

Volunteer Day at the Christmas Store

The Christmas Store has been in operation for 32 years now in Cleveland County. The store consists of a grocery department, new toys, used toys, household goods, clothing, and a section where kids can pick out gifts for their parents. This past year the Christmas store was held at the old west-side Wal-Mart store. The program is open to Cleveland County residents who meet the Federal and State low-income guidelines. Each participant must also work for three hours in the Christmas Store to be eligible to shop. Two thousand three hundred-twelve people qualified this year and six hundred twenty six families shopped. As Mike Northcut, who organizes the Christmas Store, says, the Christmas Store is special to families because it "allows them to select...items they want." For the past three years, during one of the local summer mission camps, CAM participants begin the process of sorting and marking a point system on new toys. The end of November 2002, CAM participants volunteered for a few more hours to help get the Christmas store ready for the shopping days. We worked in the new toy section, sorting, pricing, and laying out toys for the children to pick the next week. After many, many hours of grueling, backbreaking work (ok, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration...) we drove over to Olive Garden. Donna and Jerry treated everyone to lunch. Mmm...boy was it good. See! Serving God does have rewards!

Sarah Torneten

What a "Night in a Box"

On November 1, 2002, CAM participants joined up with the Norman Network of Youth Ministries to endure the cold weather for the wonderful purpose of raising money for the poor, homeless, and oppressed as well as heighten young people's awareness of those in need. About 20 participants raised \$175.00 to help OKC Compassion Inc. ministry.

It had been about 31 degrees all day long and was very cloudy and wet, which probably had a huge impact on the low turnout. Fortunately, those that attended this event had an option not to come out and freeze, unlike those that are truly homeless. For those taking the challenge, the "Night in a Box", known as "One Homeless Night" in previous years, turned out to be a very informative and interesting event.

There were vast arrays of speakers from OKC Compassion Inc., including a former homeless person. One comment that he made sticks out in my mind. He let us know that we would never see a group of homeless people huddled together in cardboard boxes like what we were doing. Homeless people don't trust anyone and most of them sleep with one eye opened. Dr. Richard Bond, Executive Director of OKC Compassion Inc., wrote, "I applaud your effort to teach younger people how life can be on the streets. Helping the younger generation avoid the hazards of life will be instrumental in their future years."

Linda Price, President of the Board of Independent Living Services for Youth (ILSY), also came out all bundled up on that cold, frigid night to share about some of the youth in our own community. We have about 100 high school students that are homeless, just in the Norman area alone. Some of these individual stories brought tears to many of the listeners' eyes. Hearing these stories made us aware that an individual that is smelling up the classroom just might be the one that is having to take a bath in the OU Duck Pond; or the one that keeps falling asleep in class is having to work until 2:00 AM in order to have enough money just to survive.

“The Porter House” blessed those that participated in this event, with an awesome stew that helped to keep the chill away from our bones. I imagine that the homeless wished that they could have had just one bowl of that stew, where as many of our participants had 2 or 3 bowls full. Over all the night was productive, even though the numbers weren't as high as the past, many good things came out of the experience.

Micah Metheny
YAC

WARNING: The Phone Tree is HERE!

You know you're living in strange times when the answering machines start calling you. But that's just what's happening: thanks to the generosity of First Free Will Baptist Church, CAM is now able to use their Phone Tree to call over 160 participants to let them know about upcoming events. So when you receive a recorded message from one of the CAM team, don't be alarmed -- it no doubt contains vital information pertaining to whatever service opportunity, meeting, or event God has in store for his Community Action gang.

East Main Place Christmas Party

On December 19th the East Main Place (E.M.P.) Christmas party was held. There were twenty-eight people who attended the party. The evening started off by a lovely traditional Christmas dinner. The board members provided the dinner, which included ham, mashed potatoes, and vegetables. Following the delicious dinner was a nice surprise, an appearance by Santa Clause. After a visit with Santa, they all went back to their rooms and found gifts from various people in the community, including CAM. As many of you know, CAM sponsors a room which is currently occupied by a gentleman who has two children. The main concern for many E.M.P. residents is that their children's Christmas wishes are met. When Mr. Roach, director of E.M.P., was asked if everyone's wish list was met he made a thought provoking remark and that was that all needs were not met. It's not possible for every need to be met, but then you have to ask yourself " What is a need, and what is a want?" On one man's wish list he put that all he wanted was a "sober Christmas" and a pair of socks. Mr. Roach commented that the most important thing to the residents is to get their lives back on track. Please remember to lift up the East Main Place residents in prayer.

Lindsay Finley
YAC

We Wish you the Best

Many of CAM's participants are beginning the next phase of their lives. We have several students that are applying for scholarships and acceptance into particular colleges. If you have ever been in their shoes you

can fully understand what an exciting time as well as unnerving time this can be. This past fall Reynolds Whalen and David Gray have both applied for the "Tribute Award", that worth \$25,000.00, which the Discover Card promotes. It is a very intense scholarship. It had many details that had to be followed to a "T". I think they were trying to eliminate those that couldn't follow directions. Min Qi has applied for a University Scholars Program from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. These youth must seek out recommendations from people who know them. All three of them asked me to write a recommendation for them. Gladly, I was able to help out. It has been a blessing to work side-by-side with wonderful youth. It is easy to give high recommendations for such fine, outstanding youth. From past recommendations and seeing the results, I am realizing that organizations look very favorably upon people that are willing to donate of their time and help in volunteer projects. It will be later this spring before they will hear any results. Our prayers go out for these as well as the rest of the CAM participants that they will hear God's voice and follow it.

Donna Hooper
Ex. Coordinator

Mission Funds Available

The CAM Board has been so excited to see so many of the CAM participants desiring to go on a mission trip. As of this writing we know of 4 youth that are already preparing for a mission trip for this up-coming summer. Many of them have to raise a sizable amount of finances. The CAM Board has set aside an account to help these youth. Any CAM participant that is interested in seeking funds must submit a written letter, informing the Board of details concerning the mission trip. They must also fill out an application, which can be obtained from Donna at 329-8041 or cmainsc@telepath.com. All letters and applications must be turned in by May 1, upon which the board will determine how much money will be appropriated to each youth.

Local Spring Break Mission Opportunity

We know many of you have plans to go on a foreign mission over your Spring Break. Others of you will be high up in the mountains enjoying God's beautiful country skiing, snow boarding and snowmobiling; but for those of you that have not made any plans to leave the Norman area, we have a great opportunity for you.

CAM will be sponsoring a local mission on Thursday, March 20, 2003. If you are interested in joining us please contact Donna at 329-8041 or e-mail her at caminc@cox.net by Sat., March 15, 2003. We will begin the projects at 9:00 AM and finish around 4:00 PM. Everyone will be welcomed to come to the Hooper's home fore a meal afterward. Keep an eye out for more details through the e-mail and Phone Tree.

Welcome New Board Members

CAM, Inc. is very proud to introduce you to Mike and Beth Sykes, our newest members to the Board of Trustees. Mike is an insurance agent with Aflac. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Trevecca Nazarene University in 1994.

Mike received the Lord during his teen years and has been active in the church leadership since 1978, mostly in the area of youth ministry.

Beth is a medical Technician at Norman Regional Hospital and also graduated from Trevecca in 1975.

Beth was raised in a Christian home, where her father was a Nazarene pastor. She has known the Lord from a very early age.

Mike and Beth have three children, Jeff, Kevin, Julie, and one grandson, three month old William. Mike Beth along with their daughter Julie and two dog, _____ and _____ live in Norman. We are very excited to have Mike and Beth join CAM, Inc. Board of Trustees. They will both bring a wealth of wisdom and insight as we continue to grow in out vision of "Putting Skin on the Gospel".



Here are some challenges for all you hip hoppin' cool happenin' kats out there

Hidden Books of the Bible

See if you can find the books of the Bible in the following sentences! (answers on next page)

Example: The old woman screamed, "Tim, O, thy healing was a miracle!"

1. Thebez, Rama, and Penuel are cities that can be found in the Bible.
2. An encampment of the Israelites near Mount Hor was called a Mosera.
3. Faith can wipe terror from one's brow.
4. Martha keeps alms for the poor.
5. She said, "I am at the Women's Bible League meeting."
6. One can study the tact so wonderfully exemplified by Jesus.
7. Terry shouted, "The answer is Ai. Aha, it's the city near the site of Abraham's first altar!"
8. Jud gestures frequently when he talks about Christ.
9. I have my Bible with me, but Gene's is in our car.

Hidden Body Parts

See if you can find the (appropriate) body parts in the following sentences! (answers on next page)

Example: Be_ye therefore as little children.

1. Sarah and Rebekah were barren until God blessed them.
2. Anna, I like to study the Book of Genesis.
3. Abraham left his kin and moved away.
4. Did Paul ever go to Ephesus?
5. Humbly, she admitted her mistake.
6. We are in charge of organizing the new committee.
7. William exclaimed, "So Ulla was a descendant of Asher!"
8. Hagar met an angel in the desert.

Joke of the Day:

Once upon a time, there were two friends named Bob and Bobb who also happened to be florists. They owned the only two florist shops in the town of Mumbojumbo and were happy with the business they received. Meanwhile, there was a friar who was unhappy with his line of work. So the friar decided to quit his fryaring job and pursue his real dream of becoming a florist. He happily moved to the town of Mumbojumbo, where he opened his own flower shop (you get to decide what it was called; isn't that exciting?!). Well, the other two florists in town, Bob and Bobb, became very excited and welcomed their new neighbor with, you guessed it, flowers. So the three companies go about their business and everyone in town thinks it's really cool that a fryar owns a flower shop, so they naturally go to his store before the other two guys. Well, this slightly frustrates Bob and Bobb, so they confront the fryar politely and ask if he would mind moving to another town. Now, the fryar, who has abandoned his position in the church and become bitter toward God, refuses the proposal and goes about his business. Well, Bob and Bobb aren't going to take this. I mean, they've been dominating this town's flower business since right after they got out of college, right? So what do they do? Well, they higher a 7'2" lumbering Hungarian named Hue. "Ok Hue," they say. "We need you to go over to the fryar's flower shop and mess everything up, ok?" To which Hue replied, "Me hungry." Well, anyway, they finally convince Hue to approach the fryar and he does, beating him up and tearing up all the flowers. The End

What is the moral of the story?

answer :

Hidden books of the Bible:

1. Ezra
2. Amos
3. Peter
4. Psalms
5. Matthew
6. Acts
7. Isaiah
8. Judges
9. Genesis

Hidden Body Parts:

1. hand
2. nail
3. skin
4. toe
5. head
6. ear
7. soul
8. arm

Joke of the Day:

Only Hue can prevent florist fryars