



July- September 2007

Editor: Amy Wanner

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“Providing Labor of Love for Christ-Centered Ministries”

Father and Son Time in Havelock

By Bill and Dylan Tafel

By Bill:

My son, Dylan (11) and I recently participated in a SWAT Team event at Coastal Beacon Nazarene Church in Havelock, NC. All we knew was the parsonage was in need or repair and renovation. We started out staining the deck with some other youth. This was the first time I really worked with my son and I came away so richly blessed. I saw the servant heart in an 11 year old boy who would not be distracted from his assignment. When his task was changed, he rolled with the change. I do not think I could have been any more proud to be his dad than I was that day. On our trip home, we talked about our experiences and Dylan is already planning for the SWAT Team's next event at Camp Oak Hill. Thank you SWAT Team for the opportunity to serve the body of Christ.



Dylan Tafel and Samuel Jessee learn the intricacies of deck staining from Bill Tafel in Havelock, NC

By Dylan:

My dad really liked spending time with me. I enjoyed participating in SWAT a lot because I get to help other people and learn how to use tools. I liked Havelock because I got to do more new things than I have in the past. I learned how to paint so that you don't get the white part (the trim) at the floor. I may have gotten hurt at the South Camp last year, but didn't keep me from working this time. I work for other people and God. Jesus is with me when I'm working. Thank you SWAT Team for teaching me so many things, including how to have a servant's heart!



Powerline Nazarene Church Blesses the SWAT Team

Ten SWAT Team Members headed out early Sunday morning, August 12th, to make a presentation at the Powerline Nazarene Church in Elon, NC. Pastor Tim Taylor was away that Sunday and had requested that we come to tell the SWAT story during both of the morning worship services. One of our newest SWAT Team families, the Haney's, are members at Powerline and participated in our presentation. We were excited to have 24 different family units sign up showing interest in joining the Team! To our surprise, a love offering was taken at the conclusion of each service, totaling \$483! What an unexpected blessing! The SWAT Team will use the \$483 blessing to help with materials for the project being held at Compass Ministries in November. Thanks again to those who served breakfast and lunch and made the SWAT Team feel welcomed at Powerline!

Reflections

By Wilma Cordova

I would like to talk about my first SWAT event - where should I start? Well, I learned about the SWAT Team after seeing an entry in our church bulletin. As soon as I saw they needed volunteers for the SWAT Team, I went to their website to learn about them. After reading about SWAT, I said: "Hmm, this sounds like a great thing to participate in". So my first SWAT event was at the South Carolina District Nazarene Campground this past Labor Day weekend. It was my first event and I decided to invite my older sister, Melissa, to come along with her 2 kids - Hector (11) and Victoria (5). How glad I am that I did! This was a wonderful experience for all of us! The SWAT events are wonderful for all ages - children, teens, young adults, older adults, etc. I am 24 years old and this was a perfect fit for me as it was for my family. I have always had a desire in my heart to serve others and to serve God through ministries/missions. Well, this was a perfect opportunity for me. As we drove down to SC, I was not sure what to expect for the weekend. But after I woke up on Saturday morning and had breakfast with the group, I realized that it was going to be a very nice weekend. In the morning, we were all assigned small tasks - and the tasks we received were tasks that my nephew and niece could participate in as well.

As we got started with our tasks, I spent time with my sister and her kids working together for Christ as a family. Seeing how happy they looked working made me very happy too. Hector and Victoria were learning to be true servants of God. We worked hard and enjoyed our time together as a family. But not only did I spend time with my family, I also spent time with other families, getting to know others and their love for God. It was a wonderful experience to spend time together with others who have the same desire in their hearts - to love God and serve in His ministry with love. You could see how every person in this event loved each other as brothers/sisters in God. We were not strangers to each other. Everyone was so nice, loving, and patient. This was just a sample of how it will be in God's Kingdom.

This event was a blessing in many ways. In addition to being able to spend time with my family and teaching the kids the meaning of service, I learned many things. As I swept and worked in the campground, my mind wandered at times. For example, as I put together the tree leaves in a corner so we could put them in a bag, the wind blew the leaves away. It was nice to see this beauty of God's creation, but as my mind wandered while working on

this task, I started relating the leaves with my life. We try to put our lives together in a perfect way - organizing it in such a way that works well for us- but then the wind (a tough situation) could come our way and move things around and destroy that perfect mountain of leaves. It might be hard work to put them together again, and after it happens a couple of times you might get tired or frustrated, but with love and patience we can put them back together and it turns out to be a great thing. The end result of having our lives together with God is just a great reward. There were many things I thought of as my mind wandered while working, but at most times my mind was just thinking of the joy of serving God!!

We not only worked hard at the camp, but we also had fun! The part I liked the best was the campfire on Saturday night. I had my first experience doing S'mores! Yes, I did and it was a lot of fun. After having a beautiful service and sharing our experiences of the day, we had a fire and spent some time together. There's so much more I can say about the event, but I think this will sum it all - participating in this SWAT event was a wonderful experience and I really enjoyed every second of it!



Wilma worked on cleaning up the lawns and walkways...with a smile.

SWAT is Growing!

SWAT's vision of expanding into a nation-wide ministry with multiple local Teams throughout the US is becoming a reality! We are excited to announce the formation of two new SWAT chapters. "SWAT/Texas" will hold its inaugural event the week of January 21st at Camp Eagle near Mt. Home, Texas. "SWAT/Ohio" will hold its inaugural event, at a location to be announced, in Spring 2008.

Please pray for SWAT and its success in providing labor of love for Christ-centered ministries. We are currently looking for ministries we can serve and "servants" with tools to join us. If you have friends or family in either of these locations, or a love for the Lone Star and Buckeye states, we'd like to hear from you. Construction experience is not necessary, just a servant's heart.

Several Team members responded to our request for donations towards a new computer. We are happy to report that enough funds were received to purchase the computer. The computer was ordered and will be arriving shortly. THANK YOU!

We appreciate your prayers and support in our new venture!

To learn more about "SWAT/Texas" and the inaugural event, contact Jim Stewart: 919-623-4821 or Daralyn Sacarello: swatvp@hotmail.com.

To learn more about "SWAT/Ohio", contact Nate & Amy Wanner: Ohio@ServantsWithATool.com or 614-305-7068.



There were a lot of helping hands at the South Carolina District Campground on Labor Day weekend

SWAT Texas Plans Inaugural Event

The brand new Texas chapter of SWAT is planning its Inaugural Event in Rocksprings, Texas January 22-25 (Tue-Fri), 2008. The event is being led by Jim Stewart and Daralyn Sacarello. Projects to be completed include repairing siding, constructing a shade shelter near the dining hall, mold clean-up and painting.

This Christian Camp is located in the hill country of Texas and encompasses 1400 acres of rolling hills, cliffs, and the headwaters of the Nueces River. The camp was built in the 70's and is now geared towards Teens, utilizing experiential learning and group dynamics to help them pursue a deeper relationship with God, family, & community. Get more information at www.CampEagle.org.

If you would like to attend this event or get more information please contact Daralyn Sacarello at swatvp@hotmail.com or 919- 332-1083

Upcoming Events

November 16-17: Compass Aviation Ministries, Shelby NC. Constructing a metal wall to close in the end of an airplane hangar used by the ministry. Contact Steve Blakeman ASAP if you are interested in this project.
Steveblakeman@Earthlink.net
Phone: 919-368-2770

November 30-December 1: Enfield Camper Extreme Make-over at the Blakeman Home. Join us as we prepare an old travel trailer for reuse as a storage unit for the House of Faith in Enfield, NC.

January 22-25, 2008: Camp Eagle, Rocksprings, TX. "SWAT/Texas" inaugural event where we will be doing maintenance and construction work for this Christian camp.





Volunteers of all ages helped with the improvements at Coastal Beacon Nazarene Church parsonage in Havelock, NC

Great Job Everyone!



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Want More Information?

Jim Stewart 919-623-4821
www.ServantsWithATool.com

The S.W.A.T. Team is an all volunteer inter-denominational ministry, and a non-profit 501-C-3 corporation. Service opportunities include construction, remodeling, landscaping, evangelism, education, administration, and fundraising. When participating in events, transportation and personal insurance must be provided by individual Team members.