

RELIGION

Slattery honoree for stance on 1804

Bishop Edward J. Slattery of the Catholic Diocese of Tulsa will be among the honorees June 5 at the annual assembly of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry.

Slattery will receive the Russell Bennett Recognition for his leadership in opposition to House Bill 1804, which tightened Oklahoma's immigration policies, and for his other immigration activities.



HONOREE

Edward J. Slattery: Calling House Bill 1804 immoral and unjust, he has said he would go to jail before allowing it to prevent him from ministering to illegal aliens.

Slattery called the law immoral and unjust, and said he would go to jail before he stopped offering ministry to illegal aliens.

The TMM dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at the Greenwood Cultural Center, 322

N. Greenwood Ave.

The public is invited. Tickets are \$20. RSVP by Friday by calling 582-3147.

"We'll celebrate the accomplishments of one of the nation's oldest interfaith organizations and recognize individuals who have made special contributions to our Tulsa community over the past year," said TMM Executive Director Jim Mishler.

TMM and its predecessor organizations have been active for 71 years in the Tulsa interfaith community.

Other award recipients will be: John and Jane Osborne, Episcopal laypersons — the Ron McDaniel Recognition for individuals who embody the spirit of TMM and have over the years provided outstanding effort to further the mission of the organization.

The Rev. Jose-Maria Briones, St. Francis Xavier Church — the Don Newby/Ben Hill Recognition given to those who selflessly serve the poor and those in crisis.

Clark Inkanish, American Indian spiritual leader — the Interfaith Understanding Recognition for his efforts to promote understanding and cooperation between Tulsa's religious communities.

this week

MUSIC

Preview of Light Opera Oklahoma with Eric Gibson. 12:05 p.m. Tuesday, **Trinity Episcopal Church**, 501 S. Cincinnati Ave.

FELLOWSHIP

The Singles Fellowship of Christ United Methodist Church bowling. 7 p.m. Saturday, **Riverlanes Bowling Alley**, 81st Street and Lewis Avenue. Also Memorial Day picnic, dancing and karaoke. Noon Monday, **Salt Creek North campground**, Lake Keystone.

Tulsa Fellowship of Christian Writers meeting with guest speaker Trudy Graham, speaking on "Putting your joy into writing action." 7 p.m. Tuesday, **Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian**, 4102 E. 61st St.

Annual barbecue with music by Prairie Dawgs, Jupiter Jump, snow cones. 6 p.m. May 31, **Hope Unitarian Church**, 8432 S. Sheridan Road. For reservations (\$12), call 691-1102 by noon Wednesday.

The This Week column offers churches and other groups an opportunity to publicize news items and upcoming events that may be of interest to people outside their organization. Continuing events may be published once when they begin. All articles are subject to editing and will be printed on a space-available basis. Items must be received in writing by 5 p.m. Wednesday for Saturday publication.

Mail to Bill Sherman, religion writer, P.O. Box 1770, Tulsa, OK 74102; e-mail to bill.sherman@tulsaworld.com; or fax to (918) 581-8353.

HANDS TO HEAL



Nancy Payne (from left) and Pat Flotron pray Thursday for Debbie Leslie of Tulsa.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT S. CROSS/Tulsa World

Prayer meetings

► The Tulsa Healing Center's puts prayer teams to work on better lives for its "patients."

BILL SHERMAN

World Religion Writer

Debbie Leslie stood quietly, eyes closed, as three people prayed for her children, her business and her well-being last week at the Tulsa Healing Center.

The center is a prayer ministry set up like a doctor's office with a bright, well-appointed waiting room, scheduled appointments, a growing list of "patients," and five prayer rooms manned by prayer team members from about 25 area churches of various denominations.

"He came to give you a future and a hope," prayer team leader Nancy Payne told Leslie during her half-hour appointment.

"We command every form of deception and discouragement to be banished," Payne prayed, holding Leslie's hands and facing her.

Leslie pressed a tissue to her eyes as the prayer continued.

The Tulsa Healing Center was started two years ago by Larry Palmer, former pastor of the Vineyard Church in Tulsa.

It is modeled after a prayer room concept developed by John G. Lake in Spokane, Wash., in the early 1900s, Palmer said.

Between 1915 and 1920, more than 100,000 documented healings were recorded in the rooms, Palmer said.

The healing rooms in Spokane closed when Lake left in 1920.

In 1999, Cal Pierce founded Healing Rooms Ministries in Spokane on the same site as the Lake healing rooms ministry, but

in a newer building. The ministry relocated to a larger facility after a 2002 earthquake damaged the building.

The ministry is not affiliated with John G. Lake Ministries in Dallas.

Elaine Perkins, associate director of what is now the International Association of Healing Rooms, said Pierce was inspired by John G. Lake, but he was more inspired by healing itself.

"He felt prompted to come to Spokane. When he was on his way, he remembered this was where the Lake healing rooms were," she said.

Pierce is in South Africa this week, invited to speak at the centennial celebration of the Apostolic Faith Missions Church, a large denomination of churches that Lake founded when he was a missionary there.

Perkins said the healing rooms ministry is growing rapidly.

"People are flying in from all over the world, either to receive prayer or to receive training in healing," she said.

There are 691 healing rooms in 43 nations, including two in Tulsa, one in Enid and one in Moore. Palmer, the state coordinator, said more rooms are developing in the state.

The Tulsa Healing Center schedules half-hour appointments in five healing rooms Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings, and also Thursday evenings. Some 75 rotating team members, working in teams of about three people, are on schedule to pray for about 4,000 people this year, Palmer said.

There is no charge for appointments. The center is supported by donations.

Prayer is offered for a wide variety of needs, physical, emotional, spiritual, financial.

He said prayer teams offer prayer only, and do not counsel.



Scott Norvell prays with the group and the group leaders at the end of the service Thursday at the Tulsa Healing Center.

"There is no pat prayer. We wait and sense what God is doing. You may have deliverance going on in one room, peace in another room, and laughter in another room."

He said team members come from a variety of spiritual backgrounds, and each has something different to offer. They work together well because they respect each other.

"It's the Body of Christ being the Body of Christ," he said.

"Our commitment is to come alongside people in pursuit of their healing."

"Our mandate is that they must feel safe, and they must feel loved."

Scott Norvell, assistant director of the center, left a job as senior vice president and director of marketing and sales for Bank of Oklahoma's Transfund system to work full time at the Tulsa Healing Center, an unpaid position.

"God told me to quit my job and live on faith, and trust him for everything," Norvell said.

He is involved in training prayer team volunteers.

The center uses an elaborate training system developed by the parent Healing Rooms Ministries in Spokane that includes video training, an interview process, going through prayer as a recipi-

ent, and then joining prayer teams first as an observer, and then as a participant under supervision. The process can take many months. Team leaders get additional training.

Team members wear identification badges that are color-coded based on their training level.

Payne said that as prayer team leader, the "coolest thing is seeing people come in here depressed, and then seeing them leave much lighter in their hearts."

For Leslie, a self-employed single parent of four, the prayer rooms have been life-changing.

When she began coming for prayer six weeks ago, she said, she had a strained relationship with some of her children and other problems. Her teenage son frequently ran away.

"I've been a Christian for 35 years, but I've found new hope here," she said.

"Sometimes when I walk in the door I start weeping. I don't know why. It's like Jesus walks in. It's a divine appointment with the great physician," she said.

"The biggest miracle is that I'm a peace. The anxiety is gone."

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Tulsa Healing Center » 5525 E. 51st St. 388-3600 » www.tulsaworld.com/healing.

The spiritual journey of John G. Lake

BY BILL SHERMAN

World Religion Writer

John G. Lake, who developed a prayer room ministry that inspired the Tulsa Healing Center, was earning today's equivalent of \$1 million a year when he left to become a missionary to Africa in 1908.

He was a real estate investor, founder of two newspapers, member of the Chicago Board of Trade, and had a relationship with some

of the leading figures of his day, including Mahatma Gandhi, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini.

Lake was born in Canada in 1870 and moved with his family to the United States when he was 16 years old. He was ordained in the Methodist Church at age 21.

Influenced by the Azusa Street revival in the early 1900s, he formed the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa and left for Africa, where he founded more than

700 churches. His wife died a few months after their arrival in Africa, leaving him to raise their seven children.

Lake returned to the United States in 1913 and a year later moved to Spokane, Wash. There he established a prayer room ministry, the Divine Healing Institute. It has been reported that from about 1915 to 1920, about 100,000 people received documented healings through Lake's prayer rooms and the "divine healing technicians" he

trained.

He later established similar prayer room ministries in Oregon, California and Texas.

Lake died in 1935, and his daughter and son-in-law continued the ministry. In the 1980s, the Rev. Curry R. Blake was named general overseer of John G. Lake Ministries, based in Dallas.

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