Arms Of Love



REACTIONS TO OUR FIRST ARMS NEWSLETTER . . .



the Arms of Love Newsletter Team, found excitement in publishing our first newsletter. We were anxious to hear our members thoughts about it. Our first issue was published Sunday, May 14, 2017.

It was emailed to members with email addresses. A table was set up for members without email addresses, who wanted hard copies for their archives. We also provided information on the GROUP ME app to help those who needed assistance in getting connected.

In reading our first newsletter, memberships are now in groups according to age. As was fitting, we received positive responses from the SAMS (Senior Age Group) members. Sis. Geri Small, Sis. Shirley Winters, Sis. Mary McDaniel, Sis. Essie

Teamer and Sis. Excellent! Beautiful!!

Sarah Hill LOVED the newsletter. Words like "excellent and beautiful." Their

comments were uplifting, favorable and loving. We are thankful for those responses.

A survey was given to members to see if they would like the bulletin as well as the newsletter emailed and we received nearly 80% in favor of doing so.

We want our newsletter to go out all across the brotherhood! We feel our newsletter is informative, showing our



fellowship with one another, as well as introducing what ARMS (Age-Related Ministries) is all about.

Each ARMS' Ministry will have fellowships or activities each month and we will highlight those within our newsletter.

In this issue, our leadership will be highlighted so that we can get their personal opinion on what "ARMS" means to them.

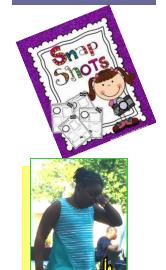
The newsletter is a team effort and we are truly blessed to have each other's love and support. We work as a team, loving each other as family and we respecting each other's talents.

Giving God the glory, thanks, ARMS OF LOVE team for an outstanding job on both newsletters. You're awesome!!



Editor Zerlene Moore-Davis









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One of the great events put on by MAMS,

but they fellowshipped also with YUMS,

YAMS and SAMS.

An enjoyable time for all.

"We Are Family"

1

12

Volume 1 / Issue 2 / June. 2017

(Send in your funny one-liners)

Laughing Matters



ARMS to ARMS Interview

with

BROTHER HORACE STROUD

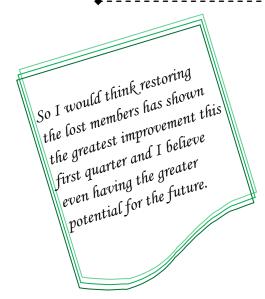




Brother Horace Stroud along with his wife, Faye and two daughters, Destinee and Morgan are faithful servants here at Highland Heights. There are very few activities taking place at HHCOC where you will not find at least one of the Stroud's serving in some capacity – from preaching and teaching God's Word, serving in the kitchen, coordinating some activity, to taking care of someone's child. The Stroud family, are a very real blessing to our Highland Heights family.

In his capacity as Assistant Minister at HHCOC Brother Stroud brings to the congregation inspiring, well-planned, and thought-provoking sermons that are always sprinkled with just a touch of humor. We love when he goes into character with what we affectionately refer to as the "Horace Stroud" voice. To those of you who don't know what I mean, don't worry about it, "it will catch up with you next week."

Given the amount of time Brother Stroud devotes to the congregation here at HHCOC, preaching, teaching, counseling, serving as one of our Trustees along with other administrative services, to taking a major role in both our SRM and ARM ministries – one can hardly believe he has another full-time job. Brother Stroud is currently employed with Harris County Sheriff Department. His title is Mental Health Training Coordinator. He has over twenty years' experience working in the field of mental illness.





Horace & Adam @ MAMS FELLOWSHIP

Sis. Morris: Brother Stroud thank you for doing this interview for our second issue of the Arms of Love Newsletter. In the interview with Brother Brooks we learned how the Age Related Ministries Program was conceived, developed and implemented. So now that this new approach to baptizing, retaining and restoring members, ARMS, has been in operation for a full quarter can you tell me what were your expectations for the program at this point and do you believe your expectations were met?

Bro. Stroud: Thank you Sister Morris for allowing me to sit down and interview with you to obtain a second point of view of the ARMS Program from the other Minister of the congregation. When I first envisioned the ARMS Program, as Brother Brooks shared it with me, I saw it as a vehicle for improving on these areas we are talking about. I saw it as Age Related Ministries that would allow more individuals to be baptized; retained; and restored. I felt we would improve in all these areas. To the second question - were my expectations met? They have been met fully because I see now that we are baptizing more individuals, we are also retaining individuals and even our restorations or restoring members has increased greatly since the implementation of our ARMS Program.

Sis. Morris: Of the three areas addressed, baptizing new members, retaining the saved, & restoring lost members, which area has shown the most improvement for this first quarter? Why do you think so?

Bro. Stroud: I think restoring lost members has shown the most improvements and that is because of the fact we had more of those individuals we had to go out and try to restore. When it comes to new baptisms often times that is based on members bringing guests and them being taught in classes. So I would think restoring the lost members has shown the greatest improvement this first guarter and I believe even having the greater potential for the future. Keeping the saved, saved is not as great a challenge as trying to restore individuals that you have lost.

Sis. Morris: You know how we are divided into four age groups – YUMS, YAMS, MAMS and the SAMS. Which one of those would you say is making the most progress as far as the areas we are trying to improve in – baptizing, retaining and restoring?

I think this program was started with a continuation in mind.

Bro. Stroud: I think the YAMS have done the most in trying to restore individuals because in the Young Adult Ministry we had more of them on the list of being restored and also you can have more movement with those individuals. Whereas in the SAMS group we had the smallest number of them being restored. Usually the SAMS members are the most settled - they are not moving. Our MAMS group is the largest group we have. That group is similar to the SAMS group in that they are settled and you don't have as much movement with them.

Sis. Morris: So Bro Stroud have you determine how you will define success or failure after one year.

Bro. Stroud: I think if you look at success or failure from the actual number standpoint those individuals who are restored back into the body will be a success. Now I don't necessarily look at it as a failure because if we are doing the work of the Lord and actively trying to teach people the gospel; add them to the body; teach those in the body to retain them as growing members; reach out and restore those who are in a lost state - then, all we have are successes. We are doing the work of the Lord. The apostle Paul in writing to the church at Corinth said "I have planted and Apollo watered, but God is the one who gives the increase." So I think if we do our part then the Lord will do the increasing and those individuals who will open up their hearts to obey the gospel or those individuals that will stay with the Lord and be retained and those individuals who have left the Lord, by us reaching out to them and trying to bring them back to the Lord, then that will be a success. Success is in the fact that we are doing what the ARMS Program is designed to do. If we have all of the wheels working in our Arms Related Ministries, then there will be success with the Program.

The Lord has given us a plan and the only time I see a failure is when we fail to do what is commanded. Sometimes the growth is not so much in the number but you will have members who will grow spiritually and those who come back to the Lord and is restored. Those are also ways of measuring success or failure.

Sis. Morris: So if we increase our bonding relationships within the Highland Heights family and if we improve on our program whether we increase our numbers or not, that is success?

Bro Stroud: Yes, and I think a good point that you just brought out about bonding relationships. Over the past two months with the MAMS group that I am a part of, we had a Bowling Fellowship with upwards to forty people attending and this past month we had a House to House Fellowship where we had nearly fifty people. The bonding that is taking place with individuals in our house to house fellowships was dormant until Brother Brooks brought the ARMS program to our congregation. Before then there was no organized fellowships with the various age groups and so I see we have done that and it has been beneficial.

Sis. Morris: Although we have not completed our first year of ARMS, do you have any plans for where we will take our focus for the ARMS Program the second year?

Bro. Stroud: I think this Program was started with a continuation in mind. As with anything that is new for example an automobile. The first time you make an automobile there is a lot of things that you can do to improve on it. So I think with the fact this vehicle has been introduced, we can only get better at it as we learn more about the vehicle itself. So when I look at next year, I look honestly at all three areas because each area has its importance. It is important that we add members to the Body; it is important that we retain those that are in the Body; it is important that we go out and try to restore - bring back those who are lost. So I think that for the second year it is simply making improvements on the vehicle that can make the vehicle more effective.



Horace, Morgan, Destinee and Faye **Stroud**

MATTHEW 4:4

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.



Bro. Stroud back in the day.....

Way Back!!!

Love ya, Bro. Stroud

Introducing our ARM Leaders and their thoughts on the ARM Ministry.



Michael Foreman

Interview by: Zerlene Davis



Bro. Michael Foreman one of the KEEPER Ministry leaders, keeper of the saved. Bro. Forman has been active in this ministry for many years.

Bro. Foreman is a retired Pharmacist, married to his wife Valerie, also a retired Pharmacist for 27 years. They have two sons, Nathan, 20 and Nicholas, 17. The family has been faithful members of the Church of Christ in Highland Heights for many years.

AKM
ARMS KEEPER MINISTRY



Sis. Davis: Bro. Foreman, as you know our ARMS Program is designed to take a new approach to baptizing, retaining and restoring members. It has been in operation for a full quarter now. Do you think the program is meeting its goal of bringing more lost souls back into the church? By lost I mean those who have never been baptized or those who need to be restored as well as keeping the saved, saved.

Bro. Foreman: Yes, I believe it has, we have seen an increase in the number of people restored. Our retention rate has risen to around 84% and we are baptizing people of all ages, mainly from the YUM and MAM groups.

Sis. Davis: Even with everything going well, how can we improve on programs in the future?

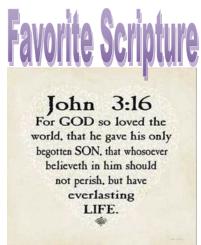
Bro. Foreman: We have to continue to get more people involved. As we have seen in recent weeks we have seen more participation from our brothers becoming leaders now. We are having greater participation in brothers working in the worship service, in fact this very room right here (VIP Room) can't hold everybody now. We have brothers standing outside the door now waiting to serve on Sunday mornings. So, it is effective in getting more brothers to step up as leaders.

Sis. Davis: Tell us one of your favorite memories of an ARMS event.

Bro. Foreman: The fellowshipping, the games, seeing members restored that we haven't seen in awhile, and getting better acquainted with them is making this a success.









Adam Smith, Jr.

Interview by: Charliesa Lewis



ARMS Leader, Bro. Adam Smith, Jr. oversees our youth group, also known as the **YUMS Ministry**. This ministry is for ages, 18 years and younger.

Bro. Adams and his wife Shannon have been married for 12 years and they are the parents of four beautiful children; Makayla, Isaiah, Joshua and Jeremiah. He is a teacher in the Fort Bend Independent School District.



YOUTH AGES 18 AND BELOW

We met with Bro. Smith for his views on the ARMS Ministry.

Sis. Lewis: Bro. Smith, as you know our ARMS Program which is designed to take a new approach to baptizing, retaining and restoring members, has been in operation for a full quarter now. Do you think the program is meeting its goal of bringing more lost souls back into the church? By lost I mean those who have never been baptized; those who need to be restored as well as keeping the saved, saved.

Bro. Smith: Yes, with the YUMS many are baptized through hearing from pulpit or VIP class.

Sis. Lewis: Even if everything is going well, how do you think we can improve on the program for the future?

Bro. Smith: Have Education or Evangelism teach and train to orientate, and to restore members for various ARMS. Making sure men aren't doubled up in other ARM groups to ensure cooperation and effectiveness of men in their ARM group. Also, there is a New Convert Class available.

Sis. Lewis: Tell us one of your favorite memories of an ARMS event.

Bro. Smith: Taking kids to carnival and museum. Anytime we are out it is an opportunity to teach and enjoy. Camp is always a memorable event, especially around the campfire.



Interview by:

P

ula Morris

I am very excited about where the ARMS Program will take us and I am also excited to see the fruits of the ARMS Program. I have built so many more relationships because of it, especially since the Young Adults have expanded its age range to include 19 to 39 years old. I think it is a blessing that God led Brother Brooks to come up with this idea," so says Brother Andrew Hooey, Lead Servant for the YAMS Ministry.

Brother Hooey, is a recent graduate of Prairie View A&M University and is currently employed with Exxon Mobil. He began visiting with us last year and after several visit with our congregation he began to serve at Highland Heights. Recently he announced his engagement to our own D'Ann Dickson. He says the YAMS Program is working well and credits a lot of this first quarter's success of the Program to his Co-Leads, Brothers DeJon John, Robert Smith, James Boutte and Robert Brown. Brother Hooey agreed to have a short talk with me for our Arms of Love Newsletter regarding his views on the ARMS Program.



YAMS 19 TO 39 YEARS OLD

Sis. Morris: So, Brother Hooey as you know our ARMS Program which is designed to take a new approach to baptizing, retaining and restoring members, has been in operation for a full quarter now. Do you think the program is meeting its goal of bringing more lost souls back into the church? By lost I mean those who have never been baptized; those who need to be restored as well as keeping the saved, saved.

Bro. Hooey: I think it is absolutely accomplishing that right now. Obviously we have room to improve but I think the ARMS Program is definitely achieving its goal. One way that is not mentioned much is retention. Once we went into the ARMS Program where our Bible Classes were turned toward age related ministries, attendance improved for the YAMS. Before the ARMS Program we had about four or five people in class on Wednesdays and maybe five people on Sundays. However after we launched the ARMS Program it went up to about twenty or thirty. And so, we have seen retention of those YAMS and have not lost them. I think this program has helped to retain those members. It has done a good job with retention because we have everyone communicating the same language - everybody is on the same page and we are able to relate with the same applications.

We did have Bro. Robert Smith lead the restoration of the YAMS. He got the list of those members who needed to be restored. Initially we called and a lot of them didn't answer or either we did not have accurate information on them. We had a few to come back and was restored but not as many as we would want. So there is still opportunity there to restore. We are going to need the continued help of our members.

Sis. Morris: Even if everything is going well, how do you think we can improve on the program for the future?

Bro. Hooey: I think the YAMS in specific can do a better job at mobilizing the female co-servants. Well actually you can say co-servants in general but more specifically the female co-servants to allow them to use their talents. Although the men take on the leadership role, there is a lot of work for females to be doing within YAMS and I think that is a step we have plans to take. We have females who are able to work but I think it is up to the ARMS Leads to more clearly define how they can get involved. So that is on the leadership. We need to come up with better ways to allow them to use their talents and to get more involved. I think another thing we could do better is having the leads have a little more excitement and enthusiasm on the Group Me within the YAMS. I think the more excitement, the more it will trickle to other groups.

Sis. Morris: Tell me one of your favorite memories of an ARMS event.

Bro. Hooey: I can give you two. The number one is the Bowling Fellowship. What made it so special was that Robert Smith offered to pay the fee for me. That show of love meant a lot to me. Number two is the House to House Fellowships we had and especially the first one at the Farmers' house. The House to House Fellowships are a good relationship builder.





Robert Brown

Interview by:



Brother Robert Brown has been a member of the Lord's church for twenty-five years. He serves as the Lead Servant for our SRM Worship Ministry and just recently changed roles from Lead Servant of the MAMS Group to Saving the Lost Co-Lead in our ARMS Keeper Ministry (AKM). Bro Brown is an Engineer with G.E. Healthcare. He and his wife Kelley have been married for fifteen years and have three children. Brother Brown graciously agreed to share his views of the ARMS Program with me.





MAMS 40 TO 60 YEARS OLD

Sis. Morris: Brother Brown the ARMS Keeper Ministry is designed to be in an oversight position in reference to the other ARMS groups and our congregation as a whole. This is the first time we have given a ministry soulsaving responsibilities. In the past this responsibility has been a function of the Ministers or Church Elders. Now that you are a member of the AKM how do you view your role as it relates to our congregation?

Bro. Brown: I view it as an important role - a role that I should have been doing all along. In fact, all of us should be doing it – trying to save souls for the church. That is something we should have been concentrating on at all times. I am not saying that it wasn't concentrated on, but each individual member should concentrate on saving souls. The most important thing in being able to go to heaven is giving people knowledge of God. It is more in the highlight now that people know what we are doing but we should have been doing it at all times.

Sis. Morris: I know that you have changed roles now, and you are no longer the Lead Servant of the MAMS, but going back to that role as the Lead Servant of the MAMS group how did you view the ARMS Program in the beginning?

Bro. Brown: I was very happy that it was coming together. We were looking at it as a program for the young adults. Brother Brooks and I got together with the young adults and he saw something that looked like it would be great for the entire church. It has turned out to be

just that. It is a very exciting time trying to pull it together and to get all the rough edges smoothed out. I think we are still working on some of those edges but I thought it would be a great program when we initiated it.

Sis. Morris: Do you have any comments on your increased responsibilities since becoming a member with the AKM?

Bro. Brown: I am looking forward to learning and understanding it better. At this time, just recently taking on this role, I have no comments yet how to get it done. I am still trying to feel my way through and support it as best I can.

Sis. Morris: Even if everything is going well, how do you think we can improve on the ARMS program for the future?

Bro. Brown: I think it is going to be innate to the program that things are going to improve as we get to know each other better and we get to an organic level of knowing each other. Meaning that we will get away from having to take roll and remembering whether this person or that person was here. We will become a closer congregation and if someone is not here we will recognize it immediately and not have to worry about taking roll. Although it is a good idea now, to take roll, ensuring that we are not missing anyone but hopefully we will have it to a point where people are friends enough - brothers and sisters in our family

enough to recognize immediately when someone is not here.

We can find out why they were not here why they missed a fellowship or some get-together at someone house. So I think as the program becomes organic it is just going to get better.

Sis. Morris: Do you have any other comments regarding the ARMS program you would like to share at this time?

Bro. Brown: I think we are doing very well in the MAMS group. I have not researched the SAMS or the YAMS.









Floyd Smith

Interview by:



One of our members refer to him as a "walking, talking bible." Those of us who know him know that to be pretty close to the truth. Just ask him any scripture related question and you will see what we mean. I often call him Paul, with reference to the Apostle. I am referring to Brother Floyd Smith, Lead Servant for the SAMS Ministry. Bro. Smith agreed to have a short talk with me for our Arms of Love Newsletter regarding his views on the ARMS Program.



60 AND ABOVE

Sis. Morris: Brother Smith as you know our ARMS Program which is designed to take a new approach to baptizing, retaining and restoring members, has been in operation for a full quarter now. Do you think the program is meeting its goal of bringing more lost souls back into the church? By lost I mean those who have never been baptized; those who need to be restored as well as keeping the saved, saved.

Bro. Smith: Let me say this, I can see the benefit of the ARMS Program and I can see an improvement in bringing the lost souls to Christ and basically I applaud the effort that has been put into it because God does not want to see any souls lost. It is important to us that we do the work. Luke 15:4 says that: How many of you having a hundred sheep does not leave the ninety-nine to go find the lost sheep. So all the souls are important to God so it is important that this program has proven that it works and I applaud that effort.

Sis. Morris: Even if everything is going well, how do you think we can improve on the program for the future?

Bro. Smith: Well once we learn how to meld the Serving Ministries in conjunction with the ARMS ministries and then perfect our understanding of both processes, then I see that we can go farther. The mindset is simply that the improvement has to come first of all in separating the two ministries out, the Serving Ministry and the ARMS Ministry, and trying to meet each one of them equally.

That is the difficulty in the process simply because we have a lot of meetings going on and it is difficult to be able to perfect the understanding of the ARMS meeting.

Sis. Morris: Tell me one of your favorite memories of an ARMS event?

Bro. Smith: Let me say this, I really enjoyed the fellowship with the MAMS group at Bro. Ernest and Sis. Tiffany's house. But my favorite memory is seeing some of those members that we have restored and retained coming back to the church – to the congregation. I am just proud of the fact that we have retained 86% of those that we brought back.

I do want to say that I fully support the idea of the ARMS ministries because I think that it does a great deal in bringing us together as a congregation. I would like to see more of us blend in together when we have those various events. I think that it works toward asserting the fellowship within Christ's church. We know that the First Century Church fellowshipped often. It was one of the key ingredients of being able to learn about each other and help each other.



Favorite Scripture













BIBLE BRAINSTORMING 1







Put on your thinking cap as you try to complete this Bible word game. There are many right answers, but it may be a challenge to think of them all!

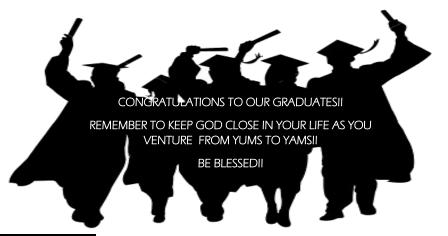


Write a word under each column that begins with the letter on the left. Do not use any word twice in this game.

Give yourself 1 point for every box you can fill.

	Book of the Bible	Male Bible Character	Female Bible Character	Place in the Bible
Н				
E	*			Example: Eden
А				
R				
T				







London Brannon

North Harris Community College



Nicholas Foreman
University of Texas in Dallas



Ma'Kayla PollardSam Houston University



Devonte CollinsPrairie View A&M University



Asa HudsonPrairie View A&M University



Victoria Smith
Howard University



Dianne Collier

Air Force



Jada McDonald

Texas Southern University





GroupMe is a free app that can be downloaded from your app store to your phone. This app allows us to keep in constant contact with members of our ARMS Group. It seems to be the communication of choice for ARMS.

GroupMe also comes in handy on days that we have events scheduled as the calendar will show all scheduled activities and gives us the flexibility of indicating if we will be available or not. It is a tool that makes it convenient to communicate with each other.

With GroupMe we are able to have organized discussions outside of our meeting time as well as check on each other. We are also able to use it as a social network, as we are able to arrange meetings and fellowship outings.

GroupMe has an app for every major platform: iphone, Android, and Blackberry. Even if someone with an old-school flip phone can use the service. So, if you don't have the app, we encourage you to get it.





ARMS LEADERS' MEETING JUNE 4, 2017





On Sunday, June 4, 2017 the Leaders, their wives and other participants in the Age Related Ministries Program (ARMS) met after Bible Class in the HHCOC Fellowship Hall. The meeting was well attended and facilitated by the Minister, Brother Tommy Brooks. Lunch was provided for all attendees as well as babysitting services for those who chose to use it. Those attending the meeting reported they left the Fellowship Hall with a greater understanding of the ARMS program and felt motivated to work more diligently in their particular ministry to achieve the ARMS goals.



Brother Brooks provided an update on the current status of the ARMS Program; reviewed its purpose; received and gave feedback on the program; went over statistical data related to ARMS; reviewed specific responsibilities of its participants and discussed the ARMS Program's future. ARMS is designed to take a new approach to baptizing, retaining and restoring members. The idea is to help congregations bring more lost souls back into the church. Lost means those who have never been baptized; those who need to be restored and of course we always want to keep the saved, saved. An overseeing group such as the church Elders or the Keeper Ministry servants monitors the overall retention, restoration, and development of all members. The Age Related Ministries are designed to do the primary keeping of members while relaying the tracking and retention statistical data back to the overseeing group.



The primary focus of the ARMS Program is to <u>save</u> the lost through evangelism, restoration and retention; <u>activate</u> the saved through education, fellowshipping and involvement; <u>communicate</u> to members and <u>track</u> their progress; and through <u>bonding</u>, and <u>providing resources</u> to meet their basic and personal needs. When the appropriate attention is given in these areas, congregations will see improved retention rates; increased restorations by age groups; better communication within age groups; improved bible class and worship attendance; and more relationship-building from an increase in age-related fellowships events.

ARMS LEADERS



AKM
Bro. Michael Foreman
ARM Keeper Ministry



YUMS Bro. Adam Smith

This ministry will serve all members ages 18 and under



YAMS Bro. Andrew Hooey

This ministry will serve all members ages 19 to 39



MAMS Bro. Robert Brown

This ministry will serve all members ages 40 to 60



SAMS

Bro. Floyd Smith

This ministry will serve all members ages 60 and above



A little boy was attending his first wedding.
After the service, his cousin asked him,
"How many women can a man marry?"
"Sixteen," the boy responded.
His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?
"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the Preacher said:
4 better, 4 worse,
4 richer, 4 poorer."



www.highlandheightscoc.net

ARMS UPCOMING EVENTS











YUMS

July 19th-22nd

Traveling to Hemphill, TX

YAMS

Saturday, July 15th

D'Ann Dickson's Home

MAMS

Saturday, July 8th Gene & Vanessa Boozer's Home

SAMS

Friday—July 14th

Birthday Celebration @ HHCOC — 6PM



Bringing you ARMS of love, information, upcoming events and much, much more.

May each of you be blessed.

The ARMS of Love News Team