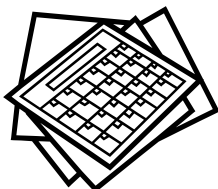


“Providing Labor of Love for Christ-Centered Ministries”



Upcoming Events

- March 4-6: Jacksonville Nazarene Church
- April 8-10: Virginia Nazarene Camp
- May 20-22: Hickory Cove Bible Camp
- June 17-19: Victory Mountain Camp
- July: To Be Determined
- August: To Be Determined
- Labor Day: SC Nazarene Camp



Hickory Cove: A Blessed Time



By Jonathan McClure

Solomon said in Proverbs 12:25, “The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.” I don’t think any other verse in the whole Bible could more accurately describe my experience at my first SWAT event. I came to help others, but every job I participated in during the week was a blessing for me instead.

On Friday, as I helped put a new roof on a building, I enjoyed fellowship with other Christians as I learned many new skills I didn’t have before. I also was able to do some cleaning in a cabin. Reflecting upon it now, it is neat to think of

the spiritual cleaning the Lord will do in the lives of those who will sleep there in the future. On Saturday, I worked all day replacing railroad ties for a beautiful path winding from the campgrounds down to the lakeshore below. The knowledge, experience, and fellowship from Saturday alone made the trip worthwhile.

Before I left, it was great to already see teens at the camp using the equipment and facilities I had worked on during the weekend. I know the Lord gave more to me than I gave to Him, because I was blessed with not only new skills, new friends, and a fun weekend, but I witnessed God at work in and through me (2 Corinthians 9:8) – praise the Lord!



Official Report of the SWAT Team K-9 Unit

By K.C. Flecken (official SWAT canine)

I just have to tell you about my recent experience – man, you won't believe it, even when I tell you!

My folks (you remember them – Paul and Linda) and Dimmee' (the other dog that lives at *my* house) and I went on another SWAT (Servants With A Tool) team weekend. My folks and Dimmee' have gone before, but I always stayed behind to guard our home. But this fall we all have gone on two weekends.

Our first weekend we went to Hickory Cove Camp in Taylorsville, NC and we took our "travel house" and the Big Red truck -you know how I love to ride in that truck!. I met some new friends – Katie, Patches and Sandy. I guess Sandy goes with Hank all the time; but Katie and Patches only go when Steve and Miss Lynn take their camper. There were some people – Steve, Miss Lynn, Miss Della, Hank, Bill and Dillon, Jonathan and some others I don't remember their names.

Anyhow, we put a new roof on the bathhouse by the pool, and since I don't have thumbs and can't climb the ladder I got to guard the tool trailer while they were on the roof. (I tried to sneak into the pool to swim a couple times but Dad always caught me and made me get out. Boy!) And I helped Steve and Jonathan build an edge on a row of steps down to the lake. Unfortunately, they used these big square nasty-tasting pieces of wood. I would have helped more, but these things were just too big to get in my mouth.



I helped Dad ride in the golf cart; and we moved a wood pile from one place to another. And I watched Dad and Luke put up some tall poles for a tractor shed. And I got to meet a lot of people who would throw a stick or ball for me. What a Great Weekend!!

Then last weekend we took the big red truck and travel house and went to Camp Oak Hill in Oxford, NC. Another great place! You should have seen the lake! Before Dad could say K.C. stay out of the water, I was in there trying it out! Man oh man, I LOVE TO SWIM!

I met some more new people, but this time only Sandy came – I heard Steve say that Miss Della was in the hospital so Miss Lynn didn't come and Katie and Patches stayed home to help their mom take care of Grandma Della. I'm sorry about Miss Della being sick and hope she's better now. I know Katie and Patches would have liked the water too, but maybe next time we can all go.

We got lots of work done at COH too. My mom finished painting the two bathrooms in the dining hall; some people blew leaves; Dad and Hank and Howard built a bunch of steps to go over the bridge (no more golf carts on the bridge). And Jonathan, Josh, Jeremy and Aaron built a retaining wall. Although they still found time to throw a tennis ball for me. And Aaron kept throwing it in the lake! Did I tell you how much I like to swim?! I don't understand why Sandy wouldn't swim – I thought she was part "Lab"? Saturday evening when Chong came over to visit, I'm afraid I wasn't very good company. I was so tired I just laid down and went to sleep. I ached so bad – but I had such a great time!!!

I sure hope some more of you can come with us next time. We have such a good time of fellowship and we provide extra hands (or paws) to continue the ministry of spreading the Gospel to campers young and old.

See you next time!
K.C.

The Blessing of Camp Oak Hill

By Marlene Tyson

Our Father God bless the work of our hands done for your glory. Let it be seen in our conduct and character as Christ is delineated in us.

The Lord requires us to love and act in love to one another. S.W.A.T. defines "love in action".

What better way to show love than to serve one another. We give to each other our most valuable personal asset, our time. I recall in the Word when the Lord asked Peter three times, "do you love me". After Peter's reply of "yes Lord", Jesus response was "feed my sheep". I thought, this is exactly what we are doing. As we serve others, we walk in obedience to Him who has given to us breath and life. The pride of our heart is to bring him praise through our actions as we see his never ending glory that goes before and beyond all things.

This weekend I had the privilege of working with a group of unique and phenomenal strangers at Camp Oak Hill. However, they did not remain strangers. By the end of the weekend, they became like family.

A beloved friend of mine had called me weeks



earlier and told me about S.W.A.T.. I was intrigued by what he told me. What a wonderful concept. The constant desire in my life has been, teach me Lord to serve others and give to me the opportunities to do so. Make use of my hands Lord and guide my actions that they may glorify you. Weeks prior to this event, I began to ask the Lord to bless the work of our hands at Camp Oak Hill that we may accomplish our task to the glory and honor of him. Bless the lives of those that come and selflessly give of themselves to serve you.

I was looking forward with great anticipation to this weekend. We were warmly greeted when we arrived at the camp by Steve and other fellow workers as well as Jerry the Camp Maintenance Director. Everything was so organized, precise, and well planned out. Our Lord is a God of organization. Those that organized the work are godly men and women who walk in obedience to the throne so it came as no surprise to me to see the accomplished end result.

By the end of the weekend I was so exultant over the work that was completed but more so over the fellowship. The young people were wonderful and you could see their willingness as they tirelessly worked to accomplish their tasks. They were an absolute joy to watch. The private

(Continued on page 6)

SWAT Team Returns to SC Nazarene Camp

By Samuel Page



This past September, the SWAT team went to the D. Moody Gunter Camp and Retreat Center in Batesburg SC. The early birds (including myself) left Thursday afternoon, and after an eventful trip,

(think blowouts and rest stops for dogs) we arrived at the camp around 10:00 PM. After setting up the trailer, I went over and got set up in what was to become the guy's dorm. Some other team members arrived, and we chatted some before going to bed (well, trying to go to bed...)

Friday morning, we started work. I got to work with Hank Lovell and Mr. Davis, we were set to clean out, insulate, and panel the well house, which took most of the day. The well

house itself was full of huge crickets, which we cleaned out. The job was a lot of fun, I got to learn how to use some new tools, which was fun, and it was great getting to know Hank and Mr. Davis better. Which leads me into one of my favorite things about SWAT trips: You get to work with people you probably wouldn't work with or talk to much normally, even if you see them every Sunday. And if you're still a teenager like me, you get the privilege of learning from more experienced people. After some serious measuring, planning, and working, (and about 6 water bottles each) we got the pump house finished, which I might add looks excellent. We then had dinner, and I hung out with the Abney family and my brother, who had arrived during the day. Later, the rest of the group from Stony Hill arrived, and we played a few games before everyone went to bed except me and Mr. Blakeman, who went to wait for the other youth group from a church in Raleigh. They arrived around midnight, and we helped get them settled in before turning in ourselves.

Saturday, we spent doing the same thing to the new storage shed as we had done to the pump house, insulating and paneling the whole interior, as well as putting in a new door. It took almost the whole day to complete,



but we got it finished about 5-6 PM. Then we had dinner, and a few of us went and had a swim in the pool, before heading down to the campfire ring for the team meeting. (I got to make the fire.) During the meeting, Mr. Dennis (the head caretaker) came and thanked us and did a demonstration on how the work we'd done would impact so many other people's lives, (which is one of my other favorite things about these trips, we help so many people in the name of Jesus Christ. Sometimes even people who we will never meet.) After that, everyone shared what they'd done over the weekend, and what they would remember the most from the trip. For me, it was the blowout on the highway, and I learned how to change a tire. After that, Mr. Dennis treated everyone to ice cream! Then a group of us went for a nighttime-swim, which was really fun. After that everyone turned in for much needed rest.

On Sunday, some of our team stayed on and went to the morning service at the Nazarene Church on the camp grounds, and afterward we had lunch together, before hitting the road.



(Continued from page 3)

and quiet one-on-one fellowship with a few of my team members was prodigious. To be able to listen with the heart to the requests of another and pray on their behalf made me realize this was more than a weekend of work. It was spiritual fellowship with one another as well. It was the Lord interacting through each of us on behalf of each other that his glory would be seen. His purpose would be accomplished within us as a group and individually.

On our way home Saturday evening we spoke of the weekend at Camp Oak Hill. There had been about twenty of us that had formed this team of volunteers with each using his or her own talents



and expertise to accomplish our goal. We worked tirelessly and diligently together treating each other with respect and dignity. What a joyous, gratifying, and enduring time of fellowship with one other. Upon leaving, we were no longer strangers but family saying goodbye until the next time.

We were physically spent when we left



Camp Oak Hill but we took home with us a feeling of deep accomplishment and one of endearment toward one another. The Lord indeed blessed the hands of our labor but He also blessed our hearts. This weekend has filled me with complacency and contentedness. A time to be remembered.

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, education, administration, and fundraising.

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

CONTACT US

Steve Blakeman
Director of Operations and
Carolinas Chapter

919-554-4343
steveblakeman@earthlink.net

Jim Stewart
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