

# NEWS for NOMADS

Volume 12, Issue 1

April 2003



**For your information:**

- Please send all dues and contributions for **NOMADS** to the director's office at **P.O. Box 26040, Trotwood, OH 45426**. Advance Special contributions can also be made through your church or conference treasurer. Our **Advance number is: 982658-6**
- NOMADS Logo items are available through Shirts & More. To place an order call 1-866-263-3812

Items available through the NOMADS office are as follows:

Magnetic signs	\$15.00
Vinyl signs	\$10.00
Video	\$10.00
Patches	\$2.00
S&H	
1 magnetic sign	\$3.00
2 signs	\$4.00
1 vinyl sign	\$3.00
Video	\$2.00

Mark your calendars for the ...

## NOMADS REUNION

Come to the Bluegrass State, home of the Thoroughbreds, Bluegrass Music, Gospel and Bourbon, and to "Corvette City" Bowling Green, home of the National Corvette Museum and the General Motors Corvette Assembly plant, and headquarters of Camping World. Located just 40 miles south of Mammoth Cave National Park and just 60 miles north of Nashville TN, the Country music capital of the world.

To help you enjoy your stay, we have organized tours, workshops and entertainment to add to the thrill of seeing old friends and making new ones. Our agenda includes tours of the Corvette Museum ( \$5 per person), tours of the Corvette Assembly plant (free), a southern BBQ catered dinner with all the trimmings and music, music, music. Of course we plan to have a NOMADS potluck dinner in the true tradition of potluck ( I.e. no menus). Also we will be having a

silent craft auction, so bring your crafts for donation (and for the sale at your own campsite if you wish).

Registration begins at 8 am Tuesday June 17th, with the welcome and general meeting at 1 pm. Time schedules and other information will be included in your check-in packets.

WHERE: Beech Bend & Family Campground 270-781-7634 for your camping reservations. Registration forms are due by May 15th.

### Share your NOMADS Story

Share your NOMADS good news.

What does NOMADS mean to you? An exciting, hands-on way to serve God and assist his dearly-loved children in need? A way to use your God-given talents; to satisfy an urge to travel and meet new people; to see how beautifully our United Methodist churches, camps and agencies touch lives, as they work to fulfill Jesus's challenge, (the Great Commission: Matt. 28: 19-20) Or all of the above? When we're excited about good

news, we're compelled to share it; and you are invited to tell others of the fun, fulfillment and blessings you've found along the NOMADS trail.

News for NOMADS asks you to share the anecdotes, reminiscences and, yes, even miracles, that you've witnessed or shared in, as NOMADS. For example, such a story is "Pass It On," by NOMADS Sue and Arlin Kiel, in this News for NOMADS edition.

If you're not comfortable writing for publication, we'll

trim (to 150-200 words), edit or rewrite for you. Just send the details, with any additional comments or explanation, and your name and address, to Virginia Lee, 14451 Huber Ave NW, Annandale MN 55302 vawmlee@earthlink.net

It will be prepared and forwarded to NOMADS Director Marcia Florkey.

## Aldersgate experience enriches NOMADS

NOMADS arriving at Aldersgate Enrichment Center, Brownwood Texas, become instant members of a loving family. That's the kind of welcome that met the January-February 2003 NOMADS team on our first morning at Aldersgate. As we joined the associates and staff for devotions, handshakes, hugs and warmhearted greetings were offered all around. The joy continues as daily devotions begin with an affirmation called out, responsively and enthusiastically: "God is Good." "All **the** Time." "All the Time." "God is Good." Devotions were led, while we were there, by staff members, associates, guests and NOMADS. It's also immediately clear that Aldersgate's primary focus is its ministry to 36 mentally and physically challenged adult associates. Calling them

"associates" affirms these workers are appreciated and vital members of Aldersgate's ministry. Nine associates at the not-for profit sheltered workshop live on campus; the rest drive or are bused in. Each is paid minimum wage--a large sum considering that many facilities for mentally challenged adults pay a piece-rate wage, according to Vocational Director Mike Millican.

"We might often think that God has shortchanged (the handicapped,)" Millican tells visitors. "But we're the ones who are shortchanged--we don't have the patience they have, nor the ability to understand other people's reactions to us. All that we do at Aldersgate is done to benefit our associates--if it's good for them, we'll do it. This place is all about them." (Millican has since retired and wants

all his NOMADS friends to know his e-mail address is <wmm@web-access.net>

Summing up the experience, team members agreed that they were truly enriched by the opportunities to meet and interact with associates, staff and other volunteers at Aldersgate.

## NOMADS Safety Alert (submitted by Rudy Morris)

NOMADS is a wonderful organization and we approach each project with great zeal. However, in our desire to "get started" we often do not take time to perform our jobs safely.

Here's a list of "uh-ohs" I've observed (and done).

### \* **LADDERS**

• Using a **folding chair** to stand on instead of a ladder, because we

didn't want to take the time to get our ladder from our RV.

• **Leaning sideways** in a folding chair instead of getting a ladder.

• Standing on or near a **top step** of a ladder.

• Using a ladder that's **too short/small** for the job.

• Not placing a ladder on **solid footing** before use.

• Leaning sideways on a ladder rather than climbing down and moving the ladder over.

### \* **TOOLS**

• Not using the proper tools for the job. Saw too small, screwdrivers for chisels, etc.

• Not using enough caution when

## NOMADS Safety Alert cont.

using a nail gun...two near misses on one job!

### \* **PERSONAL**

• Lack of proper eye protection when using grinders, saws, and other tools.

• Not using facemasks in dusty conditions, like sanding and sawing.

• Not providing proper ventilation

while painting, sanding, etc.

• Not using hard hats when necessary.

• Not using ear plugs when sawing or hammering.

### \* **Electrical**

• Working on electrical wiring "hot" (oops, did I say that?)

• Lock-out/Tag out circuits being worked on so someone doesn't turn

them back on!

• Wiring installed according to local codes.

As Sarge said on Hill Street Blues....." people, let's be careful out there!"

## How to get your heart broke (submitted by Del Kentner)

A surefire way to do it, Del writes, is to spend a few days at the United Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise, Florida. Here's part of what he wrote, after he and his wife, Helen, worked there: Of 85 residents at the Children's Home, "all that we saw were old enough to go to school. What got to our hearts was the number of them working on major life problems, such as will they have a home or family and will the family welcome them if they show up at the door. "That's not to say the kids aren't

safe and secure at the Home. They are, and they have many advantages--bicycles, a gym, tutors, plenty of good food, medical and dental care, counselors available and rules of behavior that put them on the path toward productive adulthood.

"But there is a deep, never-go-away longing for the comfort, care and connection of a birth family. We could see it in their eyes, and many expressed it through prayer requests at church on Sundays.

"We were touched to tears. Kids we know at home are concerned about their toys; unfairness of having to

do chores; issues at school or with siblings; or what they'll get for their birthdays."

Working with the maintenance crew, Del says, "I met "Matt," a ninth-grade resident student, working part time. He is in the home because he lived with his aunt, who was on crack cocaine so often there was no care available for him. ... Unusually, he'll be adopted into a family in a few months. He's looking forward to that very much. Not many of the older residents are adopted."

Invited for a meal at a cottage of grade-school girls, Del said, "We met "Tammy," a fourth grader who

## NOMADS Story

Bill and I are doing fine at McCurdy (as VIMs) and looking forward to our NOMADS team coming in this weekend. I think they'll enjoy the school and this area a lot. Let me know if there's anything else needed for the new edition. God bless. Virginia

NOMADS projects with Hispanic ministries bring friends, blessings - by Bonnie and Jay Coble Having belonged to NOMADS for several years, we took on our first work assignment in January. What a memorable and blessed experience it was! We were parked at Nueva Vida UMC in Las Milpas, Texas, and drove in to Reynosa, Mexico, each day to build a parsonage.

## by Bonnie and Jay Coble

Getting to know fellow NOMADS and seeing the parsonage take shape was exciting. But seeing the smile on the pastor's face each morning; receiving roses from the children; and learning about the culture of the people was fulfilling and, at times, an emotional experience. We were thrilled with the Hispanic music and worship at

## NOMADS Story

Nueva Vida UMC. We thought "it can't get much better." Then we started our second project, at El Buen Pastor UMC in Mercedes, Texas. Our team's task was to remodel a 20- by 60-foot educational building into a sanctuary. The church ladies brought us snacks and lunch each day and

## cont.

shared with us their vision for the church. Members worked on the project weekends and nights. Ideas were shared; windows were removed and boarded up for security; insulation and dry wall were installed, along with electrical, suspended ceiling and doors. And NOMADS made a cross with eight-inch glass blocks.

With hard work and loving hearts, the building was transformed into a beautiful and functional sanctuary. The members of the congregation thanked us whole-heartedly and one lady called us her angels. We felt the joy and love of our

Savior Jesus Christ.

This spiritual experience in NOMADS impressed upon us the truth of Galatians 2:16 (RSV): "We know that (we are) not justified by works of

## NOMADS

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

sees her mother every other weekend. She'd like to live with her mother, but the mother is more interested in partying than in caring for her child." Del recalls other children in the cottage and writes, "The smile of anyone of them could melt your heart." Recalling Thanksgiving dinner in a cottage of younger children, Del says, "Imagine having neither home nor family for THAT day!" Asked by a house parent to name three things for which they were thankful, each child mentioned having people in their lives who care for them and about them. "It felt very much like a family gathering for Thanksgiving--but there were no relatives present," Del wrote. "We had turkey with all the trimmings, including delicious home-made noodles. And we feel

very fortunate."

NOMADS Story cont. From page 3  
of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ." Even though we worked hard, the fruit of our labor was little, compared to the spiritual rewards we were blessed with .

