

FALL SEMESTER 2022

# The Upward Look

OZARK ADVENTIST ACADEMY'S DIGITAL MAGAZINE



## Kayaking on City Lake

TEACH THEM "TO SEE CHRIST IN NATURE... AND IN ALL THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF CREATION TEACH THEM TO SEE AN EXPRESSION OF HIS LOVE".

CHILD GUIDANCE PG. 534

[WWW.OZARKACADEMY.ORG](http://WWW.OZARKACADEMY.ORG)

# VIDEO



## **KAYAKING ON CITY LAKE**

There is almost always a camera on campus somewhere. On a warm Sabbath afternoon in September, Ozark students had the opportunity to go kayaking on City Lake. Check out the video below.

## **ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA TEEN PRAYER CONFERENCE**

Ozark Adventist Academy students attended the Teen Prayer Conference at Camp Yorktown Bay in Mountain Pine, Arkansas in October. View the video on YouTube below

## **ON THE BALLFIELD**

Come with us to the ballfield one evening in August via YouTube.

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## *FLANNEL FIESTA*

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# A Little Taste of Home

You could see them all crowded onto the table every week. Brightly colored tissue paper, homemade cookies, and laundry soap peeked out from the tops of the brightly colored gift bags. Tags bearing names like Benjamin F. or Emma C. or other Ozark Adventist Academy students hung gracefully from the tops of the bags. This was the table for Ozark's Dorm Daughters and Dorm Dudes at the Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church.

At the beginning of the fall semester of each school year, Bonnie Pendergrass, who teaches anatomy and physiology and math of business and personal finance at Ozark, spends many hours pairing up students with local church members in the area who "adopt" OAA dorm students for the first semester of the school year. Dorm parents send gifts, cards, and encouraging notes to their adopted students.



The gifts and cards don't always make their way onto the table at the Gentry Church. They are also sometimes dropped off at the dorm or stuffed into the student's mailbox in the Business Office. You never know where a gift or note will turn up. Then in December, there is a reveal party where students can finally meet their "adopted" parent or family. The identity of the adopted parent is often a secret until the party.

This year Storie Giddings, who teaches history at Ozark, "adopted" Hannah H. Hannah wrote a bit about her experience as a dorm daughter. It is available below.

***Being a Dorm Daughter is an amazing thing! For me, it's not because of all the sweets and treats and gifts and flowers that you might get, but it's because of the relationship that you are forming. You may not know who your Dorm Mom is for the first few months of school, but you do know that they care. And when you finally get to meet them, it's AMAZING! One of the biggest blessings for me in having a Dorm Mom was the fact that she would write me letters back. Letters have always been one of my favorite forms of communication, and to have someone that would write me back-- it was wonderful and so meaningful! And to top it all off, these letters always came at the right time when I needed them most.***

***Don't get me wrong, the gifts that accompanied some of my letters were very much appreciated, but again, that wasn't what it was all about. To be honest, the women who graciously take us on for the first semester don't have to get us all the stuff they do, but they choose to. You see, they ask us to fill out a favorites list of some of our favorite foods, colors, animals, etc., so that our Dorm Mom may have an idea of what to get us or how to encourage us.***



Lorie Wagner, an OAA alumnus from the Class of 1990, "adopted" several girls. When we asked them what their favorite gifts were, one of the girls said chips and bean dip and a handmade stocking with body mist perfume inside. The other girl said "a little pouch she made for me that I can put money in."



Cole Hagele takes a selfie with his "dorm dude." They laughed so much it must have been quite the picture!

***But again, it's never done in a way that says, "I have to do this," but in a way that says, "I choose to do this for my student." And that is what I love the most about the Dorm Daughter/Dorm Dude programs-- it's a heartfelt ministry. The relationships, the prayers, the ministry-- that's what I love about being a Dorm Daughter! Thank you to everyone who participates in these programs!***

The dorm daughter program started about ten years ago when Nanette Clapp and Bonnie Pendergrass were working together in the Gentry SDA Church's Women's Ministries department. The boys, or the dorm dudes as they are called, were added four or five years later.



The program officially ends each year at the December reveal party. However, many of the "parents" still stay in contact with their students. They may check them out of the dorm for a home-cooked meal to give them a little taste of home or bring them a plate piled high with their favorite cookies just to let them know they are still thinking of them.

And the reveal parties are different every year. One year there was an ugly sweater theme. Several years ago, you should have seen the socks! You couldn't help but laugh when you first saw some of them. This year the theme was Flannel Fiesta. Rebekah W., from the Class of 2024, wrote about this year's party that took place in the Youth Center at the Gentry SDA Church on December 11, 2022. It is available below.



At the reveal party, there were jalapeno, bean and cheese, and vegetable tamales, cheese enchiladas, rice and beans, chips and salsa, assorted sauces, and all kinds of desserts from brownies to cupcakes.

***Sunday brought a stir of activity within the dorm. From winter clothes to thank you cards, the students were excited – and perhaps a bit nervous – to meet their dorm parents. Dorm daughters and dudes gathered in the youth center and were soon greeted by their "parents."***

***Although some of the families were unable to attend, the remaining students were welcomed by all and quickly "adopted." The smiles grew, and within a matter of minutes, the inviting atmosphere was filled with cheerful conversation and laughter.***

***Games served as an icebreaker and a partial introduction as each dorm daughter and dude became more comfortable with their families. Snacks were brought to each table, and many of the students took photos with their "parents" all throughout the party.***

***Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal of enchiladas and tamales (those were some GOOD tamales) followed by a selection of delicious desserts. To close off the event Anselmo C., from the Class of 2023, spoke for worship, sharing a story from the Bible that correlated to the event at hand--the feeding of the five thousand. Although the crowd was large, Jesus provided food and rest for all. His disciples distributed the loaves and fishes to the multitude; no one was left hungry. The care of Jesus, along with the patience and helpfulness of the disciples, clearly shone through every person attending the event that evening.***

***After worship, gifts followed. Once everything was said and done, the dorms welcomed back their respective students, each with arms full of presents and smiles on every face. It was an evening well spent and a memory that will not soon be forgotten.***

If you stood in the Youth Center at one of the reveal parties and looked around the room at the "adopting parents," you would see some of the most lovely people.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

They might not all be someone you recognize from the platform at church, because God truly gives us all different gifts. It might be that older lady who sits halfway down the middle section of the church on the right. Or it might be that sweet family with the little toddler who gives you that irresistible grin from the back of his pew. And if you knew them, they would probably be the ones you would want praying for your children or grandchildren. At Ozark, we are so thankful for the prayers, Christ-like example, and unselfish spirit of those who sign up for the Dorm Daughter and Dorm Dude program. And maybe that unselfish example our students see from these church members will be what the Holy Spirit brings to their minds when these kids need it the most.



One of the members of the Springtown Seventh-day Adventist Church shares a gift with her dorm daughter at the reveal party on December 11, 2022.

If you would like to sign up to be a dorm parent for the 2023-2024 school year, just send us an email at [information@ozarkacademy.org](mailto:information@ozarkacademy.org). We will get you on the list to learn when and where things are happening.

## Heard Around Campus

When we asked some of the students what gifts they liked best, here are some of the answers we received.

Elly C. - Homemade cookies and a pillowcase

Kim L. - Stuffed animal and a heated teddy bear

Eden B. - Starbucks gift card

David C. - Sweater

Nikko M. - Cards and notes

Jaxson G., - Just meeting them

Miguel S. - Amazon gift card

Wendy L. - Hair clips

Angie C. - Sloth plant and calendar

Hannah C. - Stuffed animal

Autumn G. - To finally meet my dorm mom

Elena C. - Flowers

Kylie L. - Two different kinds of lip gloss and some "amazing cookies"

Timothy F. - Blanket





## In The Trenches

It was almost as if you were there. You could feel the wind blowing against your cheek in the hot air balloon. You instinctively went around the gaps in the wood planks in those mud-drenched trenches. The sound of exploding artillery fire vibrated through your chest like a piece of lead from the loudspeaker located only feet from your chest. The rat that went careening around the corner behind you, and looked significantly larger than your shoe, seemed so real it made more than one of Ms. Bazy's students scream out loud!



One of Ms. Bazy's English IV students walking through the War Remains exhibit at the National World War I Museum and Memorial on August 30, 2022.

It was called the War Remains. And it was located on one of the upper floors of The National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City. It was a virtual reality experience Ozark students in Ms. Bazy's English IV class had the opportunity to walk through when they visited the museum on August 30, 2022. Her students were studying poetry in World War I and going through the exhibits gave them a clearer view into the mind and lives of those who lived during the horrors of the war.

Although Ms. Bazy already has two masters degrees, she never quits learning. Almost every summer, she applies for a grant to take a Summer Institute course sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.



One summer, she received a grant that took her to Alabama to study civil rights. She has been in classes in California and Maryland. The grant she received last summer put her in Kansas City at the WWI Museum. She had such a great experience that she didn't rest until her students were there too. Will she go somewhere this summer? She has already applied for two grants. It's probably true what they say, you can't teach and you can't share what you don't have. And if there is anything Ms. Bazy has, it's a love of learning.



*One of the many visitors who came to watch the nativity on December 16 and 17, 2022.*

## FROM CHRISTMAS TO THE CROSS

OZARK ADVENTIST ACADEMY'S LIVE NATIVITY

She was probably only three or four years old. And as she stood there, with the bright, innocent eyes of a child taking in the scene around her, she saw the costumed beggars, the soldiers towering on horseback above her, and the merchants calling out their wares on Bethlehem's streets. The smell of hay, the soldiers' horses, and calves munching grass in their tiny enclosure filled the air around the "village." This is how Ozark Adventist Academy's live nativity "From Christmas to the Cross" began. Each of the five hundred people that walked through the eleven scenes in this re-enactment of some of the most important scenes from the life of Christ started in Bethlehem.



*Several families stop to watch the eleventh scene in the nativity depicting Christ's resurrection on December 17, 2022.*

For many, the story was not a new one. But for this little girl with her eyes open wide in wonder, some of it was. She knew the story of there being no room in the inn, and she knew the story of Jesus being born in the manger.

And as she walked through each of the scenes, past the full inn, past the manger with real hay the black llama would have loved to have eaten, she took in more of the story. She saw the re-enactment of the three wise men giving their gifts, the feeding of the five thousand, and the blind man that was healed.

But as she moved past the scene of the plotting priests, she started to see a part of the story she had not seen before. And as the soldiers dressed in their bright red uniforms, complete with a plume gracing the top of their helmets, stood and talked of crucifying Christ, tears began to slide down her innocent face. And standing under the cross, like the disciples of old, she didn't yet see the resurrection in the next scene. She hadn't yet heard the song "My Redeemer Lives" break the silence. It was here on Ozark Adventist Academy's campus she realized the complete story and saw the full picture. It was here she learned that Christ died and rose again. And walking into the warmth of Ozark's cafeteria for the nativity's final stop of homemade cookies and hot chocolate, the tear stains remained.

This is why Judy Fetters spent so many hours planning and organizing Ozark Adventist Academy's live nativity. This is why Ozark's students, staff, and volunteers stood in the cold, dressed in their period costumes, and why so many members from Northwest Arkansas churches volunteered to build and install the sets, to bake cookies, and to drive shuttles to and from the start of the nativity. Because Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."



*More Photos*



A man in a black jacket is speaking in a classroom, gesturing with his right hand. The background shows colorful posters on a wall.

## IN THE CLASSROOM WITH MR. TIMMS

He sat there in his seat thinking, "who in their right mind would go there." But as Derek Timms, not the religion and Sabbath School teacher we know now but a young man of 18, walked out Ozark Adventist Academy's lecture hall door, he grabbed a packet about the European Bible School of Health and Agriculture in Skotselv, Norway. He was hoping not to learn more about their Bible training program but to see more stunning images of Norway. And to this day, he will tell you, he doesn't know why he filled out the included application and sent it in. He hadn't even wanted to go. He didn't ask his parents, and he didn't have any money. But sometimes, like this time, God moves upon the heart.

Derek went to Norway, then to Union College, followed by the Seminary at Andrews University. But it was while enrolled as a student at the EBS in Norway he realized he wanted "to teach the Bible." And it was while enrolled in this program Derek found his first classroom, teaching English to students in Debra Tabor, Ethiopia.



Students taking notes in one of Mr. Timms Religion IV classes.

His students didn't have any shoes and often had only one set of clothes, but they had quick minds and contagious smiles; and Mr. Timms will tell you a happier group of students would be hard to find.

And today, Derek is still in the classroom, not teaching English on the arid highland deserts in Ethiopia, but teaching students about the Bible at Ozark Adventist Academy in Gentry. Mr. Timms teaches a weekly Sabbath School class on our campus as well as Religion II, Religion III, and Religion IV. And we are excited about what is happening in his classes.

In Norway, Derek Timms found a life-changing relationship with Christ that he still can't quite put into words. And this type of relationship is what he wants for his current students. The curriculum he currently uses in his classroom is built upon the same principles that led him to Christ in Norway.

During the 2022-2023 school year, Ozark Adventist Academy began implementing changes in its Bible curriculum. Within the guidelines established by the Southwestern Union and North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, Ozark has integrated the books Patriarchs and Prophets, Prophets and Kings, The Desire of Ages, Acts of the Apostles, and The Great Controversy, books all written by Ellen White, into the curriculum. Together, these five volumes make up a series known as the Conflict of the Ages.

During their 9th grade year, students in Religion I, which is taught by Michael Smith, Ozark's head boys' dean, read and study the book Patriarchs and Prophets. During the tenth grade, students study Prophets and Kings. Junior students in Religion III read The Desire of Ages, and Seniors in the 12th grade go through Acts of the Apostles and the Great Controversy. So throughout their course of study at Ozark, students who attend all four years will have walked through the whole Bible, beginning at creation and ending in eternity.

**"I love that it doesn't feel like a class. It feels like a Bible study, which is what I think a religion class should be."**

**Jaxson G. (Class of 2024)**

Mr. Timms believes that in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, there is a danger within our young people of losing our identity. Many students are not reading their Bibles and often do not know what they believe or what the Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches. The changes in Ozark's Bible curriculum is designed to enable students to study not just the writings of Ellen White but lead them to a study of the verses and sections of the Bible on which each chapter of the Conflict of the Ages series is based. Jaxson G., a junior at Ozark and a student of Mr. Timms, studying The Desire of Ages, said, "I love that it doesn't feel like a class. It feels like a Bible study, which is what I think a religion class should be."

Derek Timms is not just implementing changes in his Religion classes; but new and exciting things are also happening in his Sabbath School class, which is in the same classroom as Religion II, III, and IV. Ozark has multiple Sabbath School classes students can choose to attend, but Mr. Timms' class is the one currently focused on Evangelism.

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Students in the class are studying a curriculum called "Three Cosmic Messages" based on the book "Earth's Final Conflict" by Mark Finley. It was originally designed to be a one-semester high school Bible curriculum, but Mr. Timms received permission from the author to adapt the program to his Sabbath School class.

Three Cosmic Messages is an in-depth study of the three angel's messages depicted in Revelation 14. The lessons contained in the spiral-bound notebook are not just built around students learning the information for themselves. It is built around them learning to share it. The lessons teach topics such as how to prepare and deliver a sermon, effective ways to use illustrations, and how to make appeals. It also contains links to short excerpts from sermons by Mark Finley, which are designed to be used as examples of some of the principles taught in the lessons. The goal of this class is for students to be prepared to present an entire evangelistic series based on Revelation 14.



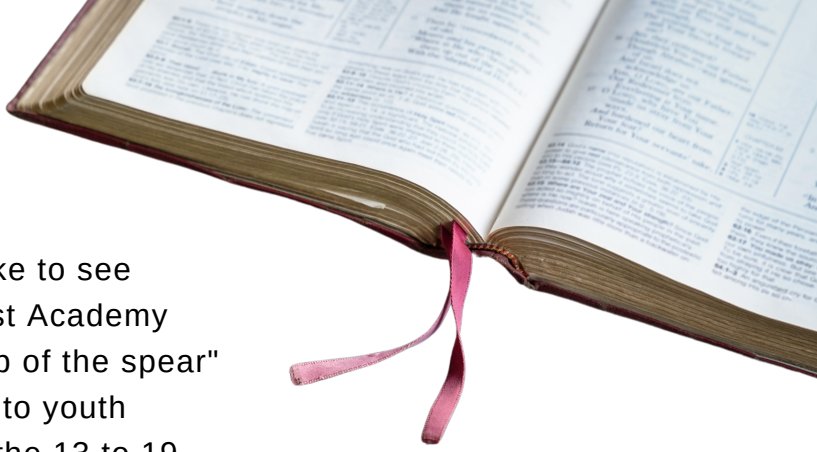
Mark Finley's book Earth's Final Conflict and the Three Cosmic Messages Curriculum students in Mr. Timms Sabbath School class are studying.

In March, we are planning for this to happen on Ozark's campus. During the cold winter months of January and February, students will be practicing their sermons on each other during Sabbath School. But starting in March, it goes to the whole school. Based on Christ's example in Luke 10:1 where Jesus sent evangelists out "two and two," students will be speaking in pairs; less experienced speakers will be paired with students who have more public speaking experience, and they will present the topics together.

But next year is when it really gets interesting. We don't want the presentations to just stay on Ozark's campus. Our goal, our plan, and our desire is to stream the same series to other churches to reach young people throughout the conference. Robert Fetters, Ozark's Principal, has been applying for grants and working on fundraising projects to upgrade Ozark's live-streaming equipment in the auditorium. This would enable Ozark to be a tool to reach students for Christ wherever an internet connection can be found.



One of the presenters during the upcoming evangelistic series speaks about what we put on that blocks out God during Ozark's Days of Prayer on January 13, 2023.



Derek would like to see Ozark Adventist Academy become the "tip of the spear" when it comes to youth evangelism in the 13 to 19 year-old age group. While a student at the seminary at Andrews University, Mr. Timms was offered the opportunity to leave his current high school teaching position and work on his doctorate and become the director of the seminary's Discipleship and Religious Education Department. But Mr. Timms turned down this opportunity. He feels God has called him to teach the Bible to young people in the 13 to 19 year-old age group. He says at this age; their "identity is still being set. This is the seat of people choosing who they are and who they want to become. By 19 you are who you are going to be."

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE THREE ANGELS MESSAGES CURRICULUM**

Hanging in the corner on one of the blackboards in Derek's classroom is a simple award printed on plain white copy paper. It was presented to him by some of Ozark's students, and it simply reads "Most Understanding Teacher." To Derek Timms, this award means more than his two Bachelor's degrees in Education and his Master's degree in Religious Education; and it shows where his heart is. For him, life is not about receiving a larger income or about pleasing himself. It is about doing the work God has called him to do. It is about reaching the ones Christ sends and training them to do the same. It's about creating a ripple effect which may not be felt until that last trumpet sounds.

**DONATE TO HELP UPDATE OAA'S LIVE-STREAM EQUIPMENT**

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

**"What do you think about the curriculum in Mr. Timms' Religion Class?"**

"I like the deep spiritual lessons."  
Woobin J.

"It's an amazing class." Simon A.

"I like it because it goes into depth of what the Bible doesn't talk about. It explains a lot." Kim L.

"It is a lot of reading." Alexa T.

"I like it. I like getting to read a chapter every other day."  
Nathan P.

"You always learn something new. I feel like every time I go to Mr. Timms class it is a new day and a new opportunity to get closer to God." Sasha D. & Jodi D.

I feel like "I have learned more about different people who served God throughout history."  
Owen B.

**"How do you feel about Mr. Timms as a Teacher?"**

"He is a really good teacher, patient and kind." Alexa T.

"He is my favorite teacher. He is someone I can go talk too and see things about my relationship with God I wouldn't have seen."  
Jaxson G.

"I like Mr. Timms because you can tell him anything and be open with him. If you have a problem, he will help you. He explains lessons really well." Kim L.

"He is a very kind and caring teacher. He takes time to listen and give advice. He understands students. - Woobin J.





# GIVE

to make an Adventist  
Christian education  
possible to those with  
financial need.

## MIKE DALE SCHOLARSHIP

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She's about to graduate from college now despite neither of her parents having a college degree. I am not even sure they finished high school. They both work at jobs where they make around minimum wage, and they don't see the value of education. And even if they did, they couldn't have afforded to send their daughter to Ozark anyway. That is why the Mike Dale Scholarship is here. When Mike Dale, a former Principal at Ozark, passed away several years ago, his family set up a Scholarship Fund to help underprivileged high-school students receive a Christian education. Mike loved our students.

Mrs. Giddings, Ozark's history teacher, probably summed up his attitude best when she told her students, "You are all my favorites." Mr. Dale gave of himself to help Ozark students. And like this girl, he even sometimes worked out a way to fund their college tuition. The Mike Dale Scholarship Fund keeps Mike's legacy alive on our campus and enables students to receive a Christian education that would be otherwise impossible. Donations to the Mike Dale Scholarship Fund can be made below.





# PRINCIPAL'S COUNCIL MATCHING CAMPAIGN

For decades, people with a passion for Seventh-day Adventist education have sacrificed and labored tirelessly for Ozark Adventist Academy. A new group of Ozark friends with close ties to OAA and the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference are now also supporting Ozark.

Partnering with the Academy, the Principal's Council, headed by *Leon Slikkers* and *Bob Hosteter*, is dreaming big for the present and future needs of OAA. Three faculty homes have already been completely renovated; and other capital improvement projects, such as repainting and resealing the floor in the gymnasium, are already in motion on campus. If you missed their recent matching campaign letter in your mailbox, a link to the letter is available below.



Donations to the Principal's Council Fund to help with capital and educational improvement projects on Ozark's campus can be made via the link below.



The Principal's Council's goal for the 2022-2023 school year is to raise 500,000 dollars. So far the matching campaign has raised 267,871 dollars. We are excited about the improvements that are coming to our campus. And we appreciate all those who support our school and want to make it an even better place for our young people.

## AUDITORIUM IMPROVEMENTS

A capital improvement project that is being funded separately from the Principal's Council is the renovation of our auditorium and its live-streaming equipment. An article in this issue of *The Upward Look* on page 12, talks about Mr. Timms and Ozark's desire to enable our students to use digital evangelism to reach others in the conference for Christ. If you would like to give specifically to this capital improvement project. A link is available below.



# GIRLS' CLUB BANQUET

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December 4, 2022



Often used as a venue for weddings, the barn at Enchanted Valley Farm in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, was the site chosen for Ozark Adventist Academy's December Banquet. And it was a beautiful spot. Its classic deep red paint and massive interior staircase whispered tales of rustic grandeur. The farm boasted special touches like an old white carriage perfect for pictures and a leather saddle hanging from chains on the front porch. Without a doubt, there have been many magical moments in this place; and ours definitely was among them.

For many Ozark students who walked down the lush, red carpet and through the barn's massive sliding doors on that fourth of December, excitement sparkled in the air like magic. It wasn't an informal event with jeans, hay bales, and cowboy hats. Many of the boys, in their black suit coats, bow ties, and shiny dress shoes, coordinated with the color of their date's formal dress. White tablecloths, golden silverware, and ornate plates graced each student's place.



Freshly-cut roses and flickering candles made up the table's centerpieces, and bottles of sparkling grape juice were carefully placed on every table.

Ozark Adventist Academy's Girls' Club was responsible for planning this year's event. When the girls helping plan the evening saw this venue, Michaëlle Cherine, one of Ozark Adventist Academy's girls' deans, said they "fell in love with it." Enchanted Valley Farm is a venue banquet planners at OAA could probably never afford. But Dean Micha, as Michelle Cherine is known in the dorm, said the owners of Enchanted Valley Farm are Christians and gave our school a significant discount. We feel so blessed to be surrounded by a community that supports Christian education.

Next year the Boys' Club will plan the December banquet. One year they chose to arrange an evening for the whole school at a bowling alley with arcade games and mini golf. Another year they took the entire school to a skating rink in Rogers. We are excited about what Dean Smith and the Boys' Club will plan for the December 2023 banquet!

**VIEW VIDEO FROM  
ENCHANTED  
VALLEY FARM**



A few of the portraits taken during the banquet at Enchanted Valley Farm on December 4, 2022.



# SOCCKER AT UNION COLLEGE

**October 20-22, 2022**

It is quite intense. You must be prepared to run, and run, and then run some more. When Ozark Adventist Academy's Skyhawk Soccer Team stepped onto the field on October 20, 2022, for Union College's Fall Soccer Tournament, they were scheduled for two back-to-back games. The first one started at 11:30 a.m., and the second one began at 1:30 p.m. Ozark also had a third game at 4:45 p.m. The tournament is physically demanding and is not for the faint of heart.

All the competing soccer teams, from Andrews Academy in Michigan to North Tampa Academy in Florida, were scheduled for three games on Thursday, the first day of the tournament. The results of Thursday's games were used to determine each team's placement on Friday.

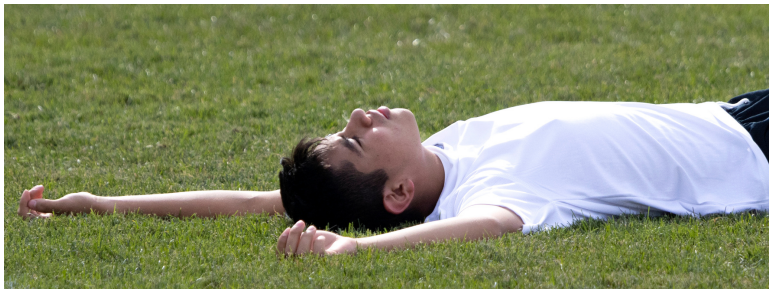
There were two divisions in the tournament, the Thunderdome and the Clocktower. After Thursday's games, the teams with the best records were ranked in the Thunderdome Division.

Teams with fewer wins were seeded in the Clocktower Division. All the games during the day on Friday and on Saturday night were single-elimination. If you lost one game, you were out.

The October 2022 Tournament was Ozark's first trip to Union College's Soccer Tournament, and Ozark's Skyhawk Soccer Team probably didn't end up with the record they hoped they would have against the more experienced teams.



Ozark only won two games at the tournament; but Mr. Timms, Ozark's Religion teacher and soccer coach, was proud of our players. He said many of the games could have gone either way, and several of the games ended in an overtime shoot-out. But this wasn't the only reason Derek Timms was proud of them. Maybe you have seen it before at other sporting events or tournaments; flaring tempers, harsh words, and angry looks.



One of Ozark's sophomore players during a break in Ozark's second game against Mile High Academy on October 20, 2022.

We saw none of that from our players. What we saw was Anselmo C., Ozark's team pastor, praying with not just our team but with the opposing team as well. We saw Thien-An L., holding the door open for other players to enter into buildings. We saw Kham K. walking across the soccer field with his arm around an opposing team member's shoulder. We saw the ability to win and lose with grace and we saw Christian attitudes and smiles.

On Thursday, the boys ran until they couldn't run much more. They slept in empty dorm rooms in sleeping bags, and the schedule was so busy sometimes they had to eat on the run. But if you asked most of our players, they would tell you they would definitely go back.



Ozark won their second game against Mile High Academy on Thursday, October 20, 2022.



Two of Ozark's sophomore soccer players race down 49ers field during Ozark's third game on Thursday, October 20, 2022, against North Dallas.

**Continued on page 22**



A stop for ice cream after one of the soccer games during the Union College Fall Tournament, October 20-22, 2022.

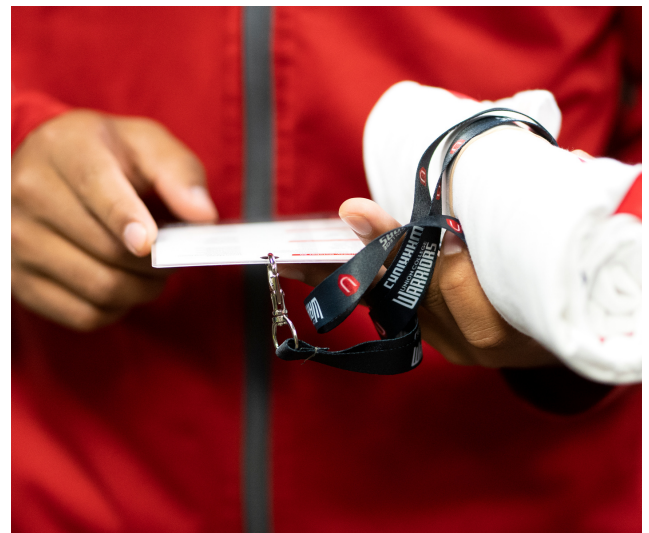


A college student cheers on Ozark's players on 49ers field at Union College.

We also asked some of our soccer players what they liked best about the Union Tournament, and one of the most common comments we got was, "the grass!" It was the kind that was so thick it made you want to just kick off your socks and shoes and feel that lushness in between your toes. Some of the other things our students enjoyed about the tournament was "the unity," the "bonding experience and getting to hang out with everyone," the "fellowship we had with one another," and "the attitude of the other teams."

There was a great group of students there, not just from our school but from academies across the country. Mrs. Upson, one of Ozark's sponsors and our school photographer, met three players from Sunnydale Academy in the elevator. They were riding up and down just to make friends with whoever stepped inside.

Union's Fall Tournament has three separate tournament areas, boys' soccer, girls' volleyball, and golf. Ozark does not currently have a golf team but additional photos from both the boys' soccer games and girls' volleyball games are available with the link on the right.



Every player received a name badge on a Union College lanyard. This served as the student's scanable meal ticket. Students also received a tournament t-shirt from Union College.

More photos are available below





# Work Sponsorship

It doesn't happen every year. But every now and then, we order a big box of hoodies in grey or blue with Ozark's name and logo on the front. The hoodies are usually about \$40. Students and staff pay for the hoodie when the order is placed. We don't order any extras. When the boxes arrive, they are all passed out to whoever ordered them. They are usually fairly popular with the students.

For most of us, \$40 is not a big amount, but for her, it was an insurmountable obstacle. She came from a single-parent family, and her mom just couldn't afford it. We have quite a few students, who, like her, come from families where even a \$40 hoodie is not possible, let alone a private Christian education.

One of the available options to help students like this while they help themselves is to become a work sponsor. Students in Ozark's work program usually work around two hours a day plus three four-hour shifts in the cafeteria per semester. Students with work sponsors earn more toward their tuition. A work sponsor may sign up to pay twenty cents an hour, so for each hour the student works, they make twenty cents an hour more toward their tuition and fees. The work sponsor would just pay \$2 a week when the student worked all ten hours. The work sponsor chooses the amount to sponsor. It is often as little as .10 or as much as \$5.00 an hour, but it can be anything. Students can have more than one sponsor, and together, sponsors can make a significant impact on tuition costs.

At Ozark, we have several students whose families are genuinely struggling financially. If you would like to help sponsor a student in our work program, Mr. Upson in the business office can help you find a student who really needs help. And although you may not get to see their face light up like the student who desperately wanted the hoodie, when someone unexpectedly bought one for her, you can make a meaningful impact on a young person's life.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT WORK SPONSORSHIP**



## BEHOLD OUR GOD

### THE GREATEST GIFT

I can almost see him at six years old in the little city of Sighetu-Marmatiei, Romania. Picking up his first violin and looking down those metal strings trying to get his little fingers in just the right places. For Gabriel Blotor, that's where the music started.

His first instrument was the violin. It wasn't until high school that he added the piano and switched from the violin to the viola. And I can almost see him there, at the Music Conservatory in Strasbourg, France—the music rooms, the orchestra practice sessions, the performances—where Gabriel studied and earned his degree in music. How I wish I could have slipped through one of their back doors for a few moments—just to catch a snippet of their music that transcends language.



Ozark Adventist School students performing during OAA's Christmas Concert on December 10, 2022.

Gabriel Blotor has brought the abilities, skills, and expertise he learned in Strasbourg to Ozark Adventist Academy. Mr. Blotor is now Ozark's new music director and teaches orchestra, choir, handbells, and praise team. He also teaches private music lessons.



Mr. Blotor's first concert at OAA was Ozark's Christmas Concert entitled "Behold Our God" performed on December 10, 2022. It wasn't just a concert made up of Ozark students. It was a combined effort with musicians from local churches, OAA alumni, Chisholm Trail Academy, and students from Ozark Adventist School joining in with the students in Mr. Blotor's music classes.

Conner Mason, an OAA alumnus from the Class of 2011, is the Music Director at Chisholm Trail Academy. He drove up from Texas with between forty and fifty choir and orchestra students to help with the concert. And just as in days gone by, Roberta Yeagley again stood on the choir risers, notes from Angel Pfeiffer's flute echoed off the church's brick walls, and Lisa East's contagious smile still lit up more than her row in the midst of flutes, saxophones, and trumpets. Not all the participating alumni live in the Northwest Arkansas area, and one of our alums even flew in from Idaho to be part of the orchestra. We are so blessed to have a community of alumni who are willing to travel such distances to be part of events like this!



Ozark Adventist Academy handbell students playing in the Christmas Concert on December 10, 2022 at the Gentry SDA Church.

Out of all the community members, alumni, and students that played or sang in the concert on that dark December night, the ones that truly stood out were the children. When the pre-K through 8th-grade students from Ozark Adventist School walked in single-file lines into that darkened sanctuary dressed in their crisp white shirts and holding miniature battery-powered lights, it was stunning. But when you added their innocent voices singing "On this Christmas Morning" by Stephanie Boohsada and Darrell Harris and arranged by Terry Winch, it was positively breathtaking. And when they all stood at the front of the church, you couldn't help but smile at the little guy on the front row who held his candle every way but straight, and totally uninhibited by the grandeur of the moment, held himself every way but still.

**"It was like the first chapter of the second coming of Christ when the heavens first break open," and the glory of God shines through.**

Ozark Adventist Academy Parent

A parent of one of our Ozark Adventist Academy students probably summed up the concert best when she said, "It was like the first chapter of the second coming of Christ when the heavens first break open," and the glory of God shines through. She said "Mr. Blotor did a great job." It was "awesome."



The entire stage at the Gentry SDA Church during the "Behold Our God" Concert.

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While at the Music Conservatory in Strasbourg, France, Gabriel Blotor's music emphasis was in orchestra conducting and viola performance.

The next musical event happening on Ozark's campus is Music Festival, March 1-4, 2023. Ozark Adventist Academy's Music Department would like to invite students in grades 5-10 to stay on our campus, eat in our cafeteria, increase their musical skills, and participate in another fabulous concert during Music Festival weekend.

More information and online registration for Ozark's Music Festival is available via the link below.

More Photos from the Ozark's Christmas Concert are available below.



Ozark Adventist Academy orchestra students playing alto saxophones during the Christmas Concert on December 10, 2022 at the Gentry SDA Church.



She is probably only nine or ten, but this Ozark Adventist School student's solo was one of the highlights of the concert.



## AHKEEM DARDEN

# "FIX MY WORSHIP"

Ahkeem Darden stood on the stage with his back facing a room full of empty seats. In front of him was a myriad of Ozark students in a semicircle, many of them with their arms around a friend or two next to them. This was the moment he had been working for and praying about all week. This was the climax of his series of meetings. And this was when he was going to make the call.

And slipping in the back door of Ozark Adventist Academy's auditorium, you could feel it. It was just like it says in the song, "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place." And as he was finishing his appeal and asking the students if they would like to let go of trying to run their lives by themselves and let God take control, Cole Hagele, Ozark's Athletic Director, estimates that approximately 35 students raised their hand.

Ahkeem Darden was invited to our campus by Gabriel Blotor, Ozark's Music Director. He wanted his music students to have the opportunity to hear Mr. Darden's series of meetings called "Fix My Worship." When Cole Hagele heard the first meeting, he brought all the students in his athletic department to the meetings as well. Ahkeem was on Ozark's Campus and next door at the Gentry SDA Church from Wednesday, October 5, through Saturday, October 8. God is working on our campus. And we are thankful for all those that come and minister to our students.

See photos from campus on Sabbath, November 8, 2022.





## "Rosie the Riveter"

She says it every year. "We are not ready!" But she always is. When the curtains open, Ms. Bazzy and her Drama and Stage Production classes always do a great job! That dropped line, and that one person who is standing in the wrong spot aren't usually noticed by the audience. Every year Ms. Bazzy's students perform something different. This year, on Saturday night, November 5, the full-length play was "Rosie the Riveter" by Trey Clarkson.

For this special night, Mrs. Waggoner, who works in the business office, and her daughter Emma were downstairs before the play in the midst of a cloud of hairspray, curling irons, and lipstick, helping the on-stage cast members perfect their 1940s hairstyles and make-up.

The dresses, props, and costumes, like the mailman costume with its phony red tie and the old authentic 1940's camera, complete with a light that flashed, were as original looking as possible. James Harris, an architect who teaches OAA's Topics in Architecture class, constructed radios that looked convincingly real, specifically for the play. Ms. Bazzy never said who loaned the school the authentic army green World War II military uniform, complete with service ribbons, shiny medals, and buttons. But Ms. Bazzy emphatically told the students not to touch the uniform or those medals and ribbons that now adorned Cameron's chest. It truly took a whole team of students, staff, and community members to make this full-length play a success.

The single performance of "Rosie the Riveter" on November 5 raised \$510.00 from ticket sales, \$440 dollars from donations, and \$311 dollars from the bake sale that took place in the lobby. Tickets to the play were \$5.00. The money raised each year from the full-length play is often used to buy new equipment, props, and scripts. This year, three new wireless on-ear microphones were purchased that students can use not just for drama but for any performance in the auditorium.

Nathan P., from the Class of 2024 and one of the on-stage cast members, wrote a detailed description of what happened in the play. It is available below.

***"We can do it!" Set during World War II, Rosie the Riveter by Trey Clarkson tells the story of the women who worked in factories to support the war effort by providing ammunition and other supplies for the troops fighting on the battlefield. The role women played in WWII was crucial but is sometimes overlooked. This play sheds some light on how essential women really were to the war and the workforce. With almost twenty cast members, the Ozark Drama Department worked tirelessly on Rosie the Riveter for around two months. With help from many generous people and organizations, this production had it all: comedy and sincerity, love and heartbreak.***

***The story follows a group of locals from Cook County, Illinois. The play opens at Eddie's Auto Parts Factory, where Rose O'Connell, played by Autumn G., tries to persuade her boss Eddie Kendrick, played by Nathan P., to convert his factory from manufacturing cars to riveting parts for airplanes and other military vehicles.***



"Based in small part on a real-life munitions worker, but primarily a fictitious character, the strong, bandanna-clad Rosie became one of the most successful recruitment tools in American history, and the most iconic image of working women in the World War II era." from history.com.

***Eddie accepts this task on the condition that "Rosie" convinces some of her friends to work at the factory as well. Unfortunately, Rosie has no clue where or how to recruit more women to the cause, that is, until she crosses paths with an ex-coworker and close friend, John Stanley, played by Thien-An L.***



CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

*John tells her that his fiancé has a weekly card night with her social club, and he invites her over. When Rosie makes her pitch to the social club, she wins over the young Katherine Hartley, played by Eden B. However, Rosie receives backlash from John's fiancé Helen Henley, played by Solace G. Helen argues that women's duty is to the home, not to the workforce. John tries to tell Helen that what Rosie is trying to do is the right thing, but Helen refuses to let her beliefs sway. Throughout the play, the gap between Helen and John widens as she finds out that he decided to join the military without asking her. The rivalry between Helen and Rosie also grows as Rosie confesses her love for John, and he is torn between who to choose and what to do. Regardless of the circumstances, Rosie finds enough women workers to put Eddie's factory in the war business.*

*Sometime later, John is a sergeant in the 1st Infantry, and Eddie's factory is one of the most successful factories in the United States. Hoping to recreate this success, the military sends a colonel to commercialize the factory by inspiring women all over the country with Rosie's face. Everything seems to be just right until a horrific accident at the factory results in the death of Rosie's second-in-command, Katherine Hartley. Rosie blames Eddie for Katherine's death, and rightfully so because he cut corners and ignored the safety protocols that led to her death. But Rosie doesn't allow this tragedy to impede the work at the factory. In fact, Katherine's sacrifice becomes a motivation for the women to work harder so that her death won't be in vain.*



***As soon as things start to get back to normal, Eddie decides to move the business to New Jersey. There, the factory would move to larger operations, but most of the women working for him would lose their jobs because the local labor force couldn't sustain the old factory. And what makes things worse is that Eddie doesn't tell any of the factory girls about it. The day before Eddie is going to leave, Helen comes to him asking for a favor. She is worried that something has happened to John because he hasn't written to her in a long time. Since Eddie is widely popular and known to be in contact with the military, Helen asks Eddie if he could ask the colonel to make a call and find out if John is alright. Eddie agrees, and the colonel makes the call. Unfortunately, bad news precedes. Eddie and Helen find out that John has been killed on Omaha Beach. Helen is devastated over John's death. When Rosie receives the news, she is absolutely heartbroken. Knowing how Rosie felt about her fiancé, Helen puts her differences aside and tries to comfort Rosie. Rosie then discovers that Eddie is moving, and her sadness becomes rage as she berates Eddie and his selfish decisions. She reveals that the reason she joined the war effort was the small chance that God would favor her and keep her "Johnny" alive. Just as she quits and completely gives up, the factory workers encourage her that this isn't the end.***

***They tell her that each one of them has lost a loved one to the war, but no matter how much it hurts, they still have a duty to their country. The girls remind Rosie that she is who women all over the country look to, that she is Rosie the Riveter. Helen assures Eddie and Rosie that she will personally see to it that the women of her social group will help keep the factory up and running after they move. So, Rosie pulls herself together and decides to move with Eddie to the new factory in Jersey; and Helen, her friends, and the other factory girls would keep the old factory and its legacy alive.***



In the script, Rosie slaps Eddie. Nathan and Autumn, the OAA cast members playing those characters, never felt like they got a counterfeit slap to look authentic. So Nathan told Autumn before the performance, "Just do it." In the play, the slap was real. Nathan said it was only red for a little while...

After the curtain closed on the final scene, and the performers took their last bow, Nathan P., said performing in the play was "super exciting," and even though the practices "may have been a bit much, it was worth the effort."

More pictures from "Rosie the Riveter" are available below.

# ACADEMY DAYS



## THE UPWARD LOOK

COMING TO OZARK  
ADVENTIST ACADEMY  
ON APRIL 21 & 22, 2023

Come and visit Ozark Adventist Academy! On April 21 and 22, 2023, OAA will be having an Academy Days program for students in grades 8-11. Interact with teachers, staff, and students, play games, win prizes, watch the drama presentation performed by Ozark students, enjoy OAA's music and gymnastics performances, and much more. Join us for Academy Days 2023 and discover what Ozark has to offer!

Register online via the link below.

If you would like to schedule a tour of our campus at a different time, just give us a call at 479.736.2221 or contact us via the link below. We would love to show you around our school!