



November 2006
News for NOMADS feature page

NOMADS AT HEART

NOMADS and Grands make for Grand Time on Project

by Becky and Ron Hoblit

Summer time--a time for family and fun.

In that spirit, we invited our granddaughter Kristan, 19, to join us for a week on the Moss Point, Mississippi RTP (Revolving Team Project). She wanted to visit us but we were already committed to the project, so, with Carla's okay, Kristan filled out her application, sent the fee, and became an official NOMADS member.

She was an eager, willing and very energetic team member. Everyone responded positively to her vibrant personality. We were privileged to work side by side with her and share our experiences, expertise and love of NOMADS while helping to rebuild homes.

Kristan then traveled with us to our next project site where she was able to learn about another agency. We found this to be a great way to have the best of both—NOMADS and family. Here is a letter from Kristan sharing her feelings about the experience.

**My experience with NOMADS
by Kristan Hoblit**

When a single stone is cast into a pond, one ripple is created and then fades. When many stones are cast in, the ripples mingle and join, causing the movement in the pond to grow. This is how NOMADS reach out to others. It is difficult to make a difference on your own, but when people come together through God, amazing feats can be overcome and beautiful work can be done. This rippling effect is the experience I lived for a week, as a NOMAD.

To be a member of NOMADS, one need not be skilled in carpentry or sewing. You only

need an open heart for God to work through and a desire to cause a ripple. I met this kind of people working on a NOMADS project with my grandparents in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The awesome power and terrible destruction of Hurricane Katrina left many on the Gulf Coast with little to nothing. I had the privilege of working for one such couple. My grandparents, four other NOMADS, and I helped rebuild the home of Bill and Christine Grubbs. These wonderful people had had 20 inches of water in their home, so they had to tear everything out and start over. When my team arrived, the drywall had been hung. We put up window, door and baseboard trim and crown molding, and hung interior and exterior doors and four sets of closet doors. I learned new skills, but that was not the best part. Seeing Christine's and Bill's appreciation and receiving their heartfelt thanks was a feeling I will not soon forget.

I made great friends with other NOMADS and heard wonderful stories of their mission trips. I am intrigued by the variety of work they encounter. I was blessed to work with them, with people of Pascagoula, and of the United Methodist Church. I was teased about being the youngest member of NOMADS and asked what I was "retired" from (a NOMADS motto is "Retirement with a Purpose"). I think it's great that retired folks have such an opportunity, and even greater that their grandchildren can experience this kind of service for God. I am pleased to be a member of NOMADS, and I encourage others to invite grandchildren to work alongside them doing God's work.

NOMADS organize Escapees, Winnebago promotional groups

Organization of a new NOMADS-BOF (Birds Of a Feather) group was introduced when full-timers met during the 2006 reunion, where the NOMADS Promotions committee discussed the plan and other ideas to promote NOMADS. All Escapees (a national RV club) are invited to join, said organizer Carol Stoner. Full timers also exchanged helpful hints for life on the road.

The new NOMADS-BOF, through the Escapees club, had a booth (set up by Sally and Stephen Taylor) at the Fall Escapade in Van Wert, OH, to recruit new members. Other RV clubs are invited to also make presentations or set up booths at their club rallies.

An unofficial WIT (Winnebago Itasca Travelers) group is being formed as well, according to Joe Kossan. Rob and Jeannie Coe had a NOMADS booth on Merchants Row at the WIT Grand National Rally in July, and Carol Dunn had a seminar and table at the National Family Motor Coach Association Convention in Charlotte NC in August.

The Escapees BOF is used as a promotional tool, Stoner said. Stoner commented in October that an Escapees magazine story and the NOMADS-BOF are “really paying off, as Carla or I get one or two inquiries every week.”

‘People’ stories are invited for NOMADS At Heart. Please share experiences & ideas you treasure, from the road or from projects.
Mail to: vawmlee@earthlink.net
Thanks. ---Newsletter Committee

Mark Your Calendar!
NOMADS Reunion 2007
June 26, 27 & 28
Richland County Fairgrounds
Mansfield, Ohio

A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Nomads do hard work. We get dirty. We become tired. We tackle jobs we would hire done at home. We do this not because we have to, nor because we are making a sacrifice. We work to give ourselves in the name of Jesus Christ, who said, “Feed my sheep, care for my lambs.” (John 21:16,17).

Singing, whistling and laughter are often heard amid the noise of tools as we work. When the project ends, we take with us the spiritual growth gained through fellowship with our team and with those for whom we have worked.

There is always an inner peace that comes from knowing you have made life a little brighter for someone else.

When Robert Louis Stevenson was a small

boy, one of his favorite pastimes was watching the lamp lighter go up and down the streets lighting street lamps. One evening Stevenson was unusually quiet for a time. Fearing he might be up to mischief, his nanny called, “Robert, what are you doing?” He replied, “I’m watching a man making holes in the darkness.”

On a NOMADS project, each time we pick up a paint brush, hammer a nail, clean a house or yard, give a hug, offer a prayer, or show that we care in whatever way God leads, we are making holes in the darkness of another person’s life.

Jesus said we are to be light to the world (Matt.5: 14). May the light of Jesus shine from our lives in all that we do and say.

---by Rubye Russell