

OASIS

Oklahoma Academy Students in Service

Moving Forward

Winter 2023



week of prayer
page 4

mission track
page 8

farm news
page 10



Karen Holland

GOING BACKWARD MOVING FORWARD

Uncontrollable madmen, glaring eyes, torn and bleeding flesh, resembled wild beasts. These strong words describe the men who rushed at Jesus and His disciples as they stepped ashore after a harrowing night on the storm-tossed sea. To say it was an unfriendly welcome would be a colossal understatement.

After the fury of the storm and a sleepless night, they were meeting the devil's attack again. It is easy for us to see that these disciples just had a faith strengthening experience with the calming of the storm, and we may judge them a bit harshly for fleeing in terror. Like Elijah who ran from Jezebel, their faith faltered in the face of the enemy.

Back at the boat, the disciples realized Jesus' absence. He had stood His ground in the face of the enemy and now was talking with the men he had liberated. As the disciples ventured to rejoin their master, they noticed that the madmen were now in their right mind.

As Jesus drove the demons from their victims, the evil spirits requested to take possession of the pigs. This they were allowed to do, causing the all pigs to commit suicide in the lake. In short order, the rumor of this disaster reached the community, and a delegation was sent to ask Jesus to

leave. Despite this blow to His immediate plans of evangelism, He willingly left.

At this moment the expansion of the gospel to this region seemed to retract backward, but Jesus, in His wisdom and love, left two evangelists that could be even more effective than He. Over time, the loss of the pigs faded and the absence of the two men who had plagued society became more prominent. The presence of the now sane former demoniacs whose experience testified to the power of Jesus to change lives began to open the eyes of the people to more important realities than pigs. When Jesus returned to the area, many believed in Him.

Moving forward does not always look like progression. The enemy is seeking at every turn to destroy the work of God. I'm thankful for the lessons of scripture that show us that Satan's work will be used against himself.

"In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day." MH 482

Keep moving forward!

The OA Chorale sang three pieces with the volunteer orchestra conducted by Daniel Orellana in Owasso, OK.



Owasso Christmas Concert



Scan the QR Code above to watch the concert



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

- Mar 13-17 Kids Gardening Classes
- Mar 19 International Food Festival
- Mar 20-27 Spring Break/Senior Trip till Apr 2
- Apr 8-17 Spring Concert Tour
- May 26-28 Graduation Weekend

**The 2023
Alumni Weekend
October 20-22, 2023**

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January 2023

Week of Prayer

by Annelise Jagitsch

What a blessing it was to have Pastor Rick Mercer give our Week Of Prayer this year. His messages showing the importance of prayer and daily communion with God touched many hearts. Pastor Rick serves in the Oklahoma Conference as the ministerial director. His enthusiastic dedication to the God of the Bible is contagious! Pastor Rick graciously traveled to our campus each night and shared what the Lord put on his heart.

Through his testimony, Pastor Rick shared how God worked through people around him, especially the prayers of his wife, Cindy, to bring him back to the Lord, and how he learned to love Jesus more than anything else.

Many staff and students were blessed by Pastor Mercer's message. As one student said, "The preceding weeks I had been struggling spiritually. I was kind of depressed (which is unusual for me) and falling behind in my school-work. Every night Pr. Mercer has been challenging my spiritual walk, making me realize I didn't have a relationship with God. This week has been a wake-up call for me and a very big blessing for that!"

Several students learned that prayer does not bring God down to our level but rather it brings us up to Him. "I always thought that prayer changed God's heart. So in my mind, I had an image of a God who would be like 'Hmm, I like that prayer. I wasn't gonna do it but because she looks so sincere in her prayer, I will.' So praying was always hard for me. And whenever God didn't answer my prayer, I felt it was because I had been a bad girl and wasn't doing my devotions faithfully. But through Pr. Rick's message, I realized that prayer changes ME not God. Prayer brings me UP to God not bringing God DOWN to me."

God can bless you too. If you are struggling to walk with Him daily, try praying. Talk to Him about what is going on and what is making you feel distant. Let Him know everything. Be consistent in your prayers and you will never regret it. God loves you and can't wait for you to come to him.

Keep our students and staff in your prayers as we strive to serve God daily. We are praying for you!

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:4

"I am nothing with the absence of Christ."

- Lincoln Gordon



"Jesus Relied Completely on his father for everything, He did this through prayer. This reminds me how we should strive to be more like Jesus through reliance on God and Prayer"

- Miriam Downs

I learned that prayer doesn't change God. It changes us."

- Lilian Ham



"Prayer brings me up to God not God down to me."

- Lilian Ham



Senior Mission Trip

CLASS OF 2023

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Our Senior Class is planning to join the Costa Rican Union as we lead out in a project to build a sanctuary model in Costa Rica. We will also train dozens of young people on the sanctuary's significance so that they can become sanctuary-message evangelists! This building will help Adventists in Costa Rica share the important message of the sanctuary with Costa Ricans far and wide and draw thousands to Jesus Christ!



"Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary."

-- Psalm 77:13

DONATE NOW!

- Check made out to: Oklahoma Academy, marked Senior Mission Trip
- Call: (405) 454-6211
- <https://tinyurl.com/WinSoulsForTheKingdom>



Jonathan Day is our only senior. He will be using his senior trip to bless others with the good news of their Saviour. Jonathan will be traveling to Costa Rica with Messiah's Mansion and his sponsors, Anais and Daniel Anderson. Pray for Jonathan and his sponsors as they seek to reach others for Christ. Please consider donating to Jonathan's trip, either by mail or online. Thank you for your generous support!



Let me introduce you to Sophie Coelho and Areli Tenorio, two of our wonderful students who are attending school this year on our Worthy Student scholarship. They both come to us at great cost to their parents and are supported by people like you.

Sophie currently lives in Brazil. She can see the Amazon River from her house! How cool is that? She plans to join Mission Aviation next year. Sophie would like to get some medical training and become a flying missionary nurse. She plans to spend a year after graduation serving the Lord, and then she would like to return to school and study medicine. Her life goal is to be a missionary reaching people for Jesus. Sophie heard about Oklahoma Academy from her current roommate. The girls met at Michigan Campmeeting in the summer of 2022 where Jolene (her roommate) told her about Oklahoma Academy. We are so glad Sophie decided to come. She is a roommate, student, friend, and encouragement to those around her. She enjoys hanging out with friends, learning about other cultures, and exploring nature. Her favorite Bible verse is Daniel 3:18 because it encourages her to be faithful to God no matter what.

Areli Tenorio currently lives in Argentina. She has also lived in Paraguay. Areli is part of the Mission Media team this year and is learning how to use media to serve the Lord. She plans to spend a year in the mission field

after her graduation. Then she will return to the USA where she will attend college. Her life goal is to become a career missionary to reach the unreached. Areli has a passion for missions and would like to learn lots of languages so that she can reach many different people groups. Areli heard about Oklahoma Academy from her siblings. Both her older brother and older sister attended Oklahoma Academy and Areli has followed in their footsteps. She enjoys working in the Communications Department learning all about media. Areli is a very talented photographer and she enjoys sports as well. Her favorite Bible passage is Psalm chapter 139. "The whole chapter is just so amazing. God knows me and He is going to stay with me wherever I go." -Areli Tenorio

Both of these girls enjoy learning at Oklahoma Academy. They are here because of people like you. Would you consider helping these young ladies pay for their tuition? It's not easy for their parents to send them to a different country for high-school. But God has blessed them to be a part of the worthy student program. Let's help these girls out. If you would like to support them, you can go to www.oklahoaaacademy.org and at the top of the page, click DONATE. Scroll down, and you will find a place to donate to the worthy student fund. Thank you for supporting God's work through these girls! God bless!

Worthy Students

Uplift Alaska

After using a warming cover on the engine for four hours, the standard preflight, safety briefing, and weather report, we took off to meet the one Adventist family in the village of Manokotak Alaska. We had heard that one of the sons was very interested in the Bible and was studying with some of his friends. After a quick 15 min flight, we landed at the Manokotak airport, three miles from the actual village. We were unable to confirm with them whether or not they would be able to pick us up with their four-wheelers. After landing we tried to contact them again with no success. So we strapped on our skis and started the three-mile trek through the snow to the village.

When we arrived, we found their house empty, so we tried calling them again. This time they answered. There was a basketball game going on at the high school, and the whole village was there. This news was better than we had even hoped for. We got to meet so many people there, including the son's friends he was studying with and the principal of the public school. God is working in that village. We have been able to return to visit once since then, but we are making plans to study with the son and his friends soon.

Please continue praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, His guidance, and working with the people of bush Alaska. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Please pray for our pathfinder club, small groups, and village outreach as we endeavor to join God in His work out here. Please pray that we will grow ever closer to God as we work with Him. It's easy to slip away if you aren't daily seeking Him.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. It's what helps keep us going out here.
- Miguel Alonso

Philippines

"You're assistant dean!" This came as quite a shock. I knew we were starting a mission training program in January and that there would be a boys' dorm, but I wasn't prepared to be assistant dean. My new job description includes having to devise a meal plan, make a budget, assign chores, and wake up early. The first three I can do. The last one I am not looking forward to. If you know me, then you know that I don't like to get up early. I am a firm believer in the 8 laws of health, especially the one about sleeping. Now every morning I wake up at 4:30 to ensure everyone's up. This is a great challenge for me, but it will also be a great learning experience. I have to move to a different "house" (AKA a tent) as well. Like everything, there are pros and cons. I do have a better living space, a better kitchen, and a better shower. But I will have many more roommates, less privacy, and a different food situation. But life wouldn't be life without a few difficulties. Neither would it be as interesting.

Thanks so much for your prayers and support. It makes a real difference for missionaries like me! God bless! -Caleb Serrano



Kean Jagitsch is currently serving in Dillingham Alaska as well as finishing up his checkride and becoming an official private pilot.



Miguel Alonso is also currently serving in Dillingham Alaska. He is a licensed private pilot and enjoys using aviation to serve God.



Carolina Brooks, a 2022 graduate of Oklahoma Academy's Mission Media program is serving in the Philippines using her skills for God with Adventist Frontier Missions.



Caleb Serrano is also in the Philippines. He is a licensed private pilot serving with PAMAS. He is also the boys' dean.



Mission Track Students In Training

Mission Aviation

(At right, top row) Andre Schofield, Micah Grady, Lincoln Gordon, (bottom row) Ethan Currier, Miriam Downs, & Annelise Jagitsch.



Mission Media

(left) Areli Tenorio & Annelise Jagitsch



Mission Music

(right) Olivia Chuckluck



Mission Construction

(left) Oriana Matus (junior) & Jonathan Day (senior)



OASIS Gardens & Nursery

Farmtastic Stuff Is Happening

It is spring and OASIS farm is growing! We took a break from reconstructing three greenhouses to attend the Adventist Agriculture Conference in Glen Rose, TX for five days in January with our two students, Zebedee and Adam. It was a wonderful experience as we attended four classes each day in addition to meetings every evening. The spiritual environment was on fire and the knowledge base was incredible! We returned with a zeal to move forward and apply what we had learned. One new inspired project is to host a gardening class for children during the public school spring break. They will learn how to plant seeds and repot plants. Each child will be able to take home their tray of seeds and a potted plant. We are hoping to make new community connections and touch hearts.

We are very excited about the 3000 asparagus plants that were planted by the whole school three years ago. This spring will be the first harvest! The strawberry fields are doing well and we are planning to have a u-pick strawberry patch this year. We will also be selling strawberry plants individually and in hanging fabric containers. In addition, the flower seeds are sprouting and we are hoping to have many hanging baskets filled with beautiful flowers along with many bedding flowers to

sell. Currently, there is delicious green leafy lettuce growing in the greenhouse, and it is available for sale in The Country Store.

The plant trailer will be back in action this spring with many opportunities to sell at various new farmers' markets. We are hoping to attend three markets a week and also to begin a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. Dan Brooks and Pat Nelson will join us in the spring to sell and minister to the community.

Zebedee and Adam have worked very hard this year, planting, plowing, and building greenhouses in the heat of the summer and the freezing cold winter. We appreciate their perseverance especially when the environmental conditions were not the best! These two young men will be joining the Aviation Mission Program next year as juniors. The farm will be launching our own Agriculture Mission Program next school year. Students that are juniors will be able to apply for this program and will study from the new Adventist Acquainting Agriculture curriculum and apply that knowledge on the farm. Following graduation, they will serve in the mission field for 9 months.

This is our spring outlook! Please pray for the farm's mission to reach people for Jesus with fresh healthy food and kindness!

-Kent and Alice Day



Adam (left) and Zebedee (right) at ADAGRA.



Our beautiful Strawberry plants.



Rebuilding greenhouses is a lot of work but look at those smiles!

Aviation Moves Forward!

“An extra 1,000 feet! What would we ever do with that much extra length? We’ll have to back-taxi for, like, forever...”

“2,500 feet! That’s almost half a mile long. That’s like forever... Maybe we could take off and land again... a couple of times....” And so the students’ banter goes.

Bush pilots have a mantra: runway behind you is worthless. After learning to fly comfortably from our short, grass runway, our flight students know that using every inch of runway counts. Most experienced pilots would consider us crazy for training students from a 1,300’ grass strip, but it’s what we have. Well, it’s what we’ve had... But by the time you receive this newsletter, we will have closed on the runway extension property - a large field bordering us to the south. It’s a real miracle - an answer to lots of prayer. By God’s grace through generous supporters, we have enough money in hand to move forward with the down payment. Our Purchase Agreement stipulates that we will still need to pay about \$152,000 a year for the next three years to pay off the 49.2-acre field, but we have a start and we’re moving forward in faith.

So what does this mean for Oklahoma Academy and the missions program? In short, it’s a game-changer. The runway will almost double

in length to about 2,500 feet. The current short runway has some significant drawbacks for training. There’s just not enough margin for error with only 1,300 feet. Student pilots do not get to make solo flights from our current runway and they can’t use it for night flight operations. Extending the runway will make all this training possible. An added benefit is that we will be able to use small, lower-powered, inexpensive airplanes more safely in our training, with lots more margin of safety for errors.

But the advantages don’t end there. With the additional property, we now have the space to build a hangar. Finally, a secure place to keep our planes, tools, and equipment all in one place, sheltered from the weather. We are currently housing the planes under the roof of the picnic shelter in OASIS park. I dream of the day when we can return picnic tables to the picnic pavilion. A large cement pad around the new hangar will provide a place to pull the airplanes in and out of the hangar. And a fuel tank on the pad will mean that a fuel company could come to campus and deliver 500 gallons of fuel at a time. No more sitting on the wing pouring in fuel, five gallons at a time.

And then there’s the rest of the property... We plan to build more permanent houses for staff along an

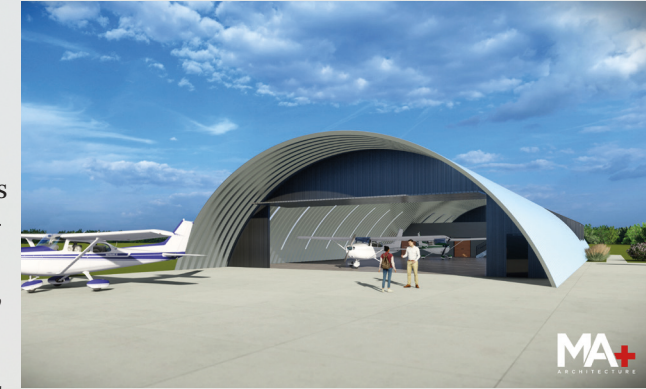
By Clifton Brooks (Flight instructor and Ground School teacher)

extension of Academy Lane. (I say permanent because many of our staff are in outdated mobile homes and other borrowed, temporary accommodations.) The space also allows us to expand as needed - building more classroom space for students in the mission tracks, making a nature walking trail, etc. And, of course, (in typical OA fashion) our goal is to build as many of these facilities as we can in-house giving our students excellent training opportunities for mission service.

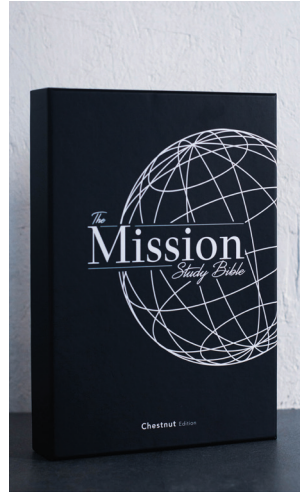
If you would like to give of your time as a volunteer, or give financially to assist in this expansion project, we would be very grateful. Thank you for all you do to support this work.

Above: Concept art for the new hangar. The east end at the top and west end, middle.

At the right, the red line indicates the new piece of property we are purchasing. You can see the concept for extended roads, more staff housing, and the new hangar beside the extended runway.



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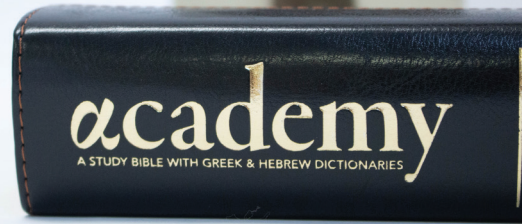


BIBLES FOR PRISONERS

Started this past fall, the Bibles for Prisoners Project is off to a great start! 15 prisoners who sent letters of request, received EGW Mission Study Bibles for Christmas. Visit our website at oapublishing.org and click on the donate button on the top right of our home page to help more prisoners know Christ better through the light of the Spirit of Prophecy's EGW commentary linked with the Holy Bible. Let your offerings go to a good cause!

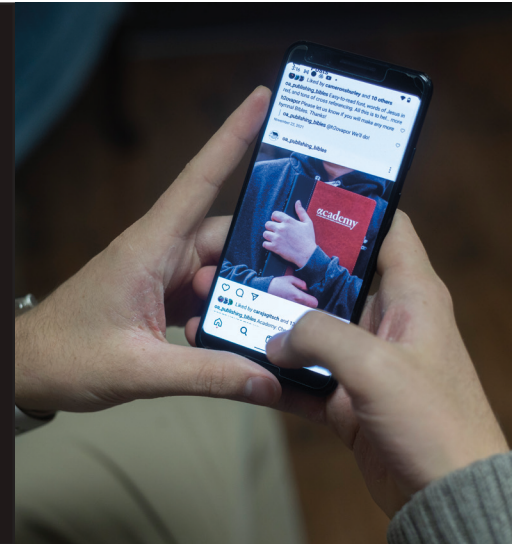


The unparalleled, 2020 Academy Study Bible includes the E.G. White commentary and Greek & Hebrew Dictionaries.



BIBLE STUDY APP

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