

# OASIS

*Oklahoma Academy Students in Service*

Positive Ripples

Spring 2023



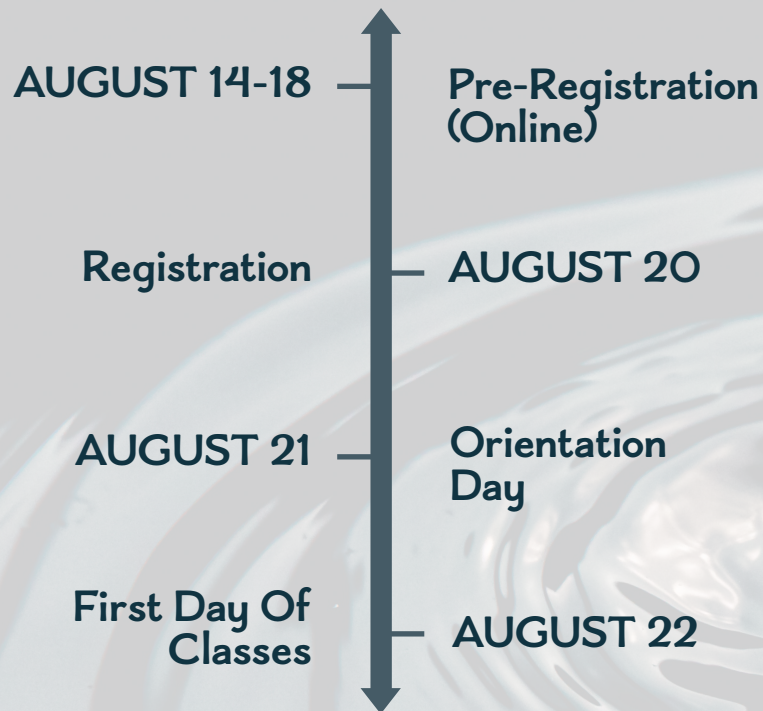
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# School Year 2023-2024

## What's Happening?



# PRESIDENT'S Message



Karen Holland

Growing up I became acquainted with a poem that exemplifies the theme of this newsletter, The Ripple Effect, better than anything that I could say. I pray that you will be blessed, inspired, and challenged by it.

*“Drop a pebble in the water: just a splash, and it is gone;  
But there’s half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,  
Spreading, spreading from the center, flowing on out to the sea.  
And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.*

*Drop a pebble in the water: in a minute you forget,  
But there’s little waves a-flowing, and there’s ripples circling yet,  
And those little waves a-flowing to a great big wave have grown;  
You’ve disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone.*

*Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute it is gone;  
But there’s half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on.  
They keep spreading, spreading, spreading from the center as they go,  
And there is no way to stop them, once you’ve started them to flow.*

*Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute you forget,  
But there’s little waves a-flowing, and there’s ripples circling yet,  
And perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears you’ve stirred,  
And disturbed a life was happy ere you dropped that unkind word.*

*Drop a word of cheer and kindness: just a flash and it is gone;  
But there’s half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,  
Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing, dashing wave  
Till you wouldn’t believe the volume of the one kind word you gave.*

*Drop a word of cheer and kindness: in a minute you forget;  
But there’s gladness still a-swelling, and there’s joy a-circling yet,  
And you’ve rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard  
Over miles and miles of water just by dropping one kind word.”*

- James W. Foley

## Amazon Wish Lists

Check out our Amazon Wish Lists to donate something specific and tangible that a department needs.

Academic Dept

Cafeteria

Janitorial



Maint & Const

Country Store

Media Dept

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

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

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Through this newsletter, our goal is to share how we are striving to create a positive ripple effect in this world. May God bless you as you seek to do the same.



*Spring Tour: To D.C. and Back!*

“Mr. Holland, stop the bus!” The boys riding right over the rear axle, were jumping out of their seats. “Stop the bus! A tire exploded!” The bus slowed down, and Mr. Holland maneuvered the big vehicle safely to the side of the interstate. The smell of burning rubber wafted through the air. This was bad. We had one last concert at 7:00 pm

in Indiana, and now we were immobilized with a blown inner dual tire and damaged outer tire in the middle of Pennsylvania. If we couldn’t get the tires fixed very soon we wouldn’t make it to Indiana in time for the concert.

During the next four hours, the students of Oklahoma Academy tried to entertain themselves with games and conversations as Mr. Holland and the other staff members called roadside mechanic after roadside mechanic trying to find someone willing to service a bus on Sunday. Finally, a man that Mr. Brooks had talked to earlier, called back to see if we had found help. He personally called another crew that had declined to help, and convinced then to come out. He brought the new tires we needed and didn’t even let us pay for them. In the end, we were able to give all of the mechanics literature.

Throughout this trip God truly blessed us through the music we shared, and the contacts we made. We saw Him bless those who listened as well. We wanted to bless God in return, so staff and students alike gave out literature at almost every gas station and rest stop.

The Spring Tour began Saturday morning, April 8, at National Family Retreat in Wewoka Woods, OK. We sang “Only God”

for special music during Sabbath school. Once Sabbath school was over, we quickly loaded up and headed to Little Rock, AR for our evening concert.

Over the next ten days, we traveled to eight different states and put on twelve concerts. We were delighted to see many of our alumni at several of the churches we visited, a number of whom joined us in singing!

In between concerts, we were able to do some sightseeing. In Roanoke, VA, we got to take an eight mile hike on the Appalachian trail to McAfee Knob, a spot famous for its beauty.

We also had the opportunity to visit the General Conference headquarters and sing for the staff worship there. We had planned to visit some of the Smithsonian museums located in Washington D.C. but weren’t able to. At first many of the students and a few staff were very disappointed by this but then remembered that the mission of this trip was not sight-seeing but ministering to people through our music. We were able to visit several monuments and tour the Capitol. Then on our way to our next concert, we explored the Antietam battlefield historical site.

The last concert of our trip, in Indianapolis, happened at 10:30 PM when we finally reached Chapel West Church. Eight people attended that concert: two alumni, and families of two of our current students. We all were blessed.

Overall this trip taught us many lessons. We learned to live and grow as a group. We were also reminded that sometimes things won’t go our way and that’s okay. It was amazing to watch God work things out for our good, like the bus tires that exploded. Please pray for Oklahoma Academy as we seek to reach those around us. Jesus is coming so soon, and there are so many people that still need to hear the good news of His love.

-by Annelise Jagitsch



Above: At our concert in the Ooltewah, SDA Church, we were delighted to have eight of our alumni join us! Several more alumni were present in the audience as well.

Right: It was absolutely beautiful weather for our hike to McAfee Knob in Virginia.



Audrey is holding the replica of the 18.5 pound Bible that Ellen White held out at arm’s length for an hour and a half while in vision. After singing, We enjoyed an exceptional tour of the General Conference and the White Estate led by Karen Glassford



Above: After traveling in a hot bus, we were refreshed to cool off in the creek near Antietam.

Above right: visiting the capitol & monuments.

Right: It was a pretty place to break down! How thankful we were to see God work on these mechanics’ hearts to help us even on a Sunday morning!







Left: Jonathan Day, and Anais & Daniel Anderson, were joined by several eager helpers - happy with the job well done.

Materials were difficult to find, and a lot of innovation was needed to accomplish the task; but that's what mission work is all about!



Above: Constructing the framework for the sanctuary wall boards.

Left: Jonathan with two very diligent little helpers - Anaya and Sean Anderson.

Below: It took considerable teamwork to lift the wall boards into place without the connections between coming loose.



Left: Everyone involved in the project.

Below left: With Anais translating, Jonathan taught the group how to give tours of their newly constructed sanctuary.

Below: The completed structure with its furnishings.



Ofentimes God asks us to do things that seem impossible; some obstacles appear insurmountable. Yet, He expects us to trust that He is the God of the impossible. After all, Jesus clearly expressed, "...with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26, NKJV). When planning the 2023 Senior Mission Trip, we faced a seemingly unachievable project - building a mosaic sanctuary model in two short weeks in an international country, with questionable supplies and a small crew of three adults and two very small children (4 and 6 years old).

While preparing for the project from afar, people at home reminded us "not to become discouraged" when we realized it simply could not be done that quickly. We were reminded that "these things take time... a lot of time. Much more than two weeks." Then, we faced a financial hurdle: our project partner in Costa Rica was struggling to find monetary support to purchase the materials, and we had barely raised the money we needed to get our small team (one senior student, two adult staff, and their two small children) off the ground. The question remained, "Who would even fund this project?"

### Give Us a Sign

The day finally arrived for us to take our flight to Costa Rica - we still had many unanswered questions and loose ends to tie up, but we were off. We left it all in God's hands, knowing we had done everything we possibly could have.

Upon landing, we prayed God would give us a sign that He was leading us and would be with us. Well, His answers often come in mysterious ways. After meeting our drivers and packing our luggage in the small vehicles, one of our drivers realized he had misplaced his keys. We were stuck at the airport as he had no spare and no one to easily call for help. We searched, and searched, and searched. Finally, we stopped and prayed for God to help us. We took a bathroom break, and upon our return, a parking lot

employee approached the driver with keys in hand and asked, "Are you looking for these? You left them in the door of your car." We were assured God was with us, He was listening, and He was truly in control.

### Not Missing a Beat

We hit the ground running, realizing we had not a moment to waste in building the sanctuary model. After one week of waking up early, searching for and purchasing materials, sanding, painting, welding, and intense effort, all of the pieces were ready to be put together. Church members far and wide were invited to come on Sabbath to receive training on how to give a sanctuary tour. After an eventful class with about twenty students, we invited them to join us the next morning, Sunday, to put all the pieces together and erect the sanctuary model. We couldn't wait, but we were nervous; would it really work?!

After several hours, much laughter, a hearty lunch, prayer, motivation, and lots of determination, the mosaic sanctuary model, with furniture inside, was erected!!! We did it! Wait, God did it! We believed, and it became possible. And more so, we still had an entire week left to work on any final details.

This project was a major testimony to the power of working together for a united purpose. Sanctuary furniture that was no longer being used was donated from both Messiah's Mansion and an Adventist school in Costa Rica. People sacrificially gave their time and money to see this project become reality. When we put our full trust in God and HIS power, instead of our own, He is able to work mightily through us and with us.

-by Anais Anderson

*Senior Trip Class of 2023: Doing the Impossible*





# Alumni Report: Elga Solomon

Trying to make the students stand in line for the next activity, I didn't notice a tiny figure approach me in silence. Suddenly, I felt a poke on my arm. I turned around and saw a small grinning three-year-old Chebiansa, waving at me with sticky fingers. I smiled and poked her back. She laughed and poked me again. A wordless connection was made. This was the very same girl who was very shy to interact and frequently cried for her mother during class.

A few weeks back, my friend and I started doing learning activities and games in the pre-k and kindergarten classes at the school here. She is a student missionary from Norway, and also the daughter of a former OA graduate. We enjoy planning activities for the kids. The children are from local villages and don't speak English. Local teachers help translate and explain the activities.

Initially, the children were very shy and scared of us. They would cover their faces if we asked them their names. However, after a few days, their confused countenance changed into bright and beaming smiles. They started looking forward to our activities, singing songs, and playing games. Their favorite song is "The wheels on



The kids proudly display their new toothbrushes!

Elga with a group of her smiling students.



the bus." Now, Chebiansa loves playing peek-a-boo with me through the door even when I am helping older students in higher grades.

One of the great challenges we face here is a lack of personal hygiene. It is common to see children with brown, decaying teeth. Parents chew betel nut, and the kids also pick up that habit at a young age. Most of them don't have toothbrushes. The absence of running water in their homes makes hygiene even harder. They use their hands for everything, I mean...everything. We have been teaching them to brush their teeth and wash their hands well with soap. Every child received a toothbrush and we have a brushing session at school.

Twice a week, the teachers do a nail inspection for their classes. For some of the children, we help to clip their fingernails. As I was trying to carefully trim the fingernails of a little boy, I could not help but notice the dark build-up under the nail and was trying not

to think where all his tiny hands could have been. With all these worrisome thoughts, I looked up at his face, and he gave me an adorable innocent smile. I was in a kneeling position, and a flash of thought came to me of foot washing at communion service. I felt God poking me. Yes, Lord, I got the point. Another wordless connection. I poked him back. ...Sin is so gross and ugly to God, yet He lovingly and willingly stoops down to clean me up. FYI, I scrubbed my hands clean after the trimming session.

Now the children are more comfortable with us to the point of being naughty in class at times. They are more interactive and expressive. Still, I do not know their language, but our wordless connection is growing day by day.

Thank you all for the prayers and support.

-by Elga Solomon





# UPLIFT ALASKA Spring Report 2023

“Wind, 010 at 6; Visibility 10; Sky condition, clear above one thousand; Temperature, 01; Dewpoint, -05 Altimeter 29.98.” My phone crackled as I listened to the automated weather observation system (AWOS). This was the best weather I had ever seen in Alaska. Crystal blue skies, light wind straight down the runway, comfortable temperatures, all begging to go flying. I finished doing some last-minute weight and balance calculations as Kean and I rushed out the door to put a heater on the airplane engine. From the airport, Kean and I went to the church where the visiting short-term mission group was eating breakfast. Kean and I finished some plans with the pastor, picked up our passenger and luggage, and headed back to the airport.

After finishing up the preflight checklists, we taxied onto the runway and took off. We were on our way to Togiak to get ready for part of the short-term mission group that was coming later that day. After about 40 minutes of gorgeous

views and smooth flying, we descended to Togiak. After landing and parking the plane, we walked from the airport to the small Adventist church in the town where the church’s four-wheeler is kept. After acquiring the four-wheeler and trailer, we started inviting people to the events that the group was going to put on. When we saw the commercial 208 fly in, we went to go pick up the rest of our group and their luggage with the four-wheeler.

The next day, during some free time we went exploring. We hopped on the four-wheeler and took off toward the bay. We reached the bay and started carefully across the ice. This was the commonly used route, but it had started to warm up, and we wanted to be sure it was strong. Despite the fact we were headed in the direction of a village (Twin Hills), our real destination was a beached ship a few miles from the shore that we had spotted when we’d flown in the day before. About halfway across the bay, we were able to see the exact location of the ship, and

## Prayer Requests:

1. New Pathfinder club
2. Youth Group
3. Upcoming evangelistic series in Manokotak
4. The Holy Spirit to be poured out on us and our church as we reach out to our community.

we turned toward it. After some rough riding, we pulled up next to this large ocean-going fishing vessel. Once aboard we started looking around. We found the hatch that would take us down into the bowels of the ship. They were full of dead and rotting animals, birds mostly. Up on the deck, there were bones, feathers, and fur everywhere. This once great leader of the fishing vessels was now beached a few miles from the shore rusting away. What could possibly do this to the behemoth of iron and steel? How on earth could such a heavy ship be transported miles inland to become a graveyard?

After thoroughly exploring and climbing on everything we headed back to the church to ask Uncle Jim (Bingman) what he knew about it. He told us of a huge tide that came around forty years ago. Everyone knew it was coming. It was on the tide books. All the other boats in the bay were taken to a safe place. This one was left docked at the fishery. When the tide came, it was ripped from the dock and washed two miles inland. The tide went out and the boat was beached. Whoever was in charge of taking care of that ship disregarded the warning. A huge event was coming, and they missed the signs.

Are we ever like that? Do we ignore the signs all around us? Jesus is coming just as soon as everyone has made their choice. There are wars and rumors of wars, knowledge increases and men run to and fro. No matter where you stand on the political spectrum, we can all agree crazy things are going on in our world. Jesus’ coming is very soon. Let’s love our neighbors by helping them know Jesus and get ready for His return. Matt 28:19-20

Thank you all so much for all your prayers and support. They really make a difference. Especially when the severe lack of sunshine is making having sunshine in your soul a struggle. Thank God for the sunshine and the power to push on.

Blessings,

*Miguel Alonzo*



The beached fishing ship.



New pathfinders practicing flag folding.



# International Food Festival

Imagine a place where you can try various dishes from around the world all in one spot. You enter and walk under a beautifully decorated archway and then are greeted by a Dutch lady complete with braids and buckets of tulips!

You have entered the Vegetarian International Food Festival. Eight booths representing several continents wrap around the walls of the building. As you enter through the doorway, starting on your right and going around the room, you have the European booth with foods from Italy, France, Germany, Greece, and more. The next booth is the Bakery with delicious pies, cookies, and breads. The Hispanic and South American booths are next with enticing flavors of tacos, Spanish rice, and pholourie. The American booth serves a healthier alternative to favorites like corn dogs, fries and burgers. The Asian booth, always a hit, serves foods from China, Korea, and the Philippines. The African booth, decorated with zebra and lions, is also very popular. And last but not least, the Juice Bar makes refreshing lemon and limeades and boba tea.

After filling your plate, you can sit down in the festive atmosphere, or dine with the doctor, Dr. Mark Sandoval, and listen as he talks about health. You may be the winner of a gift card from a lucky draw! Here is an exceptional opportunity to try unique foods and satisfy your

cravings for a new flavor to delight your taste buds.

Our annual Food Fest was interrupted by the Covid pandemic. It was great to host it again this year after missing the last three.

By one o'clock, people were lining up to purchase their tickets to get food. Then they streamed into the building and flocked to the different booths. I was a part of the Asian booth. It was my first time being a part of this event. The first hour was hectic; our team was

**“This is my meal for the week!”**

scrambling to meet the customers' orders. By the start of the second hour, we were starting to get the hang of things. One lady told me, “This is my meal for the week,” as her takeout container got stocked. A mom told me, “My daughter is a picky eater, so we were shocked when she ate your spring rolls.” Another attendee, a pastor, remarked, “You should have this two times a year, one in the fall and another in the spring.”

Overall, International Food Fest was a success with almost 200 people attending. We even garnered the attention of the local FOX TV station. A reporter showed up to take pictures and interview us.

The focus of this event is to reach out to the community, have a fun time preparing the food and decor together, and raise funds for the Worthy Student Program.

By Zuunnu Cing and Julie Shurley





# Seek and Ye Shall Find

By Annelise Jagitsch as told by Moises Amador

Moises Amador was born on June 25, 1999, near Los Angeles California. When he was still a small child, the family moved to Coachella Valley California where he grew up. Life was ordinary. His parents were hardworking and dedicated to providing for their children. As a result, Moises always had everything he needed.

The family wasn't very religious. Mrs. Amador (his mom) grew up a Seventh-Day Adventist but only attended church for special occasions or the periodic baptism. Mr. Amador grew up Catholic but didn't attend church regularly either. As a kid, Moises didn't know anything about the Bible. His parents weren't spiritual, and he didn't get much exposure to the Bible except the few times he went to church with his mom. When he was about 12 years old, the family stopped attending church altogether. Moises wasn't interested in spiritual things.

During his junior year of high school, a friend from school invited him to attend a vespers program at an Adventist church. Although he wasn't entirely sure where or what it was, Moises agreed to go. When they arrived at the church, he was surprised to see that it was the same church he had occasionally attended with his mom years before. After that first vespers, he began to make friends with the youth at the church. He spent more time with the youth and the youth leader. When he was 17, Moises started attending church again.

At the time, Moises was going through some struggles related to a relationship he was in. He didn't feel as though he was being

himself anymore, and he asked God, "Why is it that now that I am interested in spiritual things and Your Word, all these bad things are happening to me?" The next day he asked if he could teach the Sabbath School class on Sabbath. The lesson for that week was about Job so he started reading Job's story. The more he read, the more he realized that nothing he was going through was nearly as bad as what Job had suffered, and yet Job was still faithful to God. This helped Moises determine to stay faithful just like Job. Eventually, the relationship ended, and life returned to normal.

***"Why is it that now that I am interested in spiritual things and Your Word, all these bad things are happening to me?"***

Over time he had to change some things. It was a long process and a lot to learn. Before regularly attending church, Moises didn't know anything about the Sabbath or diet or life focus. He had to learn how to keep the Sabbath. He changed things about his diet and gave up his life dream of being a professional soccer player. God helped and mentored him through all these changes and on October 29, 2016, he was baptized.

Now Moises works as a canvassing leader. He was originally introduced to canvassing through a friend. Unfortunately, that summer he was unable to canvass because he was attending summer school. But, the next summer as he tried to figure out what he wanted to do, he remembered the friend's suggestion of canvassing. He had two options for work that summer and didn't know which one to take. Either he could work at camp, or he could canvass. As he prayed, he felt impressed to canvass. When he went in for the interview, he had no idea that he

would be paid. As far as he knew, he was volunteering. At the end of the interview, the man told Moises he was hired. This confused Moises because he didn't think he was going to get paid.

At first, Moises didn't enjoy canvassing, but the more he canvassed, the more he fell in love with the work. Now as the leader of Oklahoma Academy's canvassing program, he loves watching students come to his program knowing nothing and then learning to rely on God entirely. "I love seeing my students being transformed. I enjoy watching them get in the van and hearing their excitement about how God is working. Their faces light up and you can see their joy." He especially enjoys listening to students share their testimonies. "It's exciting seeing God work," he said with a smile as he shared his story with me.

Moises plans to study theology in the future. He has a real passion for working for and with God. "I think the biggest encouragement I had along the way would have to be all the mentors that took the time to share Jesus and the Bible with me." When asked what one piece of advice he would offer to anyone trying to find truth in the world today, he responded, "I think Jeremiah 29:13 sums it up. If you're searching for the truth, you have to search with all your heart.

The devil is always on the warpath against God's people and seeks to derail them through hardships and other distractions. So keep Moises in your prayers as he has given his life to Christ and seeks to serve Him with his whole heart..

## FUN FACTS

Moises likes Asian food  
He likes traveling and wants to visit Bali Indonesia.  
His favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 32:17





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