

# S.W.A.T. Team

## SERVANTS WITH A TOOL

February 2006

Issue #29

*"Providing Labor of Love for Christ-Centered Ministries"*

## SWAT Team Returns to Pascagoula, MS

### Google.com Used by God to Connect SWAT with Asbury Chapel

The SWAT Team recently returned from Mississippi where eight Team Members "camped out" by night at the Crossroads Church of the Nazarene and worked by day at the Asbury Chapel in nearby Pascagoula. In preparation for the trip, a Google search of Ministries in the Mississippi coastal area resulted in a contact with this AME Zion congregation led by Pastor Joyce Gant. The Team was used by God as a catalyst to begin the refurbishing of the fellowship hall and the parsonage after their church building had to be demolished due to damage sustained by Katrina. Once in the area, the SWAT Team was joined by another team of seven volunteers from The Lighthouse, a Brethren congregation in Goshen, Indiana.



Members of the SWAT Team and the team from Goshen, IN pause long enough for a picture

### Mission Accomplished By Scott Blakeman

After a long and tiresome trip from North Carolina we arrived in hot and muggy Mississippi, ready to get some serious work done. Our mission: to help Asbury Chapel, an AME Zion Church, sheetrock their fellowship hall so they could have church services there. It was a daunting task; hurricane Katrina's floodwater damaged most of the building's sheetrock. S.W.A.T. teamed up with a church group from Goshen, Indiana, and some members of the AME Church to create a triple threat. With these hard working teams we conquered our sheet rocking objectives in just one week!

It gives you a good feeling to help people in need. When you see the finished product of your labor you see how cool it is to serve others. After we finished our week of work we got to worship with the AME church on Sunday. It was great to see all the smiles and hear all the thanks from the congregation.

We left Mississippi happy that we had the chance to help out. We were glad we could use our talents to serve God. Heading home we knew our mission was a success.



Scott and Lynn Blakeman worked tirelessly each day after finishing their home-school activities



Pastor Gant rolled up her sleeves to help sand the new sheetrock. Ed King (background) cheered the Team on and gave direction daily.

### Parishioners from Asbury Pitched In

Several from the Asbury Chapel congregation pitched in, including Pastor Joyce Gant, to help as the SWAT Team worked on their fellowship hall. Mr. Ed King arrived daily to open the doors for the Team and he stayed until the work was done each day. He provided support and guidance as many construction decisions had to be made. He quickly became a "Team Member".

The congregation was scheduled to begin worshipping in the newly renovated building on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. What a great accomplishment they have made!



Sheila Phillips spent most of the week painting in a home devastated by Katrina

### First Time SWAT Participant Blessed

By Sheila Phillips

My heart was touched by a mother who was living with her two daughters in her bedroom because the rest of her home had not been repaired. The SWAT Team and other volunteer groups were working hard to get the home completed the week I was there. I met an older couple in similar circumstances. All of the homes and churches I saw had to be completely rebuilt on the inside.

I was very blessed each morning and evening with devotions and the fellowship we shared at Crossroads Church of the Nazarene where I stayed. I felt warmth and appreciation at every task we worked on. The whole mission with SWAT in Mississippi was a wonderful and inspiring experience that helped me get closer to God. I hope to get another opportunity to serve.



Ken Wilson and Gene Philbeck designed and built this brick memorial in front of the Victory Nazarene Church in Pascagoula

### Gene and Ken Build a Monument

Gene Philbeck and Ken Wilson worked a few days at the Victory Church of the Nazarene building a monument in memory of 13 people a dog and a cat who floated to the church in a boat (shown in the picture) during the storm as they sought a safe haven. The "boat people" were able to reach safety on the second floor in the church while they rode out the storm and where some resided for the next month. The boat still remains outside of the entrance of the church where it came to rest after the storm. A plaque with their story will be placed between the pillars of the memorial that Gene and Ken built.



Kaylin Blakeman enjoyed becoming proficient at “mudding” corners

## SWAT Team Gets Logo

Marcus Rimmer of ***Creative Instinct Signs and Graphic Designs***, located in Pensacola, FL recently designed the Logo for the SWAT Team. It is featured at the top of page one of this newsletter. All SWAT apparel and stationery will now carry this design. Marcus also made several magnetic signs with the logo that will be placed on “SWAT vehicles” on route to events. Many thanks go to Marcus for allowing God to use his talents and tools to promote the SWAT Team. Marcus’ web address is: [gowithyourinstinct.com](http://gowithyourinstinct.com).



Marcus Rimmer installs a magnetic sign with the new SWAT Logo on the Blakeman’s “SWAT Vehicle”

## 2006 Schedule of SWAT Local Events

Several events this year will be held at camp grounds. These are very “family friendly” in that they typically include free lodging and meal arrangements.

### March 10-11: Camp Oak Hill, Oxford, NC.

Project: Assist with the renovation of a 2-story “camp counselor” house.

### April 7-8: Victory Mtn. Camp, Sophia, NC.

Projects include finishing 3 log cabins and constructing bath-houses.

May: Faith House of Enfield, Enfield, NC

Dates and projects to be announced.

### June 9-11: Virginia Nazarene Camp, Buckingham, VA.

Projects: To be announced

July: To be announced

August: To be announced

### Sept: SC Nazarene Camp, Labor Day Weekend

### Oct: The Potters Wheel, Mt. Olive, NC.

Nov: To be announced

## Your Opportunity to Help

*Whether you have had the privilege of attending a SWAT event or not, there is a 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 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 SWAT Team, 1012 Cedar Knoll Dr. Wake Forest, NC 27587.*

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

## Want More Information? . . .Contact

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**The S.W.A.T. Team is a volunteer, non-denominational 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.