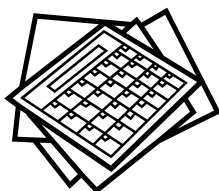


“Providing Labor of Love for Christ-Centered Ministries”



Upcoming Events

- August 29-31 (Labor Day Weekend): Gunter D. Moody Camp and Retreat Center (SC Nazarene Camp), Batesburg, SC
- September 26-28: TBA
- October 31- November 1: Camp Oak Hill, Oxford, NC
- November 21-22: Enfield House of Faith, Enfield, NC



SWAT Lends a Hand to Complete Three Navajo Churches

By Jim Stewart and Steve Blakeman

In 2004, Jim Stewart, President of the SWAT Team, volunteered to work with the leadership of the Nazarene Church on the Navaho Indian Reservation. This role would make him a catalyst over the next four years in the building of three Nazarene churches on the Reservation in Arizona. After much planning, coordinating and several trips to the Indian Reservation with SWAT Team members, Jim saw the last of three Nazarene Churches completed in March of this year in Parker, AZ.

The foundation for the Parker church had been laid in 2004. The walls were constructed a couple years later but more work was needed to complete the project. A group of Natives volunteered their time and talents to build the roof in January, 2008. Several couples from the traveling ministry called RVer's On A Mission (R.O.A.M.), three men with Integrity Ministries, and Jim and Joy Stewart arrived this February and together they finished the building. On Sunday, March 22, the new completed sanctuary was dedicated to God's service.

The other two Native churches, completed in 2006 and 2007, are located in Shonto and Kaibito, AZ. These projects, led primarily by volunteers, could not have been accomplished had it not been for the cooperation of several volunteers and ministries from throughout the US over a four-year period. The SWAT Team, R.O.A.M., Integrity Ministries, and several work groups from churches and Work & Witness teams throughout the US worked on these churches during the construction process.

Those who have had a part in the building of these churches can rejoice in the fact that because they sacrificed their time and money and allowed God to use their talents, Native Americans will have a place to worship and hear the Word of God proclaimed. We give glory to God for bringing together all the necessary resources!

Left: Laying the foundation in 2004

Right: Finishing touches in 2008



SWAT Team Mows Down Virginia Camp



By Scott Blakeman

The SWAT Team recently embarked upon a summertime adventure to the Virginia Nazarene Campground. Let me reiterate the word "summertime", because it was HOT! However, the heat and humidity did not deter the SWAT Team. We gallantly endeavored to complete the tasks set before us during that muggy June weekend. One of the objectives assigned to me was mowing quite a sizable amount of grass. Now, I'll ad-

mit, the prospect of mowing grass does not make my heart leap with joy. But, when I learned that the campground's mowing machine was a zero-turning radius speed demon, which instills fear in every tall blade of grass, my outlook on life changed dramatically. For the rest of the day I buzzed around the campground feeling like a professional lawn mower. I was happy to help beautify the campground. I even obtained a nice tan in the process! Yes, it was a good day!

Some other projects that SWAT tackled that weekend ranged from power washing the dining hall patio, electrical work, concrete work that will allow the campground to become more handicap accessible, carpet steam cleaning, and general cleanup in the Tabernacle. Servant-hood was on display during that hot and humid June weekend. We were all happy to give the campground a "boost" before the beginning of the summer camp season. We left that place with a sense of accomplishment, knowing we were God's hands and feet that weekend.

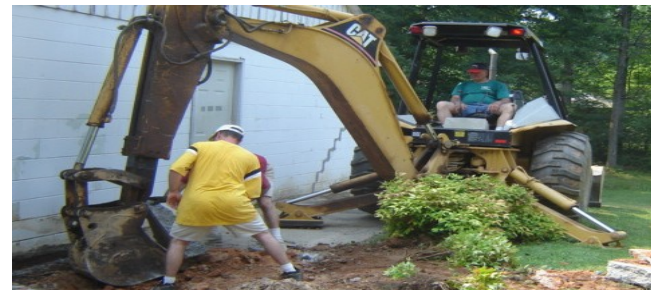
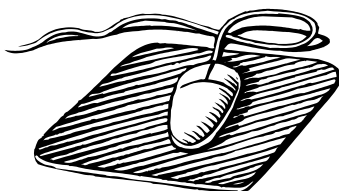


SWAT Now Has Online Registration!

We are excited to announce that we now have online registration for SWAT events. It is our hope that online registration will make it more convenient for you to register and will help us to get more accurate counts of attendees.

You can register online by going to our website at www.ServantsWithATool.org and going to the upcoming events page. Find the event you will attend and click the link under it to register.

Please make sure to include dates and times for your arrival and departure so we have accurate numbers for meals and lodging.



About S.W.A.T

The S.W.A.T. Team is an all volunteer interdenominational 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.

Outdoor Mission Camp: A Mountain-top Experience

By Steve Blakeman

It's not very often that you meet a husband and wife who have voluntarily given up the "perks" of corporate life to become missionaries. This is what Ruffin and Jamie Shackelford have done. Within the past 6 months they have permanently moved to the mountains of NC where they are developing a wilderness camp for children. They have been holding camps there in the summers for several years, however these were limited to the weeks when Ruffin was able to take "vacation" time. But not any more. He and Jamie are working full time as camp directors of Outdoor Mission Camp; sponsored by Youth For Christ. They look forward to the blessings that will come with this level of commitment. They have a great passion to help children come to know Jesus as their personal Savior.

During the weekend of May 2-4, eleven members of the SWAT Team traveled up the steep mountain near Maggie Valley, NC to a small, rustic log cabin which the Shackelfords now call home. With tools in tow, the Team had the privilege of working that weekend with another group of 6 men from a church in Roxboro, NC who were also there with the same goal as the SWAT Team. The goal was to help Ruffin and Jamie get closer to finishing several remaining projects on the lodge (that has been mostly hand-built by Jamie and Ruffin) and get the "certificate of occupancy" in time for the camping season this summer.

Together we combined our skills and willingness to serve and accomplished the painting of walls, cutting and installing railing for the wrap-around porches, screwing bolts into rafters for extra support, electrical "finishing", installing plastic water lines, and making headway in the installation of the bathroom sinks. As always, the Team received a blessing as a result of "giving" of our time and talents.

On Sunday morning Ruffin lead us on a hike up to their favorite spot on the mountain where we climbed onto a huge boulder and had a worship service while overlooking the valley below us. God's presence was with us throughout the weekend. Much was accomplished, we met new brothers and sisters in Christ and we were able to become a small part of the Outdoor Mission Camp, where many children will make life-changing decisions over the years to come.



SWAT Adventure at Camp Marengo



By Phyllis Blakeman

On a cool spring morning in May, my son Steve and I traveled one hour north of Columbus to the Church of God district campgrounds to join Nate and Amy Warner of the Ohio SWAT Chapter, as they had arranged for our SWAT event that weekend. Upon arriving at the camp we saw a sign leading us down a shady lane lined with trees with sunlight occasionally breaking through, giving us feelings of a warm atmosphere. The air smelled so fresh – just like being in the country.

As we unloaded our belongings, we soon met the Camp Director, Dave Woodward, and John Trussel, the Program Director. After a brief tour of the camp they guided us to our places of work. The men were to build a handicap ramp at the entrance of Crowder Hall. The ladies were assigned painting trim boards that would later be installed in cabins.

Dawn and Mike Stroupe, from North Carolina, and

Chris and Jamie Risser, friends of Nate and Amy's, came from Pennsylvania to share in the SWAT weekend. Their children had a great time of bike riding, playing in the sand, and giving us a hand with our projects throughout the weekend. With the sound of the dinner bell ringing, we knew it was mealtime in the dining hall, prepared by Patty Woodward, the Assistant Camp Director. Their hospitality was given with great appreciation and love to each of us. Each evening we gathered around an open fire and fixed our famous "smores". It was hard to say our goodbyes when leaving camp, as they had become our new friends. The men completed the ramp, but we ladies didn't have quite enough time to finish the painting of the trim (maybe next time).

I am a believer that SWAT serves a great purpose and mission in helping others. I've been on two SWAT events and plan to go again. It's a time to meet and make new friends. I count this time another blessing to serve with my son and to be a servant in using a green paint brush.

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