

Oakwood Hosts Annual Agape Day

Jyremy Reid, MBA
Editor, Spiritual Life Coordinator

Oakwood University has a reputation for service. In fact, it is the college motto which states, “Enter to learn; Depart to serve.” Thursday, September 28th, also known as Agape Day, was no exception to this cause of community service. Agape Day is an annual day in which the university administrators, faculty, staff, and students take off a day of instruction to serve the Huntsville community. Chaplain Kimberly Mann was the skilled coordinator of this much anticipated event.

This year over 600 volunteers took part in carrying out several duties among the Huntsville community. Bright, yellow school buses were lined up in the Oakwood University Church parking lot. Though the morning was cloudy and overcast, the sun still glistened within the hearts of every participant. Students, faculty and staff were given the opportunity to host the volunteers of each bus that was headed to a specific work site. Some of the sites visited were Oakwood Adventist Academy, Madison Public Library, Botanical Gardens, Morris Elementary, Got Your 6 Dog Training Center and several other locations.

The Office of Spiritual Life & Missions also held a special chapel service with Dr. C. Wesley Knight as the speaker. Dr. Knight gave a compelling sermon about letting go of sinful desires in order to let God use his children more effectively. By doing this, we will never thirst again because Jesus is the living water who quenches our thirst.

Upon arriving to the designated workplaces, all volunteers were given different tasks to complete. They pulled weeds, mulched, organized storage, cleaned windowsills, read to children, and completed several other tasks. The achievement of these duties gives students a sense of love and service that is not bought



or sold. “Simple things make people’s day, and that’s what separates Agape Day from every other day,” mentioned one student.

While working, every volunteer had a lot of time to think about the love of God and how He continually cares for us unconditionally. Love is a word so simple and so small, yet its meaning is anything less than significant. As Christians, we are given a duty to go into all the world and display the love of God to others through our actions.

Throughout the day, students shared their accomplishments on Instagram and Twitter, using the hashtag “#OUAgape17” This annual event always provides everyone an opportunity to connect with the community by showing the love that Christ displayed to us during His time here on earth.

In the end, the students did not receive

money, credits, or fame. Only the look of appreciation and a genuine “thank you” was enough reward for every Good Samaritan. And just as it says in 1 Corinthians 13, if we do all good things, but have no love, then it means nothing, but if we do everything with love it means everything. Those who participated truly received something special from the benefits of unconditional love.



D. RICH READS

David Richardson, Jr., Ed.D
Vice President, OSLM



Exciting times await you for the 2017-2018 academic school year. As your Vice President for Spiritual Life & Missions, I am excited about each one of you. You matter to the success of this campus. Consider your journey at Oakwood University as one of the many stepping stones to your success.

Not only do we educate the intellect, we develop the whole person. Alongside my able

staff in the Office of Spiritual Life and Missions, we recognize that students are our highest priority; therefore, we welcome your unique strengths, talents, contributions, ideas and experiences as we experience the mighty power of God as He shapes your life - "God First" on this beautiful campus.

Our staff desires to enhance the student experience by working closely with faculty and staff to support your academic maturation. Our office plays an important and inextricable role in bridging all aspects of the academic, social, intellectual, and spiritual experiences of students at Oakwood University.

We want to help you discover a sense of belonging within the University community. Please come by and visit us and don't forget to pick up your daily promise and a sweet treat. God bless!



All Nations AYM Service

Chaplain Andrew Pileggi
Senior Associate Chaplain



AYM Release programs are always powerful, but there are certain ones throughout the year that are etched into our collective memory. This year, one of those memorable programs was All Nations AY, which took place on September 15. Students marched in with flags from over 50 different countries as we celebrated the diversity of our campus. We sang, prayed and read Scripture in different languages. There was a strong sense

of pride that night and some students were extremely excited about their homeland. Yet in the end, we acknowledged God's creativity as expressed through the richness of culture on display.

Pastor Cryston Josiah was the speaker for that evening. He reminded everyone of the danger that exists when someone's body is present in worship while their spirit is in rebellion. He encouraged the crowd by sharing his personal testimony about how God was able to bring Him out of rebellion so that his body and spirit are now in submission to Christ. That testimony led to students giving their hearts to Jesus. It was truly a night to remember!



Peace in the Midst of the Storm

Jyremy Reid, MBA
Chaplain Andrew Pileggi

On Friday night, August 25, Hurricane Harvey made its mark in Houston, Texas and the surrounding areas as the strongest hurricane to hit the United States in more than a decade. By Saturday morning, 18 inches of rain was dumped in some areas, and flood warnings were forecasted within minutes for the coming days. The initial catastrophe was a massive hit to the coastal city of Rocket, followed by several downpours and days of flooding.

Oakwood took immediate action in response to this tragedy. On Tuesday, August 29, the school decided to come together to the Bell Tower located at the center of campus. There at noon, Dr. Pollard and the Office of Spiritual Life & Missions, brought encouraging words, prayers, and held a moment of silence. “To all our friends affected by Hurricane Harvey, please know that you have our thoughts and prayers,” said Dr. Pollard. “Remember you are not alone – a supportive country, caring churches, and loving neighbors all stand with you!”

(A text-to-give campaign was set up, which gave us an easy way to make monetary donations to Southwest Regional Conference. Donations are still being accepted. Text the message: TXFLOODING to: 71777. Every donation helps.)

Not long after Harvey’s wreckage, another prominent storm took front stage – Irma, a monster who not only damaged part of south-eastern United States but also some of the Caribbean as well. It is estimated that Hurricane



Irma’s damage could be as high as \$65 billion. According to the Miami Herald, “Wind damage accounts for \$13.5 billion to \$19 billion of an insured loss. is attributed to damage from wind for both residential and commercial properties.”

Again, Oakwood made an effort to acknowledge the affected individuals. At noon on Thursday, September 7, the campus came together in prayer. Dr. David Richardson, Vice President of Spiritual Life, led the occasion with more encouragement toward Irma’s recipients. The Spirit of God’s comfort could be felt within those powerful prayer moments.

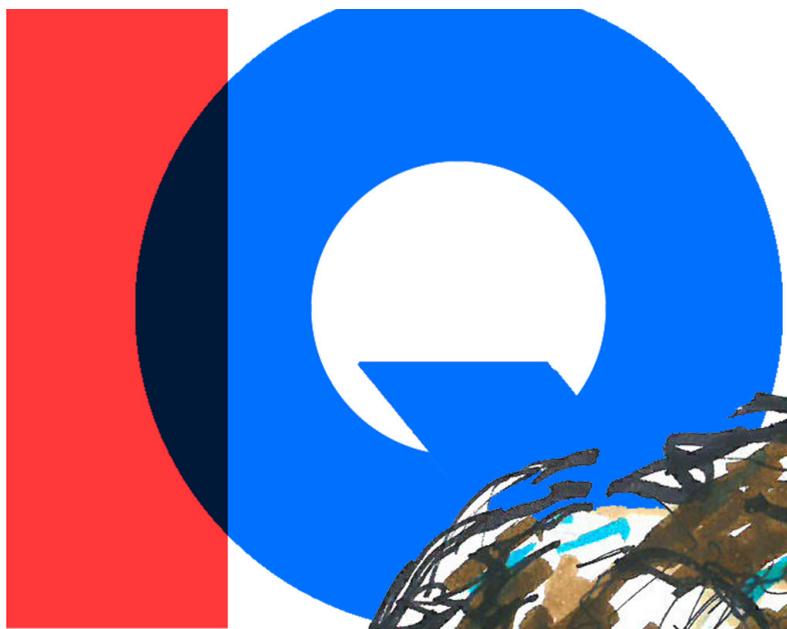
Two weeks later, the school gathered yet again on September 21 to pray for the victims of Hurricane Maria, the casualties of the earthquake in Mexico, as well as the people in Puerto Rico.

These past few months have brought to mind the words of Jesus to His disciples in Matthew 24 concerning the increase of earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places. The story of Jesus calming the storm in Mark Chapter 4 also comes to mind. It reminds

us that life is chaotic, but if we focus on Jesus, we’ll have peace in the midst of the storm.

Every year The Office of Spiritual Life & Missions organizes a fall mission trip. This year, Chaplain Kimberly Mann decided to lead a team of faculty and students to assist with relief efforts in Houston on September 28 through October 1. Although not everyone who signed was able to go, the overwhelming response and interest from the OU family was a great demonstration of God’s love. Let’s continue to keep those who are hurting and helping during these times in our thoughts and prayers.





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THE TEMPLE IS COMPLETE!

Jeremy Reid

1 KINGS 1-11
2 CHRONICLES 1-9



WISDOM!

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The REID REVIEW

IT'S A GOOD REID

Jyremy Reid, MBA
Editor, Spiritual Life Coordinator



Work is an essential part of who we are as human beings. It gives a person sense of pride and satisfaction when his or her assignment is complete. Nothing beats the feeling when a person accomplishes something and can look

back at what has been completed with great relief. God's creation of this world is a prime example of how important work is in our lives. He created the Earth in six days and after each day's work, God looked with great satisfaction and said, "It is good." This is just one of many great examples of how the benefits of hard labor can pay off.

A little work won't kill anyone, but doing absolutely nothing will. Just think about it. Most people who work are successful because they have a goal. However, many individuals who sit around and do nothing usually come up with the most diabolical ideas that usually cause more harm than good. H. G. Bohns, the author of "Hand Book of Proverbs" put it best when he said, "An idle mind is the Devil's workshop." Phillipians 4:8 further illustrates this quote: "Finally, brothers, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admi-

nable? If anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things." When we keep our minds busy and on pure things, then the Devil cannot take over, and there is more good than evil.

I believe that hard work applies in more areas than jobs. It is involved in school, hobbies, friendships, relationships, and spiritual growth. Work is here to keep us all alive and it is for this same cause that we are all commanded to exert ourselves.

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