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“Providing Labor of Love for Christ-Centered Ministries”

A First-Timer Family Attends Victory Mountain Camp Event By Steve Haney

Our family experienced our first SWAT event at the Victory Mountain Camp in Sofia, NC in May. My wife, Jackie, our two daughters, Ashleigh (12) and Taylor (9), and I, had full intentions of going to work for a solid weekend in an attempt to provide a service and a possible blessing to someone else in need. We were greeted by everyone on the SWAT Team and the camp director as if we were old friends who had not seen each other for years. There were the typical friendly introductions and handshakes that anyone would expect as the “new people” to the group.

As we worked the next two days our family noticed several things worth mentioning. We were allowed to work at any capacity, performing any task that we felt comfortable with, all with no expectations of skill level or mastery of construction. Simply being there and assisting was good enough and appreciated. The heart of the group was to give back, in a small way, to someone else who showed the need. You could feel the love from Dennis Larue, the Camp Director, when he shook your hand and hugged your neck, just how thankful he was to have the labor love being provided by the SWAT team.

But, for my family, we experienced something just the opposite. My daughters had never been on a service project like this before. They have heard many stories from Jackie and me of previous trips taken to other countries, where a work-and-witness team has done amazing things in a short period of time to assist a foreign church by adding a room, finishing the new sanctuary or replacing a hurricane damaged roof. Never had they experienced this for themselves, firsthand. My family received the greater blessing that weekend. God did a wonderful thing in the hearts of two little girls, that I could only have hope for as a parent.

My girls came back, after sleeping the entire trip back home on Sunday afternoon, asking and even suggesting that we go on another SWAT event. They made friends with the other children in the group; they made friends with several adults who made a point to speak to them as if they were important. That weekend taught my daughters how to accept others, love unconditionally, and to work together,

because that is what was shown to them by the SWAT team.

A lot of physical work was performed as the SWAT team help to measure, cut lumber, and assemble wood bunk beds for the upcoming camp season. Seventy-two mattresses had just been donated by the Sealy Corporation to the camp, so these beds were needed in a hurry. All beds were not all completed by the time we left, but the SWAT Team accomplished a significant amount of work in a very short period of time. I was proud to be a part of this Team, not because we helped someone else by making bunk beds, but because Christ’s love for the Church was evident in all aspects of the weekend. That is the kind of examples I want my family to be exposed to.

We have already started looking at our calendar for upcoming weekends that we could participate with the SWAT Team. I know that if my wife and daughters have any say in this decision, we will be back. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ with you in this vital ministry.



The SWAT Team gathers around one of the 30 Bunk Beds that were cut and assembled during the weekend

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

Couple from Delaware Experience SWAT at Virginia Nazarene Camp

By Jay Biggs



Jackie and Steve Haney assemble one of the bunk frames. Their daughter, Ashley watches in the background.

A SWAT Event through the eyes of a mother

By Jackie Haney

My family attended our very first S.W.A.T. event the weekend of May 18 at the Victory Mountain Camp in Sophia, NC. I went on this trip with the attitude that we could help someone else and in turn that would make ME feel good; feel proud. In the end, yes, I DID feel good, but I received a huge blessing too. Everyone was so gracious and loving and accepted my family and me immediately. I never felt uncomfortable being around "strangers" because they didn't feel like strangers. We were all there with the same purpose...to help improve the camp just a little bit and enrich a young child's life. I never saw any "bad attitudes" or frustrations. The whole weekend was all about teamwork. Everyone had his or her own small part that by itself didn't seem like a lot. But when you add everyone's small parts together, the end result was something amazing. My children really enjoyed the weekend, too. The kids wanted to help and were allowed to do so. I never saw or heard of a child being "pushed away" or treated like they were in the way.

We left that weekend determined to make plans to go on another event. Thank you for allowing my family and me the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful, Christ-centered ministry.

After retiring in "04" we have looked for opportunities to serve in short term ministries to use our energy's witnessing for the Kingdom of God. Our introduction to the SWAT Team happened at Mississippi in January 2006 when we worked beside them at a Katrina Relief project. The event at the Virginia Camp seemed like an opportunity to actually get involved with the SWAT Team. We arrived with our 5th-wheel and found the camp director and staff very hospitable. Friday morning at breakfast we were introduced to several SWAT Team members. The work assignments were given out and we tackled them with diligence in the 95 degree heat. The first project I was assigned to included removal of the Chapel's exterior double doors and installing a new set in a different location. My wife, Betty, helped inside the Chapel with other ladies and youth sweeping the floor, washing down walls and cleaning chairs.



Jim, Jay and Ken pause while designing the new wall that contained the new double doors of the Wesley Chapel

Other projects over the course of the weekend included painting inside the Family Life Center and the dorms, general cleaning throughout the camp, washing windows, installing skirting on a new cabin, several electrical projects, and scrubbing all the garbage cans throughout the camp (the Teens did a great job with this!). In all of this all ages worked together. To keep us refreshed and motivated, cold drinks, popsicles, and watermelons were delivered to us at our work sites. The camp supplied excellent meals, which we enjoyed; along with fellowship with people we now call friends.

Throughout the weekend we got to know the personalities, drives and energies of each person. Our first SWAT event was very positive and we look forward to when we can do it again. SWAT is a wonderful opportunity for families to sow the seeds of service in the next generation of Volunteers. Thanks friends, for making us feel so comfortable at our first SWAT experience.



Board of Directors Elect Vice President

The SWAT Team's Board of Directors met on June 11 and elected Daralyn Sacarello as the new Vice President of the SWAT Team. Daralyn has been a member of the Team since its very beginning in 2000.

She is a great example and role model of what it means to be a "Servant", willing to do even the most menial jobs during events. Daralyn is the chair person of the Planning Committee which meets monthly to plan events and make decisions for the operations of the ministry.



Daralyn helped clean the Chapel at the VA Camp from floor to ceiling helping get it ready for the camp season.

Other actions of the Board included:

- President, Jim Stewart, was given support to start a new SWAT Team Chapter in Texas, where he and his wife, Joy, live.
- Nate and Amy Wanner were given a "green light" to start a SWAT Team Chapter in Ohio, where they now live.
- The revised Mission and Vision Statements were approved.

Our Mission Statement

Empowering families and individuals of all ages and skill levels to support encourage and partner with Christ-centered ministries through construction and related activities.

Our Vision Statement

To expand into a nation-wide ministry with multiple local SWAT Teams.

Remaining 2007 Event Schedule

Aug. 11-12: Powerline Church of the Nazarene. Details to be announced.

Aug. 31-Sep. 2: D. Moody Gunter Camp & Retreat Center (SC Nazarene Camp), Batesburg, SC

October: Oak Hill Camp, Oxford, NC. Dates to be announced

November: Potters Wheel Drug & Alcohol Rehab Center, Mt. Olive, NC. Dates to be announced

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, food, lodging and personal insurance must be provided by individual team members.

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An "assembly line" was set up to cut and sort lumber and then assemble the bunks. Dawn and Esther were "cutters" for the day.

Victory Mtn Camp



Foster is getting good at handling cordless drills; a skill needed to assemble the bunks.



Ken held while Bud routed the bunk posts at another assembly line station.



Ashley and Jordyn got to sweep up the mess made by the adults.



Clay made 573 precision cuts that day, with only 1 mistake! ☺



Director Dennis Larue showed us how to fit the joints of the bunks so they are "kid-proof".



Mahala and Eli faithfully delivered water to the workers in the 95 degree heat. Della was the driver of the super-charged golf cart.



Nate got creative in filling in a "hole" in the railing.



Dawn "specializes" in precision painting on step ladders.

Virginia Camp



Hey, someone had to clean the pool so that the Team can swim when they get done working!! Kaylin and Lynn are experts at this and enjoyed training Alisha.



Foster, David and Solomon worked diligently cleaning ALL the garbage cans throughout the camp. Lynn enjoyed keeping the boys cool while they worked.



Scott learned even more about electrical work under the supervision of Jay and Mike.



Betty handled that shop vac on the chapel chairs like a "pro".



Doug and Steve especially like tools that are powered by 22 caliber bullets.