

NEWSLETTER

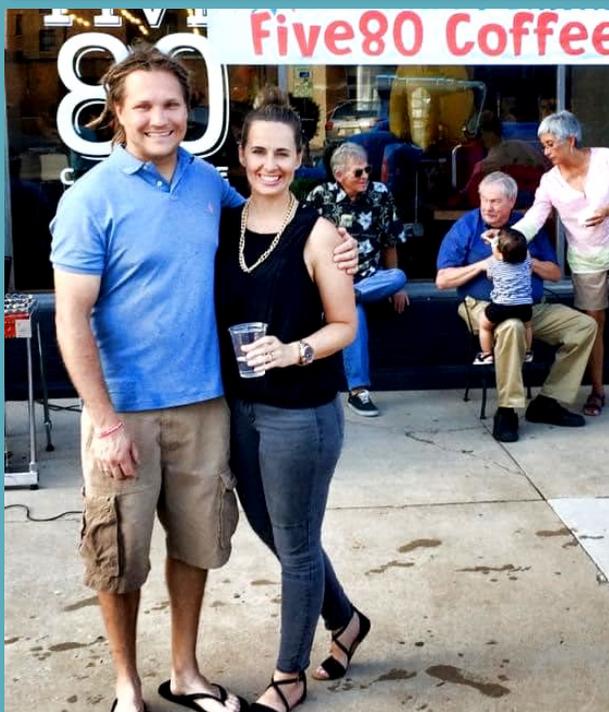
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January

“He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.” -John 15:2

As followers of Jesus, the pruning process is non-stop from the day you begin the journey of following Jesus every day. We should be actively praying prayers that ask God to prune us, refine us, and reveal to us things in our hearts and lives that need to be cut off. He is the master gardener. He knows what is healthy for growth and bearing more fruit and what is not. So when the Holy Spirit reveals something that needs to be cut off, we should have humility knowing that God knows better. These could be things in your own heart like selfishness, greed, lust, hatred, or unforgiveness. On the contrary, it could be something tangible like a relationship, friendship, job, hobby, or habit. Regardless of what it is, we should say thank you to our gracious heavenly Father that he loves us enough to want us to get rid of these things to bear more fruit. In John 15:2, Jesus says that he cuts off every branch of his that doesn’t bear fruit. So if you are not actively following Jesus, obeying his commands, loving him, and striving to live righteously, He will cut you off. Press into the father, attune your ear to the Holy Spirit, and be willing to yield to His garden tools as he prunes you in love.



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MINISTRIES

Saying Goodbye to Five80



September 2012 is when I created this Facebook page; I just checked. We had just bought this building, nailed down a name, and were ready to start the first renovation step: demolition. We were ecstatic to begin sharing publicly how the Lord would lead us through every sledgehammer swing and renovation day we never thought would end. After ten months of friends coming to the rescue, praying for God to provide, and working till midnight most nights, we were ready to open Five80. Excited was an understatement. Opening night, I think we had a line to the door for 4 hours straight, right Kim Day? I had never hurt so bad from standing and running back and forth behind the bar to ensure we could keep up. But it was the best feeling in the world. I remember a friend took a picture of the room since she knew I couldn't and texted me a comprehensive view of how many people showed up for our first night. It made me cry. I knew you would show up, Enid, and we could do this. Now, 12 years later, we are sharing that our time of serving through Five80 is ending. Are we sad? Yes, but everything has a season, and this season was incredible. We have peace and know that God is doing amazing things in the ministry, and we can't wait to see what tomorrow holds. To our friends in Enid and beyond, You have been so good to us. You welcomed us with open arms and continued showing your love daily. To the staff that has poured their blood, sweat, and tears into this place, you are appreciated and cherished, and we are forever grateful for you. You made this place a home for many, and I know your reward will come. You learn a lot about your community when you have a coffee shop, and as much as we are ready to move to the next chapter, scrolling through 12 years of memories was emotional. It's only letting me upload 80 pictures but I have about 300 that I want to share. So much life has happened in this building. You have allowed us to be a part of your weddings, showers, church services, birthdays, graduations, proms, bible studies, and, most importantly, meaningful and growing relationships in the Lord. So what's next? Well, we aren't entirely sure. But our volunteers and staff won't be short of responsibilities between multi-week outreaches, grill walks, mission teams, kids outreach events, the homeless shelter, and a growing transitional housing program. As far as coffee, it might jump on wheels and join the Forgotten Ministries mobile fleet. Still, for now, we will be focusing on what God is doing every day, calling us to continually meet the needs of people and share the love of Jesus in a real and tangible way. Our last day will be Friday, January 26th.

Kids Program

Youth

“During the mission trip in Sapulpa last month, my husband Tristan and I were both extremely encouraged to see our youth kids genuinely having the hearts to serve the Lord, be bold, and talk about Jesus. We pour out our entire lives to see them come to know Christ in a genuine way and to then go share that with others. This was a chance for Tristan and I to see fruit of our labor and show us that they are growing in Christ. We shared the gospel with hundreds of people door to door, at a Christmas event in town, through serving hamburgers, and we even got to pray over the mayor and city managers. God opened our eyes to how we can actually make an impact and see change in our city in Enid just like they do in Sapulpa.

We felt God was casting a new vision in our hearts to saturate the Marshallese populated apartments next to our ministry center. We are planning to take our youth there weekly to start building relationships with the families, have dinner with them, serve them, and tell them about the hope of Jesus. We believe it is possible to see a revival of hearts in those apartments that will expand throughout the rest of the city. Through prayer and consistency, God can break the chains of addiction, family brokenness, abuse, and cultural darkness.”

-Autumn Bradley, Youth Leader



Kids Camp

God is transforming these kids in a noticeable way. Jenny Tonell is a woman who paved the first road to kids ministry in the New View Apartments when Forgotten Ministries just began. Here is a testimonial from her: “My first interaction with the Pacific Island children from the apartments was in 2016 when Emmanuel’s Forgotten Sunday School met at the newly built Forgotten Ministries Center. We had a large team that worked with the kids on Sundays, and I would return two other weekdays to review the lesson & memory verses, and read books to the children. On Sundays, our team could mostly manage the children because we outnumbered them, and because we had a few awesome teachers who knew how to handle rowdy kids. But the other days of the week, the kids wore me out! Eventually, our reading days turned into kids camp with a Forgotten Ministries staff member and a couple of volunteer helpers. We did a number of special events, including multiple 2 week, summer swimming lessons and a special girls day-camp. On every occasion over several years, the kids behavior was most discouraging, and the adults left frustrated and exhausted! Good behavior was so rare for the children, I think I honestly thought teaching/training them may be impossible! We just KNEW they needed God’s word, his love, and direction! On occasion, a child would demonstrate something that they had learned from our efforts or ask a question about Jesus that would keep us going for the next few months! Last week I experienced a miracle with the children though! Autumn (with her three children under two in tow!), led Kids Camp, with seven Island kids who listened, participated, and interacted appropriately! It was the best kids camp I’ve ever experienced, and it was so encouraging! I am so thankful for the kids to have this opportunity to learn about Jesus and many lessons from the Bible to help the children in their daily lives! This is a great news in our local community! We’d love for you to visit or volunteer at Kids Camp and leave encouraged as well!

Mercy House

The Mercy House hasn't had the highest attendance this season so far, but God has still been moving and impacting every person who comes in the door. The staff have been working super hard to fill all the shift gaps as sickness has been going around for the last few weeks.

The current staff are striving to encourage the guests to get into a program here in town and start transitioning back to a stable lifestyle. The ultimate goal of the Mercy House is to be able to share the love of Jesus and help break the cycle of homelessness in the guests lives.

The Mercy House is an emergency weather, seasonal shelter. It won't be long before the Mercy House will be closed and the ministry will transition into other things for the spring, summer, and fall seasons. The Paradise Garden will be in the beginnings of it's season here in the next couple weeks so be looking out for opportunities to serve in the Garden!



Volunteer!

Be a part of the mercy house this season and impact someone's life forever! There are three "jobs" you can sign up for: front desk check-in, clothing check-out and laundry or cooking and serving the meal. Everything is set up to make it easy on the volunteer and to make our guests feel comfortable and loved. Go to the Mercy House volunteer page on forgottenministries.com and choose as many shifts as you would like to work for the last few weeks we are open!

Oasis Program

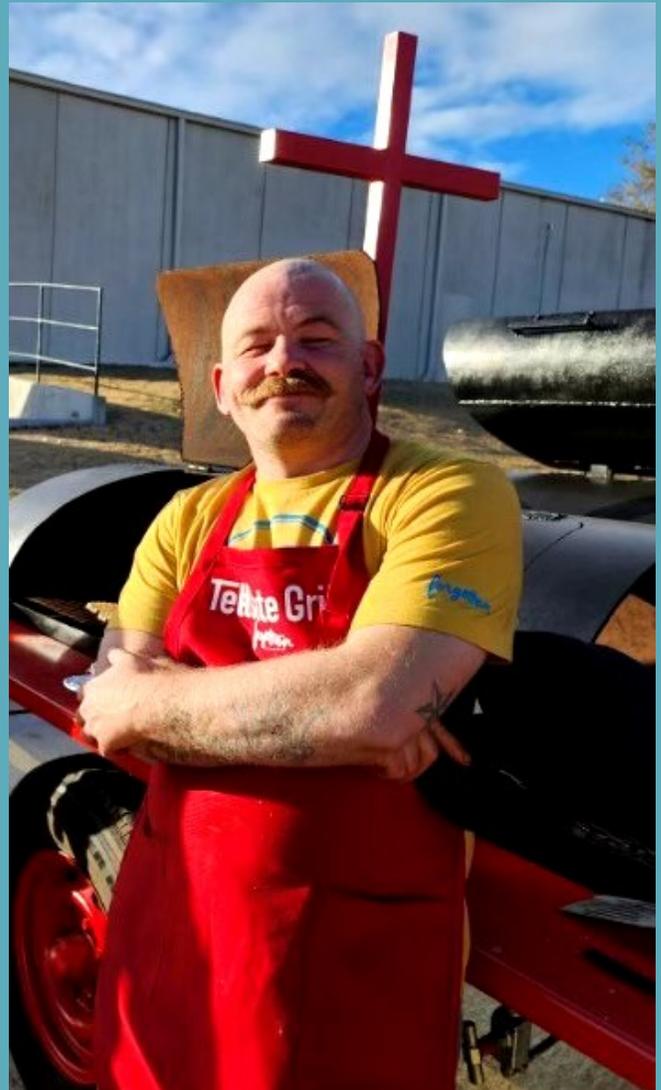
Kemper Strain Graduation

Kemper has completed the 7 month Oasis Program. He arrived to the Program last summer, participated in all the bible studies and meetings for a few months, and began a new job.

Words from Kemper: “ I came to the Oasis Program not knowing much about the Program. I was in search of better relationships in my life. The Oasis has given me more peace in my heart and mind as well. With anything in life, it’s what you make of it. Now friends and brothers in Christ have whole heartedly fulfilled my need for better friendships in my life. The Oasis Program has given me a purpose and a more fulfilling life as well. This is a program of life training to learn what God has planned on a new path which should be a life long program.”

James 1:13 -“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;”

1 Peter 1:13 - “Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.”



Meet The Staff

Hayden Tobin

Hi, my name is Hayden Tobin. I gave my life to Jesus in 2020. I was lost, addicted to weed and alcohol, and sought out satisfaction from women through relationships. Eventually, I became tired of the burdens I had in my life, which led me to open a bible.

When I read the gospels, I found a love like I had never known before. Since then, I have decided to live my life for Christ daily, which eventually led me to intern for Forgotten Ministries in 2021 and move to Enid the very next year.

I now lead the college intern program and help out with our kids program. The drive and motivating factor in my life is the fact that before Christ, I was nothing. Every ounce of worth and purpose came from Him, which compels me to live in obedience to the call He has on my life to share the gospel with no regards to self. Therefore, following the example of love that Christ displayed through his life, death, and resurrection.



Romans 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God— This is your true and proper worship.”



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Needs and Thank You

Thank you!

We want to say thank you to the countless volunteers who have helped make this Mercy House season possible. You have all given your time and effort to serve others and it is greatly appreciated. Your volunteering time shows immense support to the Forgotten Ministries staff and alleviates a lot of stress during this busy season. Whether you folded laundry, cooked, cleaned, welcomed guests, or whatever it may have been, your time is valuable to us and we cannot be more grateful!



Paradise Garden Needs

The Paradise garden is about to enter into the preparation season. We will soon be planting lots of seeds and turning soil, adding mulch, watering, and much more. We need all things gardening! Whether you have some seeds, soil, mulch, potting soil, and more. Reach out to our email or Facebook page if you would like to donate gardening items!



Please bring your donations to:

Forgotten Ministries, 1714 S 4th ST, Enid, OK 73701

Please contact: angie@forgottenministries.com