



## RAM 2016 Summer Update



### **Summer Missions & Ministry Experience**

For 4 weeks, R.A.M. students are introduced to the unique needs and opportunities of the widely overlooked rural mission field. We recognize the limitations of a 4 week missions experience and so with this in mind we:

- Partner with churches already on mission or are willing to implement missional practices in their community when partnering with RAM.
- Insure our students are involved in activities that maximize the impact of their ministry while serving with RAM.
- Place special emphasis on outreach activities focused on children and teens, as well as community service projects.

### **RAM students represented the following universities:**

- Lubbock Christian University
- Oklahoma Christian University
- Oklahoma State University

### **Majors ranged from:**

- Political Science
- Psychology
- Education
- Electrical Engineering
- Ag Communications
- Ministry

**Mission points included:**

- Cordell, OK with the 4<sup>th</sup> & College Church of Christ
- Granite, Mangum and Willow, OK with the Granite and Mangum Churches of Christ
- Seymour, TX with the Seymour Church of Christ.

**Missions and ministry highlights:**

- Door to door sign-ups for two separate week-long Vacation Bible Schools reaching 2900 households in two counties and four communities.
- Over 82 children in attendance at Cordell VBS. A 35% increase from the previous year's Cordell Christian Camp attendance!
- Provided teaching, counseling, set-up and supervision for two Vacation Bible schools, a Neighborhood Cookout and evangelistic outreach, a Children's Carnival outreach (appx. 35 parents were contacted for the first time through this event), a Worship in the Park event, and a community wide Food Drive.
- Led or participated in multiple youth group bible studies, youth devotionals, a youth Lock-in, and a New Convert bible study. Some of the young men had preaching opportunities.
- Visitation outreach to local nursing home, hospital, church visitors, and shut-ins.
- Community service project painting over 150 music stands for Seymour Public High School.

**Vocational Missions Internship**

In addition to our Summer Missions & Ministry experience RAM offers students opportunities to work in rural communities as Vocational Interns.

Wesley Duncan, an Oklahoma Christian University Senior majoring in Political Science served an additional four and a half weeks as a RAM Vocational Missions Intern with the Washita County Drug Court. Here he is pictured with Ken Thiessen, Coordinator for the Washita County Drug Court and Hon. Judge Christopher Kelly (Associate District Judge).



Wesley's responsibilities included: participation in weekly board meetings, court hearings, and meeting with potential drug court applicants and county jail staff. Additionally, Wesley

assisted with case filing and recording. He described his internship as a “very positive experience. I learned a lot! I had fun and got to meet lots of new people. Ken (Drug Court Coordinator) and I in particular hit it off quite well. I also had plenty of time to stay involved with church. It was wonderful.”

Ken Thiessen, Drug Court Coordinator, said of Wesley, “He was a great help. Did very well. No complaints whatsoever. If I had an opportunity to have him back I would certainly welcome that. I’d highly recommend him.” Regarding RAM Ken stated, “Great program you’ve got going there.”



RAM believes that Millennial generation Christians offer rural America a unique blend of enthusiasm for the advancement of the Kingdom and a hunger for community and simplicity notably represented in rural America. We thank God for the opportunity to bring the truth and grace of Jesus to rural America and the special partnership we have with the Millennial Generation in our mission. Their partnership with us, both short-term and long-term, is making a significant difference in rural America. Chris Perrey, Evangelist for the 4<sup>th</sup> & College Church of Christ summarized it well:

The RAM students . . . encouraged our members in various ways. In one sense, just their energy and presence is invigorating to our church. We had members invite them to dinner several nights, and I know that was encouraging both to the students and to our members. They did an excellent job connecting with us even in the short time they were here. These students were a great blessing to our congregation. They enabled us to reach into our community in powerful ways, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication to the Lord!

Plans are now underway for a concentrated focus on all of Washita County in the summer of 2017. We are also recruiting vocational missionaries in the disciplines of medicine, law, education and social services, as well as entrepreneurs who will move to Washita County and help us build the Kingdom county wide. Interested or know someone who might be? Contact us: 405.615.8792 or [raministries@live.com](mailto:raministries@live.com). Thank you for your continued support, both in prayer, participation and finances. God is working!!

