

The OUTPOST

S.W.A.T. Team Work & Witness Ministry

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“Providing Labor of Love for Christ-Centered Ministries”

SWAT Makes a Difference in Kaibeto, AZ

This summer 13 SWAT Team members from Raleigh, NC, Virginia and Texas converged in Kaibeto, a small Indian village located in the northern part of Arizona. The purpose of the event was to renovate the Kaibeto Nazarene Church. Materials for the projects were bought with donations from each participating Team member and others as well.

The church is located next to a medical clinic and a school. On a typical Sunday morning there will be about ten children and twenty adults in attendance. Beside the church is the parsonage and on the other side is another house with a corral of horses. Horses roam freely between these buildings.



SWAT Team Members: Mike and Dawn Stroupe, Mrs. Robinson, Jen Janecek, Nate & Amy Wanner, Jim & Joy Stewart, Andy & Becky Joslin, Dave and Katie Robinson, Rick & LaVerne Boles (not shown)



Becky Joslin sanding a door

Becky Discovers She Can Use Tools

As told by Becky Joslin

This was Andy's and my first trip with the SWAT Team, and we would go again in a heartbeat! I was always apprehensive about going on a SWAT event because I didn't think I have skills when it comes to working with tools, but I was determined to learn and I jumped in and did! The group worked together so well (sometimes in very small places) and we learned a lot from each other. This was an opportunity where I got to experience God bringing together a tapestry of unique people to accomplish jobs to grow the work of His Church. It was refreshing to get away from our world full of noise: cell phones, internet, email, tv, and enter a place of dirt roads, abundant stars and a quieter lifestyle where we enjoyed spending quiet time with the Father and our brothers and sisters in Christ from Kaibeto, Shonto, Texas, Virginia and NC. I am thankful for the opportunity He gave us to go.

The Week was Full of Activities

As told by Dawn Stroupe

We arrived on Tuesday night along with Becky and Andy Joslin. Nate & Amy Wanner, Dave Robinson, and Katie, his daughter. Dave's mother, Mrs. Robonson and Jen, his niece, arrived the next day. Our work days began early but always with a great breakfast prepared by Joy Stewart and Laverne Boles from Texas. The food was always very good; no chance for weight loss on a SWAT trip.

Our first objective was to get the shower room finished. The plumbing presented a problem that required going under the building to hook up a drain. Nate spent hours in that tight space by crawling through a small hole. We are thankful there were no scorpions or snakes under there. He earned the first shower. Becky painted woodwork and doors outside. Dave, his family, and I (Dawn) painted the kitchen. Mike was hard at work exploring the wiring of the building and making a plan for improvement.

We painted walls and ceilings, installed floor tiles in several rooms, built a closet, repaired the roof on the church and parsonage, labeled the breaker box and added outlets, installed ceiling fans and light fixtures, and drew an electrical plan for the building. We painted items outside and learned quickly that winds can come up without warning when rain clouds are near. We had to scramble many times to pick up and go inside.



Dawn enjoyed making sponge art on the ceilings

We enjoyed the Indian fry bread made by the women of the church. They allowed some of us to form the very thin dough by hand. It puffs up to make delicious bread when placed in hot grease in a frying pan.

On the weekend we visited the Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell where we had a picnic dinner. On Sunday the sermon was given in both Navaho and English because some of the older members do not speak English.

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



Katie and her new Friend, Sam

SWAT Changes a Dog's Life

As told from the perspective of Sam Robinson

Hi, my name is Sam; it's early October and I'm lounging on the deck. Enjoying the good life in Raleigh, NC! There was a small problem with my owner's carpet last week and I thought to myself – please don't send me back. No more airplanes for me! It's a long story, but I met my new family back in July on an Indian reservation in a town named Kaibito (I know, it's not on my map either ... but it's in Arizona). Katie and Jen came to town with a group named SWAT. Now, I don't know much about construction but I do know food – and, when I saw those folks doing all that eatin', I thought I needed to get to know those folks really fast. I'm not really slender of hips but I sure was a shaggy dog and after feeding me, they cleaned me up all nice and pretty – a dog can get a bit disheveled living out in the open on a reservation. The food was great but when I started hanging out with these SWAT folks for the week, I realized they were there for more than just food. They appeared to want to make a difference; and they were determined to smile through all the dust and construction debris (some days I wasn't the only shaggy dog, if you know what I mean...). Anyhow, I really like these SWAT folks, and the Robinson family that eventually brought me to Raleigh. Raleigh is Awesome – but plane rides are for the birds (it was so hot in Phoenix the airline wouldn't take me out onto the tarmac so I had to spend the night in a pet spa, take a cab to the airport, fly to some place called New Jersey where folks talk funny, and then (finally!) to Raleigh. There I found three (!) Robinson girls and a comfy spot in the playroom; and the cat and I have come to 'terms.' I know the SWAT group was there to help folks – and I'm glad I was one of those 'folks.'



Amy and Dawn plan their next project

God had a Plan

As told by Nate Wanner

While preparing for our trip to Kaibeto I found myself wondering why the Lord was sending me there. Surely He could find someone closer than North Carolina, 2000 miles to the east. Definitely he could have found someone more skillful. Why did he choose me for this? Did I really have any unique gift to offer? Was I just using this trip as an excuse for a vacation? Was God providing my wife and me a needed break from the business of life around home? Was there somebody out there he wanted us to learn a valuable lesson from?

After a few days of site-seeing in a part of the country we'd not seen before, my wife Amy and I pulled into the church. In typical SWAT fashion, steaks were already on the grill waiting for us. Behind the grill was a non-descript block building in the midst of a desert, not readily identifiable as a church unless you walked around to the side where a cross was inlaid in the block. The roof showed a number of patches, and was in need of several more. Inside the building was just as plain – a simple kitchen with worn floors and old paint. A new swamp cooler (essentially an oversized window air conditioner to us Easterners) in one room was the only way to cool the entire building in 100+ degree heat. A wood stove in the back of the sanctuary was the only heat.

Then I noticed the abandoned livestock lean-to next to the church. Under it was a tent, recently inhabited by a young lady in the church whose family had thrown her out when she converted to Christianity. She had recently been able to move into an apartment with another lady in the church, but suddenly the importance of installing a shower had new meaning. Braving the 16 inch crawlspace to tap into the sewer line had meaning.

What was our greatest accomplishment? I would like to say it is that shower, but I have to think it was simply showing we cared. A man who lived next door to the church for years and was training to be a medicine man attended a service for the first time. A preteen boy looking for acceptance had someone to hang out with. And the women of the church had a more pleasant place to prepare meals – which we thoroughly enjoyed Sunday afternoon!

In reflection following this trip, two Bible passages seem relevant. In 2 Samuel 7 God asks David why he should build God a Temple when He has been content with only a tent. Later, Solomon declares that “unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. (Psalm 127: 1a). The trusses, concrete floor, and other improvements are still waiting for completion in Kaibeto, but in the meantime God still has a tent where He can reach out to His people.



Nate and Rick celebrate after conquering a plumbing problem

The Picture Gallery



Jen takes a break from sanding



Thanks to Mrs. Robinson the paint brushes were clean

The Picture Gallery



Jim always finds time to play with the kids



Katie is a big hit with the Native children



Rick takes care of the bathroom remodeling project



Joy prepares to see if the electricity is actually going to work



Andy takes care of the missing shingles



LaVerne made sure the coffee was made



Dave takes out his frustrations in a constructive manner



Anita, the pastor's wife and Mrs. Robinson enjoyed getting to know this Native lady