



THE J.A.M. JAR

Jackson Area Ministries

P.O. Box 603, 119 McKitterick Avenue, Jackson, OH 45640

Phone: 740-286-1320 or 888-237-3141

Fax: 740-288-4308

E-mail: jamjar@midohio.twcbc.com

web page: www.jamumc.org

Director: *R. Michael Williams*

Office Administrator: *Deidra Libby*

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Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant

As I sit at my desk thinking of what to write for my first J.A.M. Jar newsletter I can't help but think of the Apostle Paul's words to Timothy. The passage found in 2 Timothy 4 is very familiar and often times shared during funerals. We know that Paul was a "seasoned" minister of the Gospel and Timothy his understudy. Paul knew that the end was near and penned some sobering words to Timothy. While Rev. Davis is not dying, only retiring, I still cannot help but to feel the bittersweet emotions associated with his leaving. This passage in 2 Timothy evokes those same emotions; here are Paul's words: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Rev. Davis has been the face of this organization and ministry for 45 years. His commitment is certainly to be commended. He has been a faithful servant and I believe a crown of righteousness has been prepared for him when that day finally comes (far, far into the future of course). The point: CHANGE IS HARD! I am sure that this transition has not been easy for any involved...the board, Rev. Davis, and the other staff here at JAM. I know I certainly have been nervous about filling the role of director because the shoes of Rev. Davis are going to be hard to fill.

At the same time, however, mixed with the emotions of nervousness and sadness, is joy and excitement about what's to come and how the mission of Jackson Area Ministries will be continued. In this same chapter Paul also gives Timothy some sound advice: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." The good news? Rev. Davis gave me a few words of advice also, and has made sure that I will be able to contact him if necessary. What a relief for us all. I am looking forward to partnering with each one of you as we continue to write the 29th chapter of the Book of Acts.

In His service,
Michael Williams, Executive Director

Richard Michael "Mike" Williams is a native of Wellston... Is a 2005 Wellston High School graduate, and holds a B.A. from Ohio University and an associate's degree in applied science in mortuary science from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. . He, along with his wife, Amanda and their two girls, Isabella (7) and Jimma (2) own and operate R.M. Williams Funeral Service in Wellston.

A Christian by faith Mike and his family currently attend LifeSource Apostolic Church in Wellston. While growing up he was influenced by many different faith organizations. These include C.C.C.U., Baptist, Presbyterian, and Episcopalian churches. Because of these experiences we believe that he will make a great ecumenical director of J.A.M.



ECONOMIC UPDATE

Brothers and Sisters, we are living in challenging times. I am certain that there is not one aspect of our lives that has not been affected by our current economic status. We are all in the same storm, but let me assure you that this is exactly what Jackson Area Ministries has been gearing up for since the beginning of our mission: teaching others how to survive in the most challenging social and financial “ups and downs.”

While we are all in the same storm, we are in different boats. That is, some of us are in canoes, some in yachts, and others in pontoons. The point? While we are all experiencing negative forces due to our economy some are still in a better position than others. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 the Bible reads, “Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.” In other words, while there were great challenges and afflictions that they were experiencing and poverty did indeed abound, their joy was also abundant and that in turn gave way to an overflowing generosity.

We understand that as costs rise for just our basic living necessities that monies available to sew into mission projects like J.A.M. becomes more and more limited. If you are reading this and are still able to give monetary donations to our mission despite hardships, let me assure you that God honors your sacrifice. In fact, I believe there are special blessings in store for those who give sacrificially. But, let me remind you, however, that giving is much more than just monetary. Donating time, talents, tools, etc. are equally as powerful. In conclusion, do not be dismayed! We will weather this storm together and come out on the other side stronger than ever!

RURAL CHAPLAINS VISIT J.A.M.

On October 13, 2022, JAM was visited by 22 Rural Chaplains from all around the United States. This visit was very special and allowed us to share our mission with some who have never heard of us before. The visit began with a small discussion of who we are, what we do, and some history of our fine organization. A tour of our office was given, and then there was a time for questions and answers. The evening was finished with a dinner being provided by Calvary United Methodist Church in Jackson, Ohio.



We had visitors from West Virginia, Ohio, Colorado, Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma, and the Carolinas. Wow!!! This group was ecumenical in its make up as well. There were ministers from the Lutheran Church, Baptist Churches, Methodist Churches, and maybe even more. The age range was diverse including new younger ministers, some retired ministers, and some still in seminary. God is good and we are anxious to see the fruit that will come from being able to share our story with so many from all over the nation.

*****VERY IMPORTANT*****WORK CAMPING UPDATE*****VERY IMPORTANT*****

On October 17, 2022, JAM held their annual board of directors meeting at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson. In an effort to combat rising costs and other expenses and to maintain good financial stewardship with the monies donated to this organization, it was decided to employ two methods:

1. Slightly raise the fees. The **work camping application fee** will raise from \$600 to **\$700**. And the **material fee (per person)** will raise from \$100 to **\$125**.
2. The application for work camping along with **the initial, non-refundable fee of \$700 will now be due on March 1st** of each year instead of April.

It was reported that material costs have gone up in excess of 30%. Because of this data we knew that if JAM was going to continue to operate in work projects our fees were going to have to increase. The question then was by how much. The easy answer was by however much is needed to ensure that our organization can “break even” on such projects. We did not feel that this was practical and would require too much of an increase, so we discussed other ways of battling the rampant inflation. It was decided that we can purchase materials at non peak time periods when said materials are at lower prices. We know that there are certain raw materials that are going to be used each year with the work camps that are completed. If we purchase in bulk some of the supplies at non peak times and store them here in the garage at our facility, we can reduce the overall cost of each individual work camp. To this end, however, it was decided that in order to have an even better idea of what will be actually needed, and to have the funds necessary to purchase at non peak times, the registration fee along with the application needed to be received earlier in the year before prices start to creep up in the Spring and Summer. Thus, the reason for change number two listed above.

We feel that by employing these two methods helps us keep costs down as much as possible. Attacking inflation on two fronts spreads the burden more evenly. With these two adjustments we are not attempting to penalize or create undue hardship on those who volunteer to do work camps, but rather we are trying our best to be more efficient in our operations and to be good stewards of the resources in which we have been entrusted. Good stewards of our money, time, talents, and tools. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

BOB SAYS ‘THANKS’ TO EVERYONE

I want to convey to everyone my genuine appreciation for the years we have been fortunate enough to both relate and work with each other. What I have done these years is because of you. In reality I was the “broker” of services YOU did the work.

Jackson Area Ministries was launched with a commitment to “Enhance” the life in Appalachian Ohio. We were born in the midst of a new denomination trying to find a way to cooperate and I suspect the coming years will be no different.

My new address is: 12 Ivington Circle, Apr 102, Asheville, NC 28803.

My cell number is: 740-577-2841

God bless you all, *Rev Bob Davis*



JAM JAR
JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES
P.O. BOX 603
JACKSON, OH 45640

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NEWSLETTER