

The OUTPOST

S.W.A.T. Team Work & Witness Ministry

Issue # 28

SERVANTS WITH A TOOL, Inc.

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"Providing Labor of Love for Christ-Centered Ministries"

SWAT Team Helps ECHO

On October 14-15 three SWAT Team Members went to Enfield, NC to help Grace Staton begin the remodeling process on the building she has leased in order to open a new ministry in that area. Grace is the Director of ECHO, a start-up nonprofit, community-based organization that will help homeless men get back on their feet and attain self-sufficiency. It will provide them a place to live, food, counseling, and spiritual guidance. Enfield is a small town approximately 1.5 hours East of Raleigh. that is an agricultural town that has come on very hard times as jobs have disappeared.

Grace, raised in Enfield as a girl, now has a burning desire to return to the community and do what she can to restore hope to some who have lost hope.

The two-day event resulted in several projects being completed or started, such as the installation of two interior doorways, the construction of a wall that partitioned a large room into an office and a living area for the residents, and the power-washing of the exterior of the building. Grace rallied several persons from the community to assist in the projects.



Nate enjoyed sharing his wall-building skills with Grace and her Team



Nate making sure Jr. does it right



Your Opportunity to Give

Whether you have had the privilege of attending an event this year or not, there is yet another way you can participate in the SWAT Team ministry. We are totally dependent upon donations to meet our administrative expenses. Any gifts that exceed these expenses go towards tools and project materials, which are needed for some of our national trips where host sites are unable to afford materials.

If you are able to provide a tax-deductible donation, either through a one-time gift or on an on-going basis, that would be greatly appreciated. You can make your checks out to the SWAT Team.

"Use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God." Rom 6:13b (NLT)

SWAT Team Helps with Katrina Disaster Relief Effort

(SWAT's Final Event in 2005)

Nine members of the SWAT Team traveled to Gautier ("Go-shay"), Mississippi in early November to lend a helping hand to a few families who experienced the devastation from Hurricane Katrina. Soon after we arrived, SWAT Team President, Jim Stewart, gave us tour of the coast line where the damage was greatest. Jim has been serving as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Mississippi Nazarene District. Seeing the "ruins" was an experience we had never felt before. Jr. Sykes stated, "This reminds me of Viet Nam, except there aren't big holes in the ground." The pictures shown on TV and in the print media don't and can't accurately communicate the devastation. It's only when you actually walk through the rubble that you begin to realize how peoples' lives have been turned upside down since August 29th.

During the hurricane, all homes and buildings within a ½ mile of the coast were either wiped out completely, shifted from their foundation or severely water damaged. The storm happened during high tide resulting in 20 to 30 foot walls of salt water rushing from the Gulf onto the land. The homes left standing instantly became uninhabitable. Most items on the main floor of these homes were destroyed, including appliances, fixtures, counters, cabinets, furnaces, HVAC systems, drywall, and furniture.

But the good news of this horrific event is that the Church is rising to the occasion. Unfortunately the national media is not reporting on how team after team from churches of all denominations all over the Us are arriving daily to help the victims get their lives and homes back in order.

During our week-long stay, the Team had the privilege of helping several families victimized by water and wind. Our first project included finishing newly hung dry-wall and patching the roof at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Purdy. Mr Purdy had heart surgery in June and is unable to perform this kind of work. We then went to Mr. and Mrs. Gay's home where we helped prepare their house for installation of dry-wall by spraying a chemical designed to kill black mold caused by salt water. Some of the Team then joined another team and helped install a new roof on another home in the neighborhood. For our final afternoon, several of our Team gathered yard tools, a lawn mower and a wheelbarrow and walked through a neighborhood knocking on doors of homes where people where home and volunteered to clean up and mow their yards (lawnmowers are hard to come since most were destroyed by water).

SWAT To Return to Mississippi

A return trip to Gautier is being coordinated by Dave Robinson, SWAT Board Member who attended the event to Gautier in November, and Steve Blakeman. Housing and two meals per day are provided at no cost. Air fare with Air Tran continues to be less than \$200 for a round trip from Raleigh, NC. Contact Dave 919-845-4333 or Steve immediately if you are interested in this trip. Dave is flying and coordinating that part. The Blakeman's will be pulling their camper, leaving on January 21. Some of us will be staying for an extended period, but any who choose to go may choose to return sooner. Contact Steve if this date suits you (919-554-4343).

Want More Information? . . .Contact

Jim Stewart, President 919-623-4821
 Steve Blakeman, Dir. of Operations 919-554-4343

SWAT@ServantsWithATool.com

www.ServantsWithATool.com

The S.W.A.T. Team is a volunteer work & witness ministry. Service opportunities include construction, remodeling, landscaping, evangelism, education, administration, fundraising, grant writing. When participating in events, transportation, food, lodging and personal insurance must be provided by individual team members.



Contamination requires special gear in some situations



We had to "pry" Dave off this roof so he wouldn't miss his flight back home!