Special prayer request: OU4HIM's Fall Mission Trip

by Jyremy Reid, student writer

The Office of Spiritual Life's OU4HIM (acronym for "Oakwood University for His Hands in Ministry") is conducting its fall mission trip to Memphis, Tenn., November 7-10, 2013.

According to Chaplain Kimberly Pearson, "OU4HIM's main goal is to expose the students to outreach and community service opportunities in the nationwide mission field; specifically, they will be able to incorporate classroom information and spiritual supplication with an Afro-centric historical perspective."

Planned events include tutoring foster children; assisting in St. Jude Hospital waiting rooms; packing meals at the Memphis food banks; and evangelism activities at the Overton Park Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The students will also have the opportunity to tour a home located on the 19th century Underground Railroad. Additionally, they will have the chance to stand on the confirmed places and areas where runaway slaves were hidden. Finally, students will also tour the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel, where Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968.

Pearson said that "OU4HIM's undying hope is for the students to develop a deep and intimate understanding of service -- an understanding that will forever change their personal connections with other people, while coming in full contact with history."
Beyond the information of a textbook, or the compact spaces of the church pews, OU4HIM's prayerful wish is that the students will gain a healthier relationship with Christ during this mission trip, she continued. "In addition, we look forward to advertising the 4Him vision and fundraising for future missions while in Memphis. We will also assist in recruitment for Oakwood University.

Understanding that Mission is a recruitment tool, students will be able to share their Oakwood experiences with other students. "Students should return with the understanding that Oakwood University's aim of "God First!" isn't just a mere slogan, but that it is a way of life that leads to action and servitude."

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**Update from OUPD**

After having served his *alma mater* for the past year-and-a-half as a Public Safety Officer, on September 11, 2013, Officer David A. Clarke was sworn in as a Police Officer with the Oakwood University Police Department (OUPD). He is now attending the 480-hour course at the Montgomery Police Academy.

Clarke has served as the point person for the department's social media initiative by engaging the campus community to interact with officers on a personal level through the OUPD Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram social media accounts.
According to Officer Clarke, "We need to be able to reach students where they are in a non-threatening manner so that we can build trust and partnerships to keep our campus safe."

Sergeant Tracy Haywood and Captain Melvin Harris visited with Officer Clarke at the Montgomery Police Academy while they were attending an Attorney General Law Enforcement Symposium in Montgomery, AL on October 29, 2013.

Captain Harris is currently attending an 80 hour Strategic Self-defense & Grappling Tactics (SSGT) Level 1 & 2 defensive tactics "train-the-trainer" instructor program at the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy. This is the latest self-defense technique for police officers.

Harris and Sergeant Shawn Byrd are adjunct instructors at the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy.
OU students met with Sherriff Blake Dorning in his office at the Madison County Courthouse.

**OU Pre-Law Society visits Madison County Courthouse**

On November 4, 2013, the Department of History and Political Science sponsored a fieldtrip for the OU Pre-Law Society to the Madison County Courthouse in downtown Huntsville. The courthouse tour was conducted by Mrs. Missy Ming Smith. Students had the opportunity of viewing the holding cell for inmates, various courtrooms, the jury venire room, and a special room designed for childcare.

During the day, students witnessed several court cases, including: the sentencing phase of a DUI (driving under the influence), the possession of a controlled substance, and a malpractice lawsuit.

District Court Judge Claude E. Hundley, III met with the students.
During tour of the courthouse, tour guide Mrs. Missy Ming Smith (left) describes a jail cell from the inside.

and shared anecdotes from his most interesting cases. He also took time to answer their questions concerning preparation for law school and courtroom procedures. In another meeting, Circuit Court Judge Donna Pate shared words of wisdom with the prospective attorneys - stressing the importance of punctuality and preparation, as well as listening and writing skills.

Students met with Sheriff Blake Dorning, who showed them his various awards and honors, as well as a few artifacts related to law enforcement. He also answered student inquiries concerning police work.

Members of the OU Pre-Law Society thoroughly enjoyed the trip to the Madison County Courthouse and they are thankful for the continued support given by Dr. London and the Department of History and Political Science. They are also grateful for the assistance provided by Oakwood Transportation.

Student Amal Taylor's research wows judges on two continents
Interviewed by Briana Figeroux, editor, Spreading Oak; PR Intern in the Public Relations Office
Q: What caused you to choose Biology as your major?

A: My mom is a nurse and a single parent, so I had to go with her to class. When I was seven, I was in her Anatomy and Physiology class. It was the main class I was engaged in. The teacher included me in the class, asking me various questions. I started to become interested so I would take her textbooks and read about the human body.

Q: I understand you have recently won first place for your research. Tell us about The National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

A: This competition was the second competition I participated in. While I was in South Africa [this past summer], my professor Dr. Ephraim Gwebu sent an email to all the chemistry students about the competition. I decided to send my abstract from the research I did and I got accepted.

My research was about a medicinal plant found in South Africa that can be used for inflammation, to relieve pain, lower blood pressure and as an anti-septic. I separated the compounds and tested it on rats to figure out what the compounds did. I also discovered one compound, which was really cool.

Q: That is so interesting, I think it is amazing that you discovered a compound. Were you really nervous when you presented your work?

A: Not as nervous as I was in the first competition. It's like, every competition I go to it gets bigger and bigger. I am actually going to compete in another one called The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students on November 13-16. It will be the biggest one, about 90 people will compete and this one will be an oral presentation.

Q: So what are your plans after your graduate from Oakwood?

A: I want to go to medical school and become a general surgeon. I want to be a Medical Missionary.

Q: So let's say you already went to med school and are a general surgeon, getting ready to start your missionary work. Where will you like to go first?

A: That's actually a really good question. I would say I will want to go where there is a
need. Mostly third world countries like in South America, Africa, and southern North America.

Southern Tidings features Oakwood's First Chapel

The First Chapel service on August 21 is featured in the November, 2013, issue of Southern Tidings. To read the story (which appears on page 32), click here.

al.com: OU couple "coupon-ing king and queen"

When newlyweds Alexandrea and Juan Irby started couponing shortly after marrying in March of this year, they were just trying to save a little money.

Once they saw how much they were saving on groceries and other household items, it grew into a shared hobby that Alexandrea described as "kind of an adventure."

By day, Alexandrea is the admissions coordinator for Oakwood University's LEAP program and Juan is the camp operations assistant manager at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Alexandrea just "wanted to share with you what God has been doing in our lives! We are grateful for this opportunity and look forward to your support. Please share with everyone you know! Our story will be in the Sunday paper (11/10/13).

Read al.com reporter Anna Claire Vollers' complete story here.
OU's Eva B. Dykes Library is a member of LYRASIS, a non-profit membership organization committed to the success of libraries and cultural heritage organizations.

Through LYRASIS, libraries and cultural heritage professionals come together and collaborate on activities, offerings and projects that serve the needs of their users and communities.

The November 5, 2013, issue of the "LYRASIS News" has this to say:

**Preservation Grant Recipients Share Ideas on Exhibits**

For almost 20 years, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access has been offering "Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions" (also known as PAGs).

The grants, with a current maximum award of $6,000, offer institutions the opportunity to have a general preservation assessment/site survey (a review of building and collection condition and institutional preservation policies) or a survey to address specific preservation needs. Other potential uses of the grant include purchase of storage furniture or preservation supplies, purchase of environmental monitoring equipment, or attendance at preservation education and training events.

Another grant program at LYRASIS, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, has been assisting the libraries and archives at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the preservation of their photographic collections. It included the ability to have site surveys to review their preservation and digitization activities related to special collections.
In Spring 2013, LYRASIS' Senior Consultant for Digital & Preservation Services, Tom Clareson, had the opportunity to visit two institutions to conduct preservation site surveys. In February 2013, he visited the Eva B. Dykes Library at Oakwood University in Huntsville, AL to look at Archival Storage and Operations, and space usage within the archives as part of the Mellon-funded project. In March, 2013, he had the opportunity to visit the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (a component of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission) in Liberty, Texas on an NEH Preservation Assistance Grant project to review library and archival storage conditions, and environmental controls in the institution's main structure and five related historical structures.

Among the aspects of the Sam Houston Center site that Manager Alana Inman asked to have reviewed was the status and layout of exhibitions on Southeast Texas in the facility's museum. Consideration of new exhibition methods, potential new or different objects to be displayed, and possibly a new physical configuration for the main museum room were all suggested.

In his review of the visit, Clareson also discussed the excellent space utilization and the variety of interesting and dramatic materials which are exhibited in the Clara Peterson-Rock Museum at Oakwood University. The museum, in one large room within the library, provides an overview of the history of Oakwood University and Black Seventh-Day Adventism, set within the context of the American Civil Rights movement and Adventist History.

In September 2013, when the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) held its Annual Conference in nearby Birmingham, Alabama, Clareson and Inman were both in attendance. They travelled to Huntsville to see Oakwood's Museum, and they were extremely impressed when they toured the facility with Library Director Paulette Johnson and Archivist Heather Rodriguez-James.

"I've had the opportunity to do many site surveys in the past," said Clareson, "but never has the timing of two surveys, and the needs identified, allowed for "cross-pollination" between surveyed institutions as it did this year. Oakwood's facility is so memorably designed, and the Sam Houston Center's management is very open to new ideas, so this was a wonderful 'right-place, right-time' change to bring together two institutions which are interested in collections preservation and access."

Inman hopes to utilize some of the ideas she gleaned in her visit to Oakwood University as she and the Sam Houston Center staff develop plans for renovation and updating of the museum facility.
From November 18 to 26, Oakwood University students will be calling you to share some of the latest news from campus. These students will also invite you to join with others in financially supporting our ongoing commitment to excellent Christian education.

So when one of these students calls, I encourage you to take some time to pray with them and share memories of your time on campus. But I hope you'll also express your confidence in Oakwood's continued development by making a financial gift to support your school.

Your continued support is vital to our future.

Oakwoodite installed as Tennessee Hospital Association Chairman
Reginald Coopwood, MD, president and CEO, Regional Medical Center at Memphis, was installed as chairman of the Tennessee Hospital Association's board of directors during the association's annual meeting in Nashville.

To read the rest of The Chattanoogan.com story about Dr. Coopwood, click here.

Retirees return home from Ghana mission trip
by Shirley Iheanacho

OU retirees Morris and Shirley Iheanacho are home again after a life-changing, enriching, and exciting Maranatha mission trip to Tamale, Ghana. With God's help the mission of building a 12-classroom elementary school was accomplished.

Boy and girls in the Muslim community of Tamale can now attend a school owned and operated by Adventists and learn about God's love.

In addition to building classrooms, Vacation Bible Schools were conducted in four villages as well as distribution of clothes, toys, shoes, coloring books, crayons, etc., to the children, and beans and rice to the women.

One of the highlights of their mission was visiting chiefs in villages and hearing them express gratitude for the
work of Maranatha volunteers in their communities. To God be the glory! One of the chiefs commented that it was the first time that white people had visited his village. In some of the villages, children had never seen white people before; they cried as they ran and hid.

Morris and Shirley cherish beautiful memories of this incredible mission trip. The need is great in these underdeveloped cities, and they encourage others to become involved in global outreach ministries, either as volunteers, through financial contributions, and/or prayers. They are grateful to God for the opportunity to share Him not only locally but in countries far across the sea.
For more information, visit the PELC website:  www.pelc.cc

Holiday gift idea from 'the Oaks'
President Pollard awards an Oakwood afghan as a door prize to a satisfied alumnus at the "Oakwood On The Road" event in Washington, D.C. Oakwood afghans make excellent Christmas gifts!

Contact Oakwood's PR office at pr@oakwood.edu, or click here to download the order form.

If we have your paid order by December 18, we'll guarantee delivery by December 24 - at no extra charge.

Get yours today!
Oakwood University Begins Academic Year with Anointing Service

Just as one begins a journey or an exam with prayer, the Oakwood University (OU) community began its new academic year with a prayer service called “First Chapel.”

Since his arrival in 2011, as the chief spiritual officer, Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., Oakwood University president, has elevated the annual University Convocation program into a campus-wide consecration service, engaging all campus groups in this program: University, as well as Oakwood Adventist Academy and Elementary School administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

Oakwood University stands within the tradition proclaimed by its founder, Ellen G. White, according to the printed program. Writing in From a Place called Oakwood, she said, “In regard to this school here in Huntsville, I wish to say that for the past two or three years I have been receiving instruction regarding it...All that is done by those connected with this school, whether they be white or black, is to be done with the realization that this is the Lord’s institution...” (page 3).

The Home Depot representatives presented the Lord’s institution with a ceremonial $50,000 grand prize check, for winning this year’s “Retool Your School” historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) campus improvement contest, beating all other competing HBCUs, with 340,000 votes.

Pollard gave his annual presidential address entitled, “Standing with the Stone.” Using the anchor passage of Daniel 6:45, he encouraged the attending students to stay strong in their studies, and to never become fragile spiritually.

To further heighten Oakwood’s spiritual call-to-arms, this third First Chapel this year instituted an anointing service. Huntsville area Adventist church pastors stationed throughout the packed OU church sanctuary offered specific prayers, and applied anointing oil to the foreheads of petitioners waiting in long lines.

—BY TIM ALLSTON AND JYREMY REID

Oakwood Elementary School student president Addison Gill, Oakwood Adventist Academy chaplain Cordell Dormer, and Oakwood University freshman representative Jermaine Nelson each present portions of the Scripture reading from Daniel 2:44-49.
Huntsville couple uses coupon skills to purchase items for local charities through Holiday Wishes Program

Anna Claire Vollers By Anna Claire Vollers
Email the author | Follow on Twitter

on November 05, 2013 at 4:22 PM, updated November 05, 2013 at 4:23 PM

I have a lofty goal. I would love if we could get a thousand items to give to these organizations.

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama – When newlyweds
Alexandrea and Juan Irby started couponing shortly after marrying in March of this year, they were just trying to save a little money. Once they saw how much they were saving on groceries and other household items, it grew into a shared hobby that Alexandrea described as “kind of an adventure.”

“And we thought, ‘Hey, we can do something with this,’” she said. “It doesn’t have to be just shopping for ourselves. We saw it as an opportunity to give to someone else.”

By day, Alexandrea is the admissions coordinator for Oakwood University’s LEAP program and Juan is the camp operations assistant manager at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Neither of them consider themselves “extreme” couponers, although Alexandrea admits their friends and family might beg to differ.

Alexandrea has often volunteered with United Way of Madison County and keeps in touch with the staff. After the Irbys caught the couponing bug, she asked one of the coordinators at the United Way if there was an opportunity where they could use their newfound skills to help others.

As it turned out, there was.

The United Way of Madison County is partnering with Alabama Media Group for the Holiday Wishes Program this season, to publicize the top three most-needed items – or ‘wishes’ – of each of 29 local charitable organizations under the United Way umbrella. Many of those items, from paper towels to hygiene products, often get discounted through coupons and store sales. The Irbys plan to use their couponing expertise to purchase as many items as they can from the organizations’ wish lists this year.

“I have a lofty goal,” said Alexandrea. “I would love if we could get a thousand items to give to these organizations.”
Her couponing system requires some time, but is fairly simple: "On Sundays when we get The Huntsville Times, we go through the paper and look at each store to see what’s on sale. Then we look for the lowest price on duplicate items. We match up our coupons with the sales, and prepare our list. Monday is when we go shopping."

Alexandrea said she hopes her idea will catch on in the community, and sees it as a way for people who may not have much money to still help others in a meaningful way.

Anyone who would like to donate their coupons to the Irbys can drop them off at the United Way of Madison County’s office at 701 Andrew Jackson Way in Huntsville.

"Or if there are other couponers who want to get involved, we would love that," said Alexandrea. "I would challenge other experienced couponers to contact the United Way so they can get my contact information. Then we can share lists and ideas so we can all get more items."

The deadline for the Holiday Wishes Program is Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. The wish lists are available here. Items can be dropped off for any of the organizations at the United Way office, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Reginald Coopwood, Tennessee Hospital Association's Newly Installed Chairman

Reginald Coopwood, MD, president and CEO, Regional Medical Center at Memphis, was installed as chairman of the Tennessee Hospital Association’s board of directors during the association’s annual meeting in Nashville.

Mark Medley, president and CEO, hospital operations, Capella Healthcare, Franklin, was elected chairman-elect of the board. He will become chairman during the 2014 annual meeting in Nashville.

Joe Landsman, president and CEO, University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville, became immediate past chairman. He also will serve as speaker of the House of Delegates in 2014.

Dr. Coopwood has served as president and CEO of the Regional Medical Center at Memphis since 2010.

Prior to this position, he served as chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Nashville Hospital Authority, which included Nashville General Hospital at Meharry, Bordeaux Long-Term Care and Knowles Assisted Living & Adult Day Services. In 2000, he became the first appointed chief medical officer for Nashville General Hospital at Meharry, a position he held until his selection as CEO in 2005. A board certified surgeon, Dr. Coopwood served as associate clinical professor of surgery at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and associate professor of surgery at Meharry Medical College. He serves on the boards of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee (BCBST), America’s Essential Hospitals (formerly the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems), Governor’s Health and Wellness Task Force and MidSouth eHealth Alliance (MSeHA). Coopwood is chairman of the American Hospital Association’s Metropolitan Hospitals Governing Council. He also is a member of the American College of HealthCare Executives. He received a bachelor’s degree in biology, chemistry and business administration at Oakwood College and a doctorate of medicine at Meharry Medical College.

Dr. Medley is responsible for the operations of 14 acute care and specialty hospital facilities throughout the U.S. Prior to joining Capella in 2008, he was affiliated with LifePoint Hospitals, Inc., Franklin, for nine years, serving as a hospital CEO and a division chief financial officer. Medley has served as chairman of the THA Council on Government Affairs and he received the THA Small or Rural Hospital Leadership Award in 2013 in recognition of his service. In addition, he has served on the Tennessee Rural Partnership and THA Solutions Group boards of directors. A fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, Medley has served on the advisory council to Tennessee’s ACHE regent. In addition, he serves on the board for Ridley Barron, Inc., an organization nationally known for its efforts to improve patient safety and inspire positive change. Medley received a bachelor’s degree in accounting and master’s degree in business administration at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville.

District representatives on the THA board of directors are (italicized names indicate reelected or newly elected members): David Archer, CEO, Memphis market, Saint Francis Hospital, Memphis district; Thomas Gee, CEO, Henry County Medical Center, Paris, west district; Mike Garfield, CEO, HMA/Tennova Healthcare, middle district; Alan Watson, CEO, Maury Regional Healthcare System, Columbia, south middle district; James Hobson, president and CEO, Memorial Health Care System, Chattanooga district; Keith Goodwin, president and CEO, East Tennessee Children’s Hospital, Knoxville district; Scott Bowman, administrator, Sweetwater Hospital Association, mid-east district; and Candace Jennings, senior vice president, Tennessee operations, Mountain States Health Alliance, Johnson City, northeast district.

At-large members of the board are: Bobby Arnold, president and CEO, West Tennessee Healthcare, Jackson; David Posch, CEO, Vanderbilt University Hospitals, Nashville; Denny DeNarvaez, president and CEO, Wellmont Health System, Kingsport; Jeff Seraphine, president, Delta Division, LifePoint Hospitals, Inc., Brentwood; Mike Schatzlein, MD, president and CEO, Saint Thomas Health, Nashville; and Anthony Spezia, president and CEO, Covenant Health, Knoxville.

Other board appointments include: Thelma Traut, board chair, Baptist Memorial Hospital-Huntingdon, and Jeffrey Woodside, MD, board member, Hardin Medical Center, Savannah; representing hospital trustees; Scott Tongate, CEO, Lauderdale Community Hospital, Ripley, representing the THA Small or Rural Constituency Section; and THA President Craig Becker.

Paul Korth, CEO and CFO, Cookeville Regional Medical Center, will represent the THA Council on Government Affairs; Morris
Seligman, MD, senior vice president/CMO, Mountain States Health Alliance, Johnson City, and chairman, THA CMO Society, will serve as the physician representative; Charles Howorth, executive director, Tennessee Business Roundtable, Nashville, will serve as the business representative; Chuck Whitfield, president and CEO, Laughlin Memorial Hospital, Greeneville, will serve as the THA Solutions Group board representative; Jason Boyd, interim CEO, Metro Hospital Authority, Nashville, and chair of the THA Council on Diversity, will serve as the diversity representative; Christine Bradley, assistant vice chancellor, government relations, Vanderbilt University Hospitals, Nashville, will serve as the Tennessee Rural Partnership representative; and Robert Gordon, retired executive vice president and chief administrative officer, Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, Memphis, has been selected to serve as an emeritus board member.

Jason Little, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, Memphis; and Stephen Corbeil, president, HCA TriStar Health System, Brentwood, will serve as Tennessee’s delegates to the American Hospital Association (AHA). Kevin Spiegel, president and CEO, Erlanger Health System, Chattanooga, will serve as an AHA alternate delegate.

Mark Medley, Tennessee Hospital Association's Chair-Elect