

“Providing Labor of Love for Christ-Centered Ministries”

Reflections of 2009

By Steve Blakeman

The SWAT Team has completed the 9th year of ministry, bringing the total number of events held to 89 since the birth of the ministry in 2001. Highlights of this past year include:

- Two “national” events where we went beyond our normal boundaries: Baltimore and New York. We “partnered” with the Stony Hill Baptist Church of Wake Forest in Baltimore and with the Youth Group from North Raleigh Church of the Nazarene in New York.
- Several individuals and families that participated for the first time. We always enjoy getting to know new folks.
- An event at a campground we’d never been to before: Hickory Cove Bible Camp. We plan to return again this year.
- Participation in a Missions Fest at Holland United Methodist Church in Raleigh. This gave us another opportunity to spread the word about the SWAT Team.
- Presenting the SWAT Team Ministry at a Laymen’s Retreat.
- The Texas Chapter of the SWAT Team, led by Jim and Joy Stewart, is gaining momentum. They held several events in the “hill country” area. We are excited to see the Lord blessing in Texas.

As we look forward to another year of ministry, we fully believe that the

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Hard at work in Moore’s Keep

SWAT Outing at Moore’s Keep

By Paul Flecken

Some folks think that Friday the 13th is an unlucky day and any day in November can just be downright cold; but it was a great day to be part of the SWAT Team and be able to spend a couple days with some really super folks. Tom and Nicky Lewis, the Directors of Moore’s Keep have a vision for turning 164 acres of wilderness into a Christian

Camp with a medieval castle theme.

While we were busy tearing up carpet, pulling nails, laying new floor and installing siding on the ends of the Counselor’s Lodge, Director Tom regaled us with stories of the fantastic camp events and skits that he has used over the years. It takes a vivid imagination and a

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Lord will again bless our efforts as we provide labor of love to Christ-centered ministries. We are often told by the Directors of the camps that the work we accomplish in a single weekend will save them efforts that would have taken several weeks or months to complete. This means that the Lord is using us to free them up to focus on other ministry-related responsibilities.

We are beginning to put a schedule for 2010. We'll keep you posted.

The Mission of the SWAT Team continues to be: *"To provide a means for families and individuals to partner with and encourage Christ-centered ministries through construction and related activities."*

Blessed Again!

By Doug Woodcock

Another SWAT weekend! Not too far away, just a short ride north of Oxford, to Camp Oak Hill! Get there on Friday morning and then the excitement begins. Steve goes to plug in our camper adaptor and all we see are sparks and flames and smoke. Goes to prove electric and electronics run on smoke. Let the smoke out and it doesn't work any more. The outlet sure didn't. OK, we'll let Mike look at that one. Let's hope the rest of the weekend doesn't go the same way.

As the weekend went along, I think that God decided that was enough heart pounding excitement to get us all going. I had the fun of putting siding and trim on a pump house. Took the rest of Friday and a little of Saturday. Got to know Hank a whole lot better and we had a great time at it. God brought to my mind that like the Samaritan woman at the well, we have to keep coming back for more water every day, but He will quench the thirsting of our souls with living water.

Saturday was bridge building day. Approximately 120 feet long and 3 ½' wide. I didn't think we would get it finished as far as we did, but more hands came along and Henry Ford's assembly line got going out in the woods and it got almost completed. Like the cross bridging

the gap between Heaven and us, this bridge will keep hikers out of the swirling waters as they flow below.

A couple of things that happen to me when I go on these weekends is that 1) I get blessed and 2) God gives me a special message that I would not have gotten had I not gone. I go to be a blessing and end up coming away with more than I give. God is so good! We can never out-give God!



*Installing siding and trim on the pump house.
Doesn't it look great!*



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real dedication to pull off a re-enactment of a Vietnam War battle (complete with helicopters) or the cavalry charge from “BRAVE-HEART”. These types of events were able to make a life-long impact on many of the campers who have come in years past. But those previous camping sessions always had to be held in rented facilities and were limited to just a couple weeks each summer.

Now, thanks to the generous donations of several folks, the dedication of others and some helping hands from folks like our own SWAT Team, Moore’s Keep will become a year-round Christian Camp and Retreat Center that will serve the Lord for years to come.

Now most of the time, when you think about work, having a great time is not the first thing that pops into your head! But Linda and I had a great time working with the SWAT Team down at Moore’s Keep. Must have something to do with that statement by Jesus: “My burden is easy and my yoke is light”! Hope to see you all at the next outing.



About S.W.A.T

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, teaching, and administration.

When participating in events, transportation and personal insurance must be provided by individual Team members.

CONTACT US

Steve Blakeman
President and
Carolinas Chapter
919-554-4343
steveblakeman@earthlink.net

Jim Stewart
Vice -President and
West Chapter
919-623-4821
SLRodgers439@sbcglobal.net

Nate & Amy Wanner
IT, Newsletter and
Ohio Chapter
614-305-7068
Ohio@ServantsWithATool.org

www.ServantsWithATool.org