Now that was fun! Let me put it this way: I have never been more enthusiastic to preflight an airplane before! We flew down to Shawnee Airport about 40 miles away. After several landings with no assistance, Mr. Brooks asked me to taxi off the runway and park. I knew what was happening but played it cool. Mr. Brooks asked me if I had my logbook. I did! He asked me if I was ready for "this." You bet I was ready!

Everything appeared normal from the ground. Just another Cessna flying around the airport. But if you had been in the cockpit, you would have been laughing. I was so excited! I was praying, talking to myself, talking to the plane, laughing, and so on. I checked to make sure I wasn't accidentally transmitting all that over the airport's frequency!

The UpLift Alaska project was launched at the beginning of October. I recently started an Instagram account under our projects name where we'll post photos and videos. We were commissioned to the Lord's work in a special ceremony. You can watch it on the OA YouTube Channel. See the QR code at left.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting God's work. You make God's mission possible by supporting me. As I write this letter, I am listening to Ray Boltz singing "Thank You For Giving to the Lord." That song reminds me of you. Thank You for giving to the Lord! There will be people in Heaven because you gave. Thank you for your sacrifice. I pray that God will continue to richly bless you as you bless humanity. This is your mission.

~Kean Jagitsch

flexibility. flexibility. flexibility.

mission track motto



Mission Commissioning Service



Miguel Alonso is currently serving in Dillingham, Alaska. He is working with UpLift Alaska, a new aviation ministry in Alaska.



Kean is currently preparing for his checkride. He is planning to join Miguel, and fly with UpLift Alaska very soon.

Caleb Serrano is busy working with Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS) on the Island of Palawan in the Philippines.



Calab Acker is serving as a media missionary with Peru Projects in Pucallpa Peru. Language barriers aside, he is amazed watching God work through him as he serves.

Carolina is cheerfully learning the culture and working with AFM, in the off grid and remote jungles of the Philippines.



Swift Water Rescue

Gideon Rescue Co. Rescue Training

By Annelise Jagitsch

“Help!” Wendy yelled as she swept by in the whitewater. I jumped into the swift current and grabbed the shoulder straps of her life jacket. The rope attached to my life vest pulled tight and Susannah, who was holding the other end, began pulling us into the eddy. We climbed out of the water and sat down on dry land.

Gideon Rescue Company had offered to take students from our school to the OKC water sports facility to do some rescue training for a day.

After we dragged ourselves out of the water, I unclipped the rope and my group moved to the next station. Different skills were taught at five separate stations. At each station, the instructors told us everything we needed to know about performing that specific skill, then they sent us into the water to practice. Before moving on to the next station they asked us if we saw any spiritual lessons.

Station one learned how to operate the Creature Craft (the official GRC rescue boat). The first skill we learned was how to right the boat if it tipped over. We had to work together. If the person in the back seat didn't work with the person in the front seat, the boat would stay on its side. We also learned that patience is key. If we tried to right the boat too fast we would actually knock it back over instead of giving it time to tip back to the correct position on the water.

Spiritually, we have to work as a team. We have to work with Jesus. Not just sometimes but all the time. We have to be willing to work WITH him instead of doing our own thing. We also have to be patient. If we are just getting to know Jesus we aren't going to completely change overnight. We have to

create habits that will help us grow in Jesus and draw us closer to Him.

Next, we learned that listening to the captain is super important. If not everyone listened to the instructions given by the captain, the boat would not go where it needed to go. If the captain said “left” but someone kept paddling straight the boat would not go in the direction the captain had in mind. In our spiritual lives, if we aren't listening to Jesus and what He says we are going to totally lose direction. Obeying Jesus, our captain, is the safest way to live our lives. He knows where your boat needs to go and how to get it there. You just have to listen and then obey.

The second station taught us how to cross rapidly flowing water as a team. Our instructor showed us how to hold onto each other and help each other stay on our feet. We

learned that the person in the front was acting like a block making it easier for those behind them to walk through the water. The following person was supposed to hold the first person

down and help ground them so that they wouldn't lose their balance since they were taking the brunt of the water. If the person behind them let go of that lead person they would be knocked down and washed away.

In our spiritual lives, it's important to have support. If you are surrounded by people who aren't going to help ground you in Christ you are way more susceptible to being washed away by the flood waters of life. Get a support group. Surround yourself with people who will help encourage you and

ground you in Jesus.

At station three Miguel showed us how to swim the rapids in order to catch the eddy. He showed us how to swim upstream at a forty-five-degree angle. If you did this, the water would help you float over to the eddy where the water was calm behind the obstacle creating the rapid. If you jumped into the rapids and then panicked and stopped swimming you would miss the eddy and be swept away into more white water. If we stop swimming to Jesus we will never reach him. No matter how deep or swift the waters of your life, never stop swimming. Don't panic. Don't give up. Keep on swimming and you will reach the calm waters Jesus has waiting for you. Never stop swimming.

Live bait was a fun station. Here we learned how to jump into the rapids and rescue someone being swept away. A rope was tied to the back of our life vests and when the victim floated by, arms flailing, we would jump in and grab the shoulder straps of their life jackets. Once we had a good hold on their life vest we were to never let go. The person on the shore holding the other end of the rope would pull us both into the eddy so we could climb to safety on dry land. Sometimes when

the victim plunged into the white water, we couldn't see them. We just had to jump in. They would pop up next to us as we began to float away.

Taking the leap of faith is important in our everyday lives too. When Jesus tells us to do something we can't always see why. Taking that leap of faith might be hard, but it is extremely important. If you feel Jesus telling you to jump but you can't see why, jump anyway. Grab the shoulder straps of the command and hold on. Don't let go and you will float into that eddy holding all the answers.

Being able to throw a rope to someone effectively is a crucial skill to know as a water rescuer. Sometimes you don't have the opportunity to jump in and grab onto the victim. Sometimes you only have a rope. Station five was all about throwing that rope. We also learned how to grab the rope if we were the victim being swept by. There are two very important lessons we can learn and apply to our lives here. First, if you see someone who needs Jesus, throw them that rope. Secondly, if you are the person in the water, grab that rope. Grab that lifeline. Jesus is our lifeline. Grab onto Him and don't let go. Let Him pull you to safety.

**Don't panic.
Don't give up.**



The Vine

by Carolina Brooks

It's been three weeks since I taped up my boxes, said goodbye to family and friends, and hopped on an airplane bound for the Philippines. I didn't know what the future held, but I was excited to have an adventure and see God at work.

One of my most memorable adventures so far started my first Friday in Palawan. All student missionaries are required to attend boot camp—two weeks of intensive culture and language learning in the remote village of Merma. Boot camp began when we stepped out of the truck, handed over our backpacks to the hired carriers, and started up the trail. I had heard about this weeks in advance but nothing could have fully prepared me for what I was about to experience. The narrow footpath follows the river up into the mountains through lush jungle and over slippery boulders. It cuts back and forth across the crystal-clear water. We stopped to eat and play in the water. The thick jungle mountain-side rose straight up on either side of us. Sparkling water flowed beneath us. The air rang with insects and birds. I thought to myself, this is paradise. It is crazy how quickly "paradise" can turn into a nightmare.

We had been hiking for a while when we rounded a bend and saw murky brown water rushing toward us. The local carriers struggled across leaving my fellow missionaries, a few guides, and myself stranded on a narrow, quickly-disappearing strip of rocky riverbank. In just minutes the water was swirling around my feet. The strongest men attempted to cross but each time frantically swam back to shore before risking being washed downstream. I didn't want to think

what one wrong step could mean. As I stood watching helplessly, I prayed. This isn't one of those stories where God instantly does some incredible miracle. Sometimes, He asks us to simply sit on shore and trust Him.

After some time, one of the men found a long vine and threw it across to the others on the opposite shore. Standing waist-deep in the rushing water they anchored the vine. One by one we inched our way across, never letting go of the vine. As the water pressed against us, some lost their footing and were swept downriver, but as long as they held tight to the vine they were pulled to safety. I couldn't see the rocks or where to step, but I stepped in faith knowing that while I was hanging onto that vine I was safe.

I found it's the same way in life, especially in missions. I don't always know what is next or where to step, but the Vine is stronger than the water. Hold on to the Vine. God doesn't always promise incredible miracles, but He does promise to carry us through rough waters.



They say that going to the mission field will make or break your faith. I would say that it does both. My experience in the mission field has changed my views on many things, like the journey along the narrow way. It has confirmed other beliefs, like the dangers of liberalism, conservatism, and pharisaism.

I have had the opportunity to see people at all points along the path, and it's been amazing. Because of my ineptitude in the local language - Spanish - I can't go on what people say. Instead, I have to base my thoughts on a person entirely upon their actions. As a result, you see people much more for what they are than the picture they paint of themselves. Honestly, it can be discouraging at times. You see how people, including me, are so imperfect. But as intimidating as this can be, I am reminded of advice from a good friend and mentor. They told me, "Our focus should not be on the imperfections of those around us. We should be

looking vertically at the prize, not horizontally at the problems." Keep your eye focused on the light and progress toward it.

The other big lesson I've learned here has been the importance of prayerfully learning the balance of faith and work. I tend to lean more toward believing that religion is not work but faith, which will show itself in my works. Peruvian culture, however, is very different. Due to strong Catholic influence and previous monarchical reign, the concept of faith is odd and foreign. The basis for religion here is almost always based on the principle of "you do this because you're supposed to" and for outward appearance. I have struggled with this concept for a while, but here more than ever, I have had to accept the scriptures at face value; in James, where it says, "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." James 2:17, 18. In other words, I have come to realize that while faith is not works, my actions and conduct will be the outward show of what's in my heart. My words are carried away by the wind, but what I do lasts forever.

So, to those who will be serving in the mission field, prepare to have the very foundation of your faith shaken and tested. But whether or not the foreign mission field is your calling, anytime you fully and completely submit yourself to our Heavenly Father, expect the Refiners fire and realize the importance of submitting to Him so that He can make you into the best you can be.

Refiner's Fire

by Calab Acker

Mission Week 2022

By Annelise Jagitsch

Mission week, now a yearly tradition since the start of the COVID pandemic, was a huge success. Students took their skills to four different locations using them to bless others.

Our canvassing team went to Lawton, Oklahoma and shared their books and prayers with the many people they met there. Praise God for all the Bible study requests they received as well! They had some fun, and watched God open peoples heart to His good news.

A group of boys went to Kinlichee, Arizona to work among the Navajo people. They put on programs for the children, a health expo, and did maintenance work on the reservation.

Our Mission Track students spent their week at the Adventist Frontier Missions training center where they

received a condensed version of AFM's summer mission training program.

The importance of having a personal relationship with God and sharing that with those in their circle of influence was the focus of much of the week. They learned critical skills for fulfilling the gospel commission and practiced these skills by sharing their witness and praying with people in the mall.

A team of girls made the 16 hour trip to the Adventist Heritage Village in Battle Creek Michigan. There they gave tours and helped renovate some of the historic buildings; painting, laying tile, and cleaning up the grounds.

Everyone experienced God's hand at work during their week of mission service. Below, several students share their thoughts about their week of service.

"I really enjoyed helping out at the Adventist Heritage Village in Michigan. Our group helped grout a tile floor, painted, laid carpet, and gave tours."

-Jolene Anderson-

"Visiting a new state, and working with the native people was an amazing blessing, and a really fun experience."

-Caleb Brooks

"Recently, we were in Michigan for mission week, and we learned a lot about having a real relationship with God, Christ being our friend. I am so thankful for the relationship I have with Jesus." *-Areli Tenorio-*

Check out this video report of our trip to Kinlichee, AZ



ACROSS AN OCEAN

written by Annelise Jagitsch as told by Yuleidy Lopez

“Be very quiet. No one can hear us.” Father whispered as they crept back to the beach. The last light of day was fading and it was cold. Checking behind her one last time, 15-year-old Yuleidy climbed onto the small raft. All she knew was that they were going on a short trip, which made sense because they weren’t taking food - only a jug of water. The raft was 6 inches tall and made for four people, but six of them (Yuleidy, Father, 3 younger siblings, and a young man) crowded onto it and pushed away from shore. Father and the young man began to row. As the night dragged on, Yuleidy and her siblings fell asleep to the rhythmic swish of oars.

Yuleidy opened her eyes. The morning sun glared down at her.

“Father, where is the land?” The children were beginning to realize this was more than just a short trip.

“We’re going to America,” Father replied.

“We aren’t going back to Cuba.” Father’s words took a minute to sink in.

“Where’s mom? Why isn’t she here?”

Yuleidy was confused.

“I couldn’t tell her we were leaving. She wouldn’t have let us go because it’s so dangerous. I will bring her to America later.” Father continued rowing.

Yuleidy was born in communist Cuba. Persecuted because of their faith, they were told they had to attend school and

“We’re going to America,” Father replied. “We aren’t going back to Cuba.”

work on Sabbath. Because they didn’t attend school on Sabbath they were tormented by teachers and students. Father was treated badly by bosses and fellow workers. Cuba

wasn’t an easy place to be a Christian. For years Father told her that one day they would escape to America. That day was here. The night before, when they attended an Adventist Youth program, no one knew they were leaving. Everyone sang father’s favorite song, unaware it was the last time they would sing it with him. The service ended. They walked to the beach, and under the cover of night began their quest for freedom.

On the second day of their trip, they spotted a boat coming their way. Afraid it might be the Cuban Patrol, they began to pray, asking God to hide them from the view of the authorities onboard. As they opened their eyes, the boat suddenly made a U-turn and left. It was a Cuban Patrol boat. God had worked a miracle. If they had been spotted, all their hopes of a better life in America would have been dashed. Father would have been sent to jail or worse and the children would have been taken and placed in government homes to be taught how to be good communists. Relieved, they thanked God for his protection and continued rowing.

By the third day, they were tired and running out of water. They started hallucinating because of their hunger and dehydration.

They saw big animals walking on the water, waterfalls coming from the sky, and gaping holes in the sea. At one point they thought they were going to fall off the edge of the earth. Then they remembered that the earth isn’t flat, and kept going. That night as they were rowing, they saw a massive cruise ship coming straight for them. Afraid that

they were about to be run over, they started waving and yelling. But it was useless. No one could see or hear them, and the boat continued plowing straight toward them. There was nothing they could do. So they prayed.

Suddenly the ship turned and headed in a different direction. Once again God had spared them from certain peril, but then father realized another problem.

The wake made by the ship was more than enough to flip their small raft, dumping them into the sea. He immediately prayed and when the wake came, it miraculously calmed and barely rocked the raft. They again praised God for his mercy and protection.

The water was cold at night. But when it splashed into their raft it wasn’t cold. Refreshing maybe, but not as cold as it should be. God warmed the water for them. During the day there was no relief from the sun but they never got sunburned. When it was hot, clouds would cover the sun, shielding them from its heat. They knew God was watching over them.

On the fourth night, they found themselves completely lost. They were so tired that they couldn’t figure out where to go, and the compass they had brought with them didn’t always work. Despite exhaustion, they sang and prayed, asking God for help.

The last day of their trip was terrible. Sometimes they could see large animals moving under their raft but they didn’t know what they were. They guessed they were sharks. But that wasn’t the worst of their problems. They had run out of water and hadn’t eaten in four

days. Father and the young man were wearing out as well. They were about to give up when they saw a sailboat ahead of them. Father heard a voice tell him, “Follow that boat.” He obeyed and followed the sailboat. Hours

During the day there was no relief from the sun but they never got sunburned.

later the boat led them to American waters. They were looking at the Florida Keys. Soon an American patrol boat came by and picked them up. They were taken to a marina, fed, and given water. They thanked God for bringing them safely over 100 miles of ocean.

Life in America is much easier. They can go to church without worrying about being arrested. They have freedom to worship God. Yuleidy is married, has a family of her own, and works as Spanish teacher and cafeteria assistant here at Oklahoma Academy. “I praise God for bringing me to America. It’s the freest place I’ve ever known. I can put my kids in a Christian school here. I’m glad to be an American now.” She told me as she related her story.

Yuleidy has seen God work in her life. He is real to her and she wants people to know he can be real to them too. “He brought me across an ocean in an undersized raft and he can do things like that for anyone.” Do you want to see God work in your life as He did in Yuleidy’s? Pay attention to what He’s already doing and praise Him. Thank Him for everything He’s given you and done for you, then ask Him to work in your life. Ask Him to work through you to reach people. Trust me, when you take a step of faith you will see Him do incredible things.





Daniel & Revelation

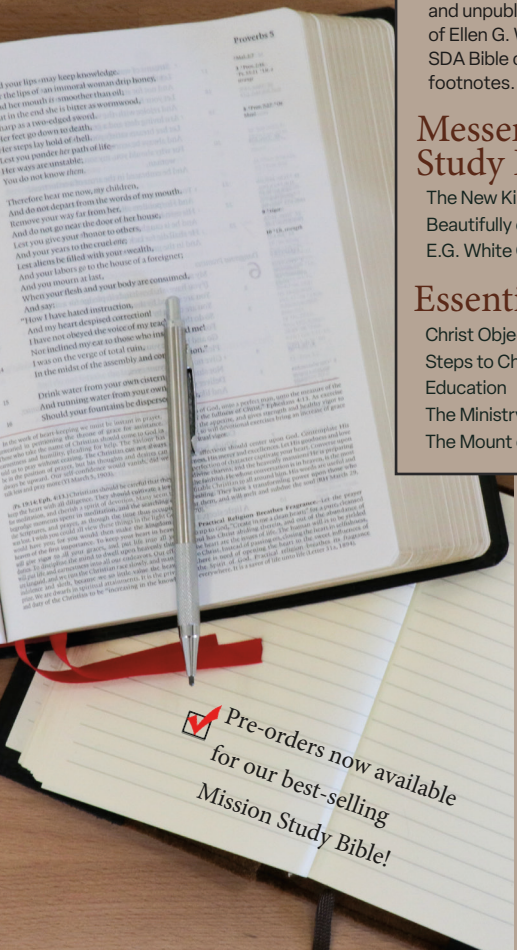
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New Publishing Director

Oklahoma Academy Publishing has seen a lot of changes in the past few years and continues to expand and improve the line of products we provide with the intention of spreading God's Word and enhancing the Bible study experience. This year OAP welcomed a new publishing director. Merrilee McCain comes to us from the Weimar, CA area. She has had previous business, retail and marketing experience, and most importantly, she has a keen appreciation for God's inspired books. Merrilee is excited to serve in her new role, and she has plans to expand the market for our unique study Bibles and materials into other global marketplaces. Recently she has expanded the online catalog to include a brand new collection of Bible accessories. Future plans include developing a budget line of Bibles for sharing, starting a donation program to provide our Bibles for prisoners, and reintroducing a new line of study Bibles in genuine leather binding. Check out all the new products on the website. **Call 405.454.6002** for more info.

In her free time, Merrilee enjoys spending time with her children (ages 18 and 20) as well as reading, teaching and playing the violin, art, and outdoor activities.

New Spanish Director

Anais Anderson has joined the OAP team to assist with the communications and marketing for our expanding Spanish speaking market. The Andersons joined the OA staff last year with Anais teaching Spanish and helping with the grade school program while her husband, Daniel, teaches the Mission Construction students.



This year, Anais is actively working on launching a vibrant Spanish OAP presence, including a brand new website, social media accounts, and even daily devotionals for Spanish speakers looking to rekindle their Bible study experience.

And... that's not all. This month, OAP Spanish is launching a bookmobile! Several events are planned for Oklahoma and surrounding states to showcase our unique Spanish Bibles and offer vegetarian and fresh-baked products from Oklahoma Academy's Country Store and Bakery. Future developments include expanding our line of Spanish products. To request a bookmobile, contact Anais directly at Spanish@oapublishing.org.

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