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MOWA

Choctaw Friends Center

*“Walking out the servant life
in “Bama”*



A MINISTRY OF NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING

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“Go back to bed”?

A few kindergarteners help act out our devotion. It is the Bible story where God calls to Samuel in the middle of the night while he is living under the tutelage of Eli. The young boy playing Eli catches on to the pattern quickly. The second time we hear God calling, "Samuel!" he preempts Samuel's response, shouting back at the bodiless voice, "Go back to bed!" The voice of God, along with the rest of us, laughs.

There are a lot of things I will remember from my time spent living and working at the Friends Center. The endless supply of sand. The oppressive summer heat and humidity. The vastness of the starry night sky. The sounds of people talking and dogs barking. The brokenness of families. The joy of friendships. The soreness from working and playing hard. The peace of rest afterwards. My memories are made up of stories, many of them with kids and youth. Some are joyful, others heartbreaking. They range from poignant to ridiculous. Almost all of them are humorous.

Stories are one way that God communicates with us. Jesus told a whole lot of them. The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts through them and in the midst of them. The real question that has been raised in me over and over again in the past three years has been: Are you listening? What has made my experience here so special has not been in the work I have done, which I have enjoyed, or the lessons I have learned, which have been many, or even the blessings I have received, which have been beyond measure. The revelation that I take from this place and time in my life, which is what I ought to share with you, is that God loves the people

here. Really, seriously, passionately, ferociously, *loves* them, despite whatever happens to be in the way.

God calls out to each and every one of them every day. From the eldest great-grandmother to the smallest child. He calls their name, yearning for a response. Perhaps, He does indeed sometimes hear, "Go back to bed!" Still, He is steadfast in His pursuit. Samuel needed four chances to realize who was calling to him, to recognize the voice of God. It often takes me a lot longer. But there is nothing comparable to seeing Christ revealed, suddenly aware that He has been with you the entire time. Through all the work, play, excitement, desperation, fellowship, solitude, frustration, and satisfaction, God wants us to listen and hear Him. In the end, that is the point of it all. I am glad to have had so many chances to see that point made in my life.



As the last year of my service here comes to an end, I am compelled to express my great gratitude. To all of you who have supported me and the MOWA Choctaw Friends Center, thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to witness the awesome, passionate love that God has for His precious creation. May God speak into your lives and use your stories to reveal His love. And may you listen and hear Him.

William Allen

New bathrooms for the Lodge and fire escape installed.



*Yadkin
Quarter
group!*

Thank you to Yadkin Quarter for spear heading our bathroom remodeling upstairs in the lodge.

One more complete bathroom has been added to relieve stress for the 20 people we can currently sleep upstairs.



*New opening to the
bathroom and hallway and
door to fire escape.*



Thank you to Charlie Routh and his partners for building and installing the new fire escape leading to the second floor of the lodge.



A big thank you to North Carolina Friends Disaster Service for the use of their construction trailer for several weeks.

Where insects lurk, there are sure to be school children.

The highlight of every school year at the MCFC after-school program is our Annual field trip.

This year was no different as we visited the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center

featuring larger than life bugs. The Exploreum is a wonderful hands-on place for children. The children ran from display to display eager to try them all out.

The children watched (in amazement) the giant IMAX screen about insects from across the world and then piled back onto the van for an exhausted ride home



Larger-than-life Preying Mantis



The most popular picture spot was the optical illusion spot...Chance with no body.



Most of the children along with Mr. Tim and Mr. Will ate a "taco-flavored" cricket.

Will this be a new summer menu item at SOUL?

Chickens and Eggs and Onions ... oh my...

Tomatoes fresh from the vine, lettuce, spinach and a host of other vegetables are springing up at the MOWA Choctaw Friends Center.

Recently a local neighbor called and offered to sell her chickens to the Center. For several years, Ann has been wanting to add chickens to her "life experience." So, we quickly built them shelter and are now getting a dozen eggs a day.



In addition to helping our food pantry with fresh product, our summer visitors will get to partake of farm fresh organic eggs, and hopefully great locally grown produce.

Flooding in the first few weeks, and now drought conditions continually create struggle with the garden project. A new revelation to us was that gray squirrels love baby onions. They kindly left us about 12 out of a hundred planted.

We received donated blackberry canes this spring and they are slowly but surely taking root. Maybe next spring we can make jam!

This is the good stuff of life, come on down and check it out!

You might be an Intern if ...

*You can go with the flow,
you love children,
you can fly a Frisbee,*

you can wash dishes and scrub toilets.

You can read a book to children, you can cause a group of preteens to laugh.

You can play basketball, football or even dodge ball.

You can burn cookies in the oven, hug a child or a neighbor.

You like heat, sweat, bugs, pine trees and the smell of freshly mowed grass.

You think the ocean is a thing of beauty or a starry night is something you crave.

You want solace or action.

You want to move forward and grow in your life and let God make up your days ...

You could be an Intern at MOWA Choctaw Friends Center.

Contact Darrin Allen at NCYM office for more info.

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function.

Rom 12:4

MOWA Choctaw Friends Center needs.

We are aware that many of you have given to these projects in the past and your continued support is appreciated more than we can express.

Financial Support

Your continued financial support is critical to the ongoing work of the MCFC.

Sponsorship of our afterschool programming has dropped considerably. If you have never sponsored a child please consider doing so.

We are expecting this work to grow next year as we open ourselves to helping the middle school kids (our biggest population age right now)



Prayer Requests

- Safety for all the visiting groups this summer.
- Rain in the southern part of Alabama is desperately needed. We are in a no burn zone.
- For the many families in Northern Alabama that are struggling to put their lives back together after the tornadoes.
- For the families of our community to continue to be open to the saving message of Jesus Christ and that Tim, Ann, and family will remain faithful and be good witnesses to those around us.

Items needed

- ◆ Summer weight clothing items are very low. Please think of us as you clean closets this summer.
- ◆ Khaki's colored pants both girls and boys.
- ◆ Black, Red, White, Gold Polo shirts.
- ◆ Belts for children, good used tennis shoes.
- ◆ Backpacks with school supplies, this is a good time to start packing them up.
- ◆ Household items of any kind, jewelry, dishes, toys, towels and linens are all much needed in this area.