



KDOR-TV 17

BARTLESVILLE/TULSA



May 24, 2017
Station Newsletter

KDOR serves Northeastern Oklahoma for the Glory of God to further the reach of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Joy In Our Town

We met some amazing people this month in the course of producing *Joy in Our Town* at KDOR-TV 17 and had the honor of collaborating with a long time TBN friend, Shawn Sturm, owner of Sturmedia. Shawn introduced us to Mr. Jacob (Jake) Schellenberg the founder of YME Foundation. YME has a big vision and is focused on maximizing youth potential through education. YME stands for Youth Mission Education. The non-profit is result of his Christian belief that when we ourselves are blessed, true life satisfaction is found by looking to see how you can pass it on. Mr. Schellenberg shared his personal testimony and also speaks of how his teachers were instrumental in helping him to grow to be the man he is and to inspire him towards starting and running his own business.



YME has taken a unique approach to rally the community to show support our local educators and also supplement new and alternative learning tools for the classrooms, equipping teachers to better inspire and draw out the passions of their current students. Mr. Schellenberg speaks of “vertical learning” which are activities that get a child up off the seat and hands-on to develop passion and gain knowledge. One tool is the vertical Tower Garden (pictured right). Alternative means of learning can spark a youth’s passion, and he believes this is one of the ways to reach the generation...to tap into their passions early so they will stay plugged in with their education.



Oklahoma ranks 49th in the nation for teacher pay, and in recent years there have been constant cuts and shortfalls in the funding for education programs. Often teachers have supplemented the funding for their classrooms through the years, but with the lack of funding *and* the low pay it seems they fight constant battles and are underappreciated on every side. These facts being constantly in the news spurred the YME formal launch as an organization after years of incubation. YME offers the community opportunities to recognize these hard working teachers via teacher appreciation events. Through essay nominations, a selection of seven local teachers were honored and received gifts from many local businesses and an extra special VIP evening that included their family, limo rides, fine dining and the OKC Thunder in action.



Mr. Schellenberg was interviewed by *Joy in Our Town* host Pastor Billy Joe Watts in the KDOR-TV 17 studio, and was accompanied by Mrs. Tobey Bullington, a local special education teacher. Mrs. Bullington is one of the teachers who was recognized in the first appreciation event in November 2016. She has made use of the interior courtyard outside her classroom at Vandever Elementary in Broken Arrow to create a garden her students plan, plant, maintain and harvest. She tells of how several of the students had never before tasted a fresh strawberry, and now they have learned how to grow their own!

YME was recently able to help the students by providing a lawnmower to maintain the courtyard and garden areas. It is powerful to hear the impact that YME is having by partnering with the teachers and working to bring more alternative learning to each classroom.

Mrs. Jennifer Farley teaches the STEM classes for the students at Owasso’s 7th Grade Center. We visited her classroom the day they were learning about alternative power sources and building their own rubber-band powered boats. Mrs. Farley has a Tower Garden in the classroom, a truly “vertical” teaching tool indeed. Mrs. Farley pursued funding to bring the garden to the classroom and eventually was awarded a grant to purchase it. Since that time, Mrs. Cari Reif, Health Coach and a former Owasso teacher has privately funded the annual supplies needed for the garden. It has been a great success, and this year the students reached their goal of growing the vegetables needed to make salsa for the entire teaching staff to enjoy.



YME Foundation is currently involved in a campaign to place 25 of these Tower Gardens in area classrooms by the end of the year. They plan to service the gardens for the teachers and provide the annual supplies needed. This is just the beginning of all YME has a vision to do in partnership with the community, schools and other local organizations.



Community Partners: Joy in Action

Spring is always full of great opportunity to connect in any community, and the Tulsa area has been blooming! Every year on the first Thursday in May, the nation honors one of our great American freedoms through the observance of the National Day of Prayer. Among Christians, this day has been celebrated in various ways and we found numerous events that were taking place in our community all day long.

Making a point to connect with other believers in our viewing area, two KDOR employees spent a full day attending three of the events in our community. Starting early from the station at 5am Randy Patterson and Barbara Bella gathered camera and lighting equipment and headed to the city of Owasso, a growing metropolis north of Tulsa and Broken Arrow.

Recently, this area has seemed to boom, growing in many ways including the number of places of worship. The Owasso Ministerial Alliance is a vibrant group of pastors from a wide variety of faiths and denominations who meet every week. Approximately 60 churches are in the town of Owasso, and over one-third are represented in this group...with a couple nearby non-Owasso pastors active as well!

In attending the 2017 National Day of Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the group, we encountered sincere hearts and welcoming smiles. This group is truly a beautiful picture of unity among God's people. Part of the beauty is evident in how those from the community were so easily incorporated among the ministers who shared leading the group in an easy flow throughout the event. Easily observable in the photos, after breakfast was eaten, this was a sincere prayer meeting with groups seated at the tables praying in these small groups with newly met neighbors in unity.

That sincere spirit of brotherhood is what shines through every member of the Owasso Ministerial Alliance. Though there are a couple of people who coordinate the group's communication, there is no one person who takes charge. This fellowship of leaders who are focused on serving others is a strong testament of Jesus Christ in the peaceful way they joyfully interact and cooperate without competition. They serve daily in their local congregations and communities and serve one another in the love of Christ through prayer, encouragement and friendship. It was a honor to be with them.





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Community Partners: Joy in Action

After a brief stop back at the station to refresh equipment and tend to station business, Randy and Barbara were off to the Pray For America event held on the Oral Roberts University campus. Yet again we witnessed hearts of the servants in prayer and leadership as over 20 churches, numerous public servants in government and ministry all came together to lead the people who gathered in prayer for the nation, local and international leaders, families, military, Israel, and so many other categories that hundreds of other groups across the nation was also praying for this day.

Pastor Sharon Daugherty served to coordinate among all the participants and this event included worship and music with nearly another dozen churches represented through vocal and instrumental talents. ORU President Billy Wilson graciously welcomed everyone with prayer and his presence showed his personal regard for this unity among believers, as he took time in the middle of ORU's 50th Anniversary pre-commencement activities and celebrations to participate. The ORU campus reflects many answered prayers and was a great location to gather in unity to pray on this day.



Community Friends: Joy in Connection

We count our blessings daily for the great crew at KDOR-TV 17, but external positive feedback is always a boost. We might be getting a bit spoiled though, because for the second month in a row our station has been sent an Edible Arrangement! This one from Jake Schellenberg on behalf of the YME Foundation www.ymefoundation.org after working together on an episode of Joy In Our Town. It was great to see Ms. Damali Wilson at EduRec at the Mother Daughter Tea. Executive Director Charles Harper captured the moment in front of our TBN table. As result of connection at the Tea, Ms. Hope Brown, designer at Hope's Treasure Chest one-of-a-kind jewelry, visited KDOR for a tour and shared how important TBN has been in her life. She is shown standing next to the picture of our Founder Paul Crouch in our front lobby.





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Community Outreach: Joy in Giving

In May our local KDOR-TV 17 outreach on behalf of TBN proved to be an intersection of giving, connection and action! For the second year we partnered with Marva Walker, Founder/Director of the Village Kids Club and all her great volunteers.

The event was held at the EduRec Youth and Family Fun Center, where the community will discover a variety of youth and family programs; educational opportunities and recreation for all ages.

The Village Kids Club is a year-round program and provides young boys and girls a place to belong, be discipled, be mentored, be challenged, be creative.

The Club usually meets as a co-ed group and there is always a theme and in certain months there are special events. Such as in May, when the Village Kids Club hosts a Mother Daughter Tea, to give the girls and their mothers, grandmas, aunts, sisters or female role models an opportunity to learn etiquette from Ms. Edith, be inspired by speakers, enjoy some great food and dress up for a change. Don't worry, in June they host an event for the boys and their fathers or father figures and it is called the Breakfast of Champions, so the young men are not without their own opportunity to learn similar manners and etiquette!



The 2017 Mother Daughter Tea, themed "Inspire Me" included two special guest speakers. The junior speaker was Miss Jala Littles, crowned Miss Black Teen Tulsa 2016. Miss Littles shared from her own experience of discovering passion and purpose, encouraging all women towards self-esteem and believing in their abilities/dreams.

The Keynote Speaker was the talented and joyous, Mrs. Beth Groombridge, from Asbury UMC in Tulsa. Mrs. Groombridge opened with an original and moving poem and then spoke to the deep identity of woman as God intended. In humor and honesty, she transparently spoke of how God loves women and uniquely designed them with love. She encouraged the unity and healing of sisterhood, of being a friend to self and not letting the past or our own thoughts hold us back. She encouraged celebrating all that God uniquely designed us to be without falling captive to traps of comparison, competition or devaluing our worth.

It may take a village to raise a child, but Mrs. Marva knows it also takes lots of prayer, patience and people. Focused on the children, the Tea offered free hats for those girls without one, and opportunity to gain the experience of being celebrated as they crossed the stage in a fashion show. Young ladies spinning and posing together may appear to be simple fun, but it is another way that these young ladies are being taught self-confidence, and to be aware they are special. Mrs. Marva is a blessing in how she leads this program to reach children and support their families, endeavoring to show them how to learn, grow and to lead them to become all they can be in Christ!



Mrs. Marva recently wrote in a sweet note to us, "We not only appreciate what you do as TBN, but also the friendship that has developed over the last couple of years!" and Ms. Edith who decorates and teaches the etiquette portion of the event added "I appreciate what TBN has sown into organizations like The Village Kids Club. Thank you for being a vital part of the Mother-Daughter Tea."