



Fall 2007  
News for NOMADS feature page

# NOMADS AT HEART

## NOMADS gather to share support, worship, fun

Serving God and others was a theme running through the entire **2007 reunion**.

“Find a time and place and tell the story of ‘How God changed my life while I worked with NOMADS’ ” was an **opening-devotions** challenge by Mid-Ohio District Superintendent Peggy Streiff. “My prayer for you is that every time you walk onto a site, your Number One thought is not how to do the job, but who are the people here, on the edges, who need to know about Jesus Christ.” Her husband, Gary, echoed, in song, Jesus’ words: “Feed My Sheep,” including the phrase, “I am going away. If you love me, please do what I say.”

Servant-theme songs by a **NOMADS choir** set the tone for retired NOMAD Frank Roe’s **Wednesday devotions**. He shared hilarious project reminiscences, as well as Biblical and personal examples of the blessings of serving God and others. Roe said he and his wife, Beverly “thank God for the joy of serving the Lord. For being able to give birth to hope in the lives of others--the recipients of our help.”

Said UM Pastor (and NOMAD) Rubye Russell, in **Thursday a.m. devotions**, “In Bible days and ever since, “when people hear the call of God and get out of the way and let God use them, they can do good things on the projects that God gives them.” Russell said not only will God give us all that we need, to serve him, but “somebody where we work just may have a better understanding of who God is because we were there. . .God sends us. Let his love flow through us.”

Serving others was also vital to **making Reunion happen**. Chairpersons Sandra and

George Peacock were assisted by Joe and Lucille Bell, Dottie and Worth Harman, and a team of workers. **Attending** were 335 in 158 rigs and 13 nearby hotel rooms. Joy and Dan Leithner extended an invitation to the **2008 reunion**, slated Sept. 23-25 at Shawnee, Okla. Attendance at Rev. Gene Wengert’s early-morning **Bible studies** increased each day. Topics were Christmas Surprises; The Gospel of John; and Grace. Word is that Wengert has agreed to again lead Bible studies in 2008.

A chorus of oohs and aahs arose Tuesday evening, as Jim Andrews of Bellevue, Ohio, spoke of the beauty and majesty of God’s creation; read from Psalm 8; and chalk-painted an awesome mountain scene. Dave Bell, also of Bellevue, shared his faith journey in word and song. “God looked beyond my faults and saw my needs,” he said. On Wednesday evening, the gospel quartet Just Us, drew similar enthusiasm with its lively and harmonious presentation.

Joy and laughter radiated as NOMADS generously boosted their coffers, in the annual **silent and live auctions**. Individuals offered various creative challenges to “give from the heart;” and baskets and bags were passed for donations. Proceeds totaled \$20,279.10. The chalk drawing by Andrews brought \$225.

Thursday morning, prayers were offered for 13 NOMADS and loved ones, and **prayer cloths** presented, to be given to them. Said Carolyn Morris, “prayer has an amazing ability to heal, & these cloths are just a visual reminder (to recipients) that God is with you.”

*Reunion (cont.)* During the annual **Reunion Memorial Service**, candles were lit; scripture read; prayer and song lifted in memory of four deceased NOMADS: Bert Cuba, Garth Culbertson, Don Aldrich and Ronald Unangst. “These people have made a positive difference in the lives they have touched,” said Rubye Russell. “They continue to smile on us and encourage us. Thanks be to God for the promise of eternal life.” The service was conducted by Rubye Russell, Jane Waddock and Ruth Derby. *—by Virginia Lee*

A first: a NOMADS reunion **Praise and Worship service** was Sunday morning, led by Lynn Powers. Gary Prichard served communion; Dian & Don Greeno led the singing; and Jackie Conaway gave a homily on quilting. Roughly 125 early arrivers attended this service.

During the **Full timers/ NOMADS-BoF**, 40-45 folks joined in conversation about what the groups have done; problems encountered in full timing, and ways to promote NOMADS. One excellent idea: when you encounter someone interested in NOMADS, get their name and phone number and follow up, encouraging them to send in an application.

Among several great **workshops** were two for leadership training, led by Jeannie Coe, with 125 attending. The Leader’s handbook and guidelines were reviewed; and small groups discussed problem areas related to being leaders. Arlin Kiel gave an overview of RTP leadership. Good ideas came out of the Promotions workshop, and everyone shared ways to promote NOMADS. One suggestion: keep decals on our autos, and brochures in the glove box; hand out brochures; find out who these people are; and follow-up. *—by Carol Stoner*

## British journalist visits reunion, exploring RV culture

“NOMADS are a really dedicated bunch. There don’t seem to be any weak links--you’re all working incredibly hard,” said Gwyn Roberts. A London business journalist, he’s in the States gleaning material for a book on this country’s RV phenomenon—“Americans and their RVs, clubs, fulltimers, places they go.”

Roberts became interested in U.S. RVing while chatting with volunteers during a professional visit to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

The NOMADS reunion came early in Roberts’ two-to-three-month visit, while on leave from Property Week newspaper of London. He had already toured the Elkhart, IN Jayco factory; chatted with its workers in the community; and visited an RV museum, where he learned some history of RVing and that it is a \$4-billion industry in the U.S. Before the NOMADS reunion, he also attended a gathering of SMART, a military-veterans’ RV club, in Michigan.

“Your RVs are bigger than the buses in London,” he said. “And I’ve noticed how close the groups are. They function as a community—especially the NOMADS, who actually go out and work to help other people.”

Roberts said he wants to explore many facets of RVing. Before returning to the U.K., he will visit Washington D.C. to talk with executives and lobbyists for the RV manufacturers’ association and the American Recreation Council “about the politics of it—RVing is an industry worth a lot of money.

“I want to know more about Americans and their RVs,” he said. “I’ve been to America before but I was surprised (visiting RV groups) how friendly people are.” The NOMADS had flocked to welcome him to the reunion, invited him to meals and made him feel welcome, he said. “It’s nice to have that kind of support. NOMADS are a real friendly bunch; and the organization has a real purpose.”