

OASIS

Oklahoma Academy Students in Service

Follow the Lamb

Fall 2024



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Follow the Lamb

Presidents Message by Karen Holland

As the helicopter landed, the Navy Seal team began its risky mission. Stealthily the group made their way to the building and stormed into the room where the hostages had been imprisoned for months. The hostages gasped in response to their abrupt entrance. It was filthy and dark inside. Standing at the door, the Seals called to the prisoners “We’re Americans;” they yelled. “Follow us.” No one moved. The hostages sat there on the floor and hid their eyes in fear, unable to believe that their rescuers were really American.

Now what should they do? Carrying everyone out seemed like an impossibility. Then one Seal put down his weapon and took off his helmet. Slowly he approached the hostages, laid down beside them, and curled up close. Softening the look on his face, he put his arms around them.

None of the prison guards would have ever done this. Patiently he waited until finally some of the hostages looked at him, meeting his eyes. Then he whispered “We’re Americans and have come to rescue you.” “Will you follow us?” He pleaded. Slowly he stood to his feet, and one by one the hostages did too. The story ends with everyone safe on the American aircraft carrier. (This story is adapted from a blog that shared a story from Donald Miller’s Blue Like Jazz)

ly significant words with profound consequences especially when the invitation comes from Jesus. In Scripture we find that Jesus offers this invitation over and over again. He is no respecter of persons. Everyone is invited.

Like the Seal in the story Jesus took off His crown and royal robes, came to where we are, put His arms around us by experiencing life with us, and then died a horrible death for us. All of this so that we would feel safe to trust and love Him, helping us to be willing to accept His invitation “Follow Me.”

Our theme this school year is “Follow the Lamb.” It is taken from Revelation 14:2-4: “I heard a voice from heaven... singing a new song before the throne... no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty-four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth...”

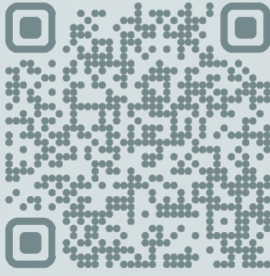
Please pray with us that we will have the grace to encourage and inspire our students to love and trust Jesus enough to follow Him wherever He goes.



Karen Holland is the president and principal of Oklahoma Academy. She is also a teacher.

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About Mission Track

By Kami Joy

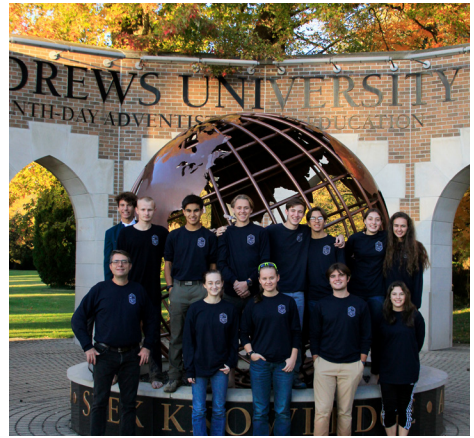
Oklahoma Academy has been training workers for the harvest for the past 40 years. A few years ago, we launched a mission training program to equip students for service in the mission field. The program began by teaching aviation students about missions while they worked through the requirements for a private pilot license. Initially, the program used a small 1946 Taylorcraft, a two-seat airplane, but as the program grew, it was upgraded to a 1965 Cessna 150. Now, God has blessed us with a Cessna 172. While our aircraft are older, they still offer the opportunity for students to earn the same license and provide plenty of hands-on flying experience, which is an exciting part of the training.

In many parts of the world, airplanes are the only effective means of transportation. In places like Alaska, many villages lack roads, and the only way to reach them is by air. Similarly, in remote jungle areas, accessing a village could require weeks of walking, or just a few hours in an airplane. This difference can make a life-changing impact, enabling missionaries to deliver supplies and support and offering critical assistance to villagers in need.

However, mission aviation is about much more than flying. It's about fixing planes, helping others, and most impor-

tantly, learning to share the love of Jesus with people all around the world.

One unique feature of the mission aviation program is that it requires a one-year service commitment after graduation. Our first two aviation graduates, Cheriss



and Elga, served on Peru projects in South America, paving the way for future students. Over the years, the program has grown significantly as more young people have shown interest. Recognizing that not everyone is passionate about aviation, the program expanded to include training in construction, digital media, communications, auto mechanics, and music. We understand that these diverse skills are just as essential to the mission field, where the need is great in many areas.

Media, in particular, is a powerful tool—it brings perspective, shines a light on truth, and serves as a vital means of com-

municating Jesus' love to the world. That's where our mission media department comes in. As mission media students, we learn how to use photography, videography, graphic design, and marketing to spread the gospel. Students train for one to two years before heading out to the mission field, applying the skills they've gained to make an impact. Some students specialize in filmmaking, learning to work with software like Adobe Premiere to create videos, while others focus on publishing, mastering tools such as Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign to craft powerful visual messages.

Oklahoma Academy mission students firmly believe in the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19, to take the gospel to all nations. That is our mission, and that is our calling. Will you join us today in reaching the lost of this world by supporting the Mission Track?



Kami Joy is a junior at Oklahoma Academy and our school journalist



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or search oklahomaacademy.org/projects-8

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

-Matthew 28:19



Academy News

By Keisha England

Fall Camp Out

“There’s something truly magical about spending time with horses; they have a way of calming the soul and washing away stress,” said Noemi Lopez. This sentiment rang true during the girls’ visit to Sequoyah State Park and Ozark Academy where the serene environment provided the perfect backdrop for reflection and renewal. During their visit, they went on several horseback rides, immersing themselves in nature and experiencing its soothing effects. It was more than just a break. It was a time to recharge spiritually.

While the girls were in Arkansas, the boys were having a blast in Lake Tenkiller, Oklahoma. Over the weekend, they were able to tube, water ski, swim, and relax. The clear water, beautiful weather, peaceful forests offered many curious adventures and created an environment of spiritual growth and development.



Week of Prayer

Soon after the campout, we welcomed Miss Keila Valenzuela from Belize as our Week of Prayer speaker. Her powerful testimony of following the Lamb inspired us to reflect on our faith journeys and trust more fully in God’s guidance.

Day by day, Miss Keila shared the word of God and miraculous stories. Many of stories resonated with the students. She even shared some of the experiences of our Mission Track students serving in Belize right now. As students listened, they were inspired to serve the Lord.

Every night, Miss Keila left students with a challenge to follow the lamb wherever he goes. She encouraged students to make a decision to serve God with all their talents. Week of Prayer was a blessing to both staff and students alike. If you would like to see the recordings from each meeting, scan the QR code on the next page.

Tornado Simulation

Our school also participated in the Tornado Response simulation, an annual event that grew even more realistic this year with the inclusion of additional agencies. First responders, local emer-

gency services, and other community organizations came together to simulate a large-scale disaster response. Students from OA's Anatomy and Physiology class played a key role in the exercise, using makeup to simulate a variety of disaster



injuries, from cuts and bruises to severe trauma.

The exercise not only provided hands-on experience in disaster response but also highlighted the emotional and psychological strength required to assist in times of crisis. Students were allowed to role-play as victims, which helped them understand the complexities of managing stress, trauma, and urgent medical care in chaotic situations. As part of the simulation, students learned to prioritize care and support others in high-pressure scenarios. The experience also emphasized the importance of teamwork and communication for the agencies.

Alumni Weekend

Another highlight was Alumni Weekend, where we celebrated the classes graduating in years ending in 5 and 9. It was a special time to reconnect with former students and strengthen the bonds of our school community. The weekend showed me how things change but God is still the same today and yesterday.

These experiences, full of spiritual growth, service, and connection, helped us grow individually and as a community, leaving us with renewed energy, a deeper faith, and a stronger sense of purpose.



Keisha England is a senior at Oklahoma Academy and one of our media creators



Scan this to donate to see Week of Prayer!

or search
<https://www.youtube.com/@oklahomaacademy3678>

A Letter From Senegal

By Areli Tenorio



Dear Reader,

These last months have been hectic, with lots of learning moments, fun activities, sick days—you name it. The longer I stay here, the more I see God’s hand guiding everything. I can’t believe it is already November; time goes by so fast!

The classes at the school “Le Chemin” have already started. Le Chemin is a school located in a village in Senegal. It teaches local people practical skills like the Bible, prophecy, health, cooking, dental work, agriculture, and more. When the students graduate, they are prepared to go and serve in villages where they practice their skills and teach others as well.

Right now, the school is focusing especially on dental work. The teacher of the dentist class is Luke Fisher. With him, they learn practical ways to help locals take care of their mouths. Every week, we go down to the school in the village, and the students get to teach everything they

have learned to the kids. Last week, they taught them how to brush their teeth using something that is everywhere—a stick from a tree. Locals here don’t have money to buy brushes or other supplies, so the class has been good at adapting and teaching them what is available and handy (talk about real mission work!).

They have also started to focus on the agriculture side. Agriculture is a valuable skill; vegetables are always expensive, and food here lacks. So, teaching them how to grow their own garden is a real benefit.

We have a lot of other projects coming up. Soon, we will work on some promotional videos for everyone to have a full, real experience of what we are doing here. I’m grateful to have the opportunity to be here and help in whatever way they need me to. Thanks for keeping us in your prayers and for supporting us! Thank you for helping us reach the unreached!

Areli Tenorio



Areli Tenorio is a Mission Track graduate serving in Senegal

Break in the Clouds

By Micah Grady

Earlier this week, when Pr. Todd Parker reminded me that we were supposed to give him a flight to Togiak on Sabbath, I laughed. The weather was forecasted to be rainy, complete with low visibilities and clouds. However, we moved forward with flight planning as if we would be able to make the flight. On Friday we completed our weight and balance checks and siphoned some of the fuel. The flight would be performed at max gross weight so we asked a friend in Togiak to store some fuel for us for the return trip.

Sabbath morning, the weather still looked awful. During church, the morning jet with Alaska Airlines made several go arounds and returned to Anchorage without landing. After church, the weather still reported IFR-MVFR (instrument to marginal visual). Lincoln and I still headed out to the airplane to preflight and prepare for the trip. We continued to pray and as we were at the airport, we literally watched the sky clear on the west side. After another check on the weather, we were able to take off, dodge a bit of weather and make the 40 minute flight over to Togiak!

It was a real blessing for the church to have Pr. Todd there for communion since this would be his last Sabbath in Dil-



lingham. Afterwards, we rode a 4 wheeler back, fueled up the plane and prayed for a church member's house. The flight back was beautiful, and we were able to cruise over the mountains at 4,500 ft.

As we arrived safely in Dillingham, it was cool to see the clouds, and weather lingering on the east side. This was one of the most rewarding flights I've taken and it was such a blessing to see God clear the weather before our eyes!

Thanks for all the prayers and please continue to pray for the work in Togiak!

Micah Grady



Micah Grady is a Mission Track graduate serving in Alaska, USA

A Journey of Health, Education, and Outreach

By Annelise Jagitsch

This time in Belize has been a whirlwind of learning, service, and unexpected challenges. Our days are filled with both classroom instruction and practical application, and we are constantly amazed at the opportunities to serve and grow.

Some of the most impactful experiences so far has been our trips to the village of Santa Martha. As part of our outreach efforts, the education students have had the chance to teach classes and play games with the village children.

Miriam, who is studying education, has been especially engaged with the kids, putting her training into practice and building relationships with the community. Meanwhile, I have been conducting health checkups for the villagers, ensuring their well-being while gaining valuable hands-on experience.

Back on campus, we've focused on our personal health during health week. Each day brought a new aspect of wellness to explore, and it has been a great reminder to prioritize our physical and mental well-being as we continue our work here. While the week was busy, it took an unex-

pected turn on Thursday when I injured my leg during a health test. Though still limping, I am slowly recovering and staying positive. Despite this setback, our spirits remain high, and we're eager to continue serving.

One of the most memorable moments came when we found out that a woman in the village had given birth. In a culture where superstitions sometimes prevent outsiders from even seeing newborns for a period of time, we were honored to

hold her baby—a truly unique and humbling experience.

While our days have been filled with service, there have also been quieter moments of reflection and learning. For instance, on one Sabbath, Miriam had the privilege of preaching at church, while I gave a Bible study in the afternoon. We also taught an Adventist Youth (AY) class, offering a chance to interact with young people and share lessons from our own experiences.

Throughout the week, we've spent time preparing for our upcoming practical skills camping trip. This involved mock emergency scenarios, where we

"... I injured my leg during a health test"



built shelters and practiced the skills we'll use in real-life situations. The preparation has been fun and educational, and we're all looking forward to the camping trip with great anticipation.

Another highlight was the return of Keila, the MOVE director, who had been away leading a week of prayer at Oklahoma Academy. She brought back small gifts and cards from the students and staff there, and it was heartwarming to receive these thoughtful tokens of care.

As the weeks continue to unfold, we remain committed to learning, serving, and growing in every area of our lives. The experience here in Belize has been incredibly rewarding, and we look forward to all that God has planned for the future.



Annelise Jagitsch



Annelise Jagitsch is a Mission Track graduate serving in Belize



Second Graders

By Oriana Matus

I'm teaching second-grade grammar, reading, phonics, and math. All four classes are supposed to be in English, but the problem is that they only know a bit of English. There are eight rambunctious children, three girls, and five boys. Each child has their struggles and personalities. Getting their attention is one of the most difficult challenges. It always seems they are doing anything but listening.

I wasn't looking forward to teaching grammar. It was my only class after lunch; I was already tired from the morning, and the other teacher wouldn't be there. When I got to the first grammar class, I got the books out and opened them to the correct lesson while I waited for their recess to finish. Once they came in, I gave them a short introduction to the topic (adjectives) and then had them start working on the homework. I

was surprised at how well most of them worked. I went from student to student, translating for them and helping them understand. Everyone worked so well that no one noticed when it was time to start putting things away. I was so thankful God enabled them to concentrate on their work. Even though it was tiring, it was also satisfying knowing everyone had done well.

Oriana Matus



Oriana Matus is a Mission Track graduate serving in Honduras

Worthy Students

By Cing Zuun and Khen Ngai

Hey there!

My name is Cing Zuun, and this is my sister, Khen Ngai. I am currently a senior at Oklahoma Academy, and she is a junior. We were born in Myanmar, also known as Burma, and immigrated to America around 2013. Like many others, my family came to the United States to escape the persecution and turmoil that Burma was experiencing at the time.

Coming to the United States was a huge cultural shock for me. For one thing, I did not speak or understand English very well. All I knew were a few basic words and phrases such as “Thank you” and “I want water.” Food was another shock. I remember one instance in particular when an uncle of mine gave me yogurt. I had never seen or had it before in my life. I took a spoonful and almost threw it up! It had such a foreign texture and taste.

One important thing that helped me adjust to the new environment was attending school. My understanding of English and my speaking skills have improved tremendously. Here at Oklahoma Academy, I am surrounded by numerous opportunities to grow and adapt. Every day I am picking up new vocabulary and



learning new skills. The close-knit community atmosphere that I missed is present here at OA. I am very grateful for all the opportunities that OA has given me to grow, not only academically but also spiritually and physically.

Thank you so much for donating to the Worthy Student Fund. Your support is allowing me to continue my education at Oklahoma Academy, and it's making a true difference in my life. With the help of people like you, I've been able to receive an education and grow spiritually. Your generosity means more than just financial support; it's an investment in my future, opening doors to opportunities I never thought possible. Thank you for supporting Workers for the Harvest!

-Zuun and Ngai



Directors?

Christian Jagitsch

Meet Caleb Brooks and Savior Erazo. As seniors at Oklahoma Academy, they have unique roles to play this year. For twenty-nine years, Mrs. Claire Luz Diaz has been our choir director. For almost three decades, she faithfully conducted choir practices, gave voice lessons, planned trips, and toured the world to present concerts with energetic academy students.

Last year, Mrs. Diaz retired. Quickly, Oklahoma Academy started looking for a new music director. We needed someone who could fill the “larger-than-life” role of “Sra. Diaz”. Finally, the school found someone willing to fill the gap, but there was one problem. Mrs. Chung, the new music director, had no experience in choral music. She worked with string ensembles for years but never directed a choir. What would we do?

That’s when Caleb Brooks and Savior Erazo came into the picture. They are both seniors and have experience working with Sra. Diaz in the music department, so Mrs. Holland decided to try something new. What if we put students in charge of the choir?

This year, Savior and Caleb became our choir directors under Mrs. Chung as the new music director. “So far, it’s been amazing,” Savior says. “We’ve learned much about teaching and working with the students.” Caleb explains, “Directing choir came with a big learning curve, but it has been a great opportunity to learn leadership skills.”

Although the new change has challenges, Caleb and Savior have willingly taken up the role. Through them, God blesses students, staff, and supporters of Oklahoma Academy. Although they are just students, they are making a significant impact.

No matter how young or old, you can always serve God. Don’t miss the opportunities around you. Please keep Caleb and Savior in your prayers as they continue to serve God in the music department.



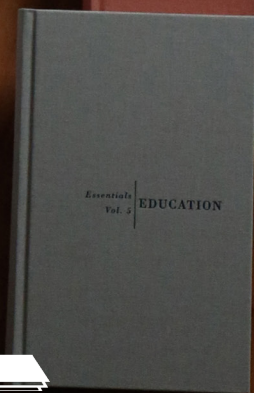
Christian Jagitsch

is a senior at Oklahoma Academy and the graphic designer

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