

THE CLAREMORE DAILY PROGRESS

Claremore, Oklahoma

May 18, 2018

Giving people a new day in Claremore

BY CYDNEY BARON cbaron@claremoreprogress.com



The pastor of New Day Church has decided to tackle a new venture, back home in familiar territory.

Ray and JoAnn Case are returning to Claremore, by way of Arkansas, Africa and Belize.

"I came to Claremore in 1984 and pastored an independent full gospel church in Sequoyah and was there about five years," Ray Case said. "I left there and came to the city of Claremore and pastored a church here."

From there the duo opened a church called the Family Worship Center in 1989.

"In 2000 we felt like we were called to go to the mission field so we left the church and went to Malawi, Central Africa," he said. "We were there five years and came back to the states. We opened a church in Pea Ridge, Arkansas."

He said the church was left in capable hands when they returned back to Africa for another three years.

Health issues brought the couple back home.

"We had children and grandchildren here so we decided to get back into the community. We always liked Claremore and we've seen how much it has advanced," he said.

It wasn't long after they settled back in that they opened New Day Church, currently meeting at the Claremore Conference Center. The congregation, he said, has been steadily growing.

He said it's important for them to be community-centered. Claremore residents can expect to see New Day attending town events.

The two said New Day is a full gospel church.

"We're also very mission minded," JoAnn said.

Before long he hopes the church will have a youth ministry that is active in schools, a veteran's ministry, a jail ministry and a nursing home ministry.

When asked why they do what they do, Ray's answer was simple.

"It's a labor of love," he said. "When you see lives change, it keeps you going. You always have faith that you can help anybody regardless of what kind of situation they are in."

"And that's why we named it a New Day," JoAnn added. "A lot of people need a new day."