

THE SOUNDS OF "THE REFUGE"

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Son Set Ministries, Inc.

October 1, 2006



All in God's Time

Roughly nine months ago a group of about forty persons gathered on a piece of land not far from Greenville, NC. Everyone knew someone; no one knew everyone. The reason for gathering—to share a vision for this land and the ministry that would be built upon it. That assembly was nothing short of an acorn seed ceasing to exist and a beautiful oak tree beginning to emerge.

Nearly 12 years earlier, God began to plant in the hearts of people throughout eastern North Carolina an idea.....for some it was a youth camp, for others a more encompassing ministry for adults and youth, and for others a music ministry. In 1999, a group from Swansboro began an effort to answer this call by forming Tomorrow's Hope. A camp concept was developed, programming was initiated, the organization was incorporated and a 501(c)(3) tax ruling was obtained. All that remained was a location.

Though Swansboro was thought to be the location, the Lord had other plans. Somewhat frustrated by their inability to gain an agreement for use of existing camps on the Queens Creek

River, Tomorrow's Hope, began to lose hope and entertained the idea of dissolving the corporation. This was not in God's plan either. Sammy Hudson, board member of Tomorrow's Hope, and youth director at Queen St UMC called Chip Olmstead on the very day the



**"The Lake at the Refuge"
(45 acres upon completion)**

dissolution paperwork was mailed out. A new site had been identified. At a chance meeting, Chuck Stokes of, Ayden, NC shared with Sammy his desire to see part of his land used for the glory of God. Son Set Ministries now has use of 100+ acres of land adjacent to the Little Contentnea Creek with prospects of growing to over 600 acres. In His infinite wisdom, God is bringing together in ways beyond our understanding the persons and resources

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Special points of interest:

- Web site: (www.thesonsetrefuge.com) coming soon
- Fuss & O'Neil awarded Land Use Study Contract
- BB&T Donates adjacent property
- Meet the Board of Directors
- December Presentation Planned

Board Of Director's Elects to Hire Executive Director

The Board of Director's of Son Set Ministries has, after nine months of meetings, planning, presentations and briefings elected to hire a full-time Executive Director. The Executive Director will be the primary manager for the daily operations of Son Set Ministries and the Refuge. He/she will serve as the focal point for all activities involving personnel hiring, planning, support requirements, marketing, fundraising, programming, security and scheduling.

The Executive Director will report to the

Board of Directors and will sit on the Board as a voting member for all issues other than those relating to the pay, allowances and employment as they relate to his/her position.

Son Set Ministries plans to fill the Executive Director position effective January 1, 2007. This initial hire will be for a period of one year with extension of employment contingent upon marketing and fundraising successes in 2007. This is a great leap of faith for the Board of Directors but we remain confident that God will provide.

Son Set Ministries – “The Refuge and The Vision”



Providing Support to Existing Programs and Developing Programs to Meet Emerging



“From a tiny mustard seed grows a great tree”

So what exactly is Son Set Ministries, you might ask? Simply stated, Son Set Ministries is a ministry of facilitation. Its mission is “to set the world’s heart toward the Son by providing a “refuge” of hope based on faith.”

Son Set Ministries will play an important role in our community—which we define as Eastern North Carolina, though our outreach will be global. Our focus will adjust to meet the most pressing needs in our society which we currently identify as the plight of inner-city youth, and single-parent families with low income. Our goal is to give them experiences and opportunities that will lead to lasting hope and a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The home of *Son Set Ministries* is “*The Refuge*.” Located just outside of rural Ayden, N.C. on one hundred acres with 1.7 miles of navigable creek-front designated as part of the North Carolina Canoe Trails, *The Refuge* is within an hour drive of major population centers including Raleigh, Greenville, New Bern and Kinston. Plans for *the Refuge* to grow to over 600 acres with an additional 5.5 miles of creek-front are being realized as an additional four hundred (+) acres are under negotiation.

Adding to the natural beauty and serenity of its creek-front property are two picturesque lakes of 7 and 45 acres respectively. Opportunities for sailing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, fishing and other water-based activities will abound. Nature trails will lead guests throughout the undeveloped areas of *The Refuge* with the opportunity to observe North

Carolina’s diverse wildlife population and the beauty and order of God’s creation.

The “Refuge” will counter cultures of violence, poverty, abuse, neglect and hopelessness by demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ through programs and facilities that nurture and promote a healthy spirit, body and mind.

In addition to its own programs, Son Set Ministries intends to partner with existing organizations and agencies as they seek to address specific ministerial needs; i.e., prison ministry, special needs children, adult retreats, Emmaus, etc. For many of these organizations, a key challenge is space and facilities from which to operate and train. Our partnerships with these organizations will maximize use of our facilities, provide sustained income and broaden the opportunities for outreach to meet a variety of needs.

Strategy and resource development has been ongoing for nine months and undoubtedly be refined as we evaluate our successes and shortcomings. Direct service, advocacy work and education will be key elements of all of our programs and will be evaluated annually to ensure the “how” we do things leads to the “Why” we do things.

As we anxiously anticipate the completion of sand mining operations on the property (paying for the land and creating our 45 acre lake) plans continue for construction. Our goal is to have self-sustained programs operational at “the Refuge” by the summer/fall of 2008.

Fuss & O’Neil Awarded Land Use Study and Master Plan Development Contract



7 acre pond near entryway to the “Refuge”

What’s the best way to move from concept to implementation? You have to know what resources you have and how best to use them....in other words, you need a good plan.

After consultations with several Land Engineering Firms, Son Set Ministries has awarded a contract to Fuss & O’Neil of Greenville, NC to complete a Land Use Study and development of a Master Plan for the acreage that has been conveyed. Todd Tripp, a native of the Ayden area is our senior project manager and is working closely with the Board of Directors to ensure the vision for “The

Refuge” is clearly understood and that we clearly understand the limitations and capabilities of the acreage with which we have been blessed. This study will include a wetlands delineation, soil science investigation, site wastewater dispersal system capacity, conceptual master plan, water supply study, permitting and project timeline and preliminary budget cost projections. This is just phase one of what we trust will be a fruitful and mutual beneficial relationship with a company of outstanding reputation and a successful track record in seeing organizations such as ours realize their



Public Presentation Planned—Mark Your Calendars

Get out your grease pencils, pens, calendars day planners and schedules.....YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!!!! Saturday, December 2, 2006 will be another day to remember. Son Set Ministries invites all who are interested to learn more about this ministry, "The Refuge," and the many opportunities that do, or will, exist for you to be involved. God is at the heart of this ministry. It will be successful and we can hardly contain our enthusiasm.

It was less than a year ago that we first walked this land and began to realize the potential. The progress that has been made will astound many of you as you begin to see a vision become reality. We've come a long way, but there is so much that remains to be done. Many of you have inquired how you can help. This is our opportunity to answer that as we identify the focus, project timelines, financial requirements and opportunities to serve. We are beginning the move from planning to implementation.

Funny How God Works

Coincidence....chance.....call it what you want, but we prefer to believe that God is at work in this ministry. When you begin to fit all the pieces together you cannot help but believe that His will will be done in spite of our efforts. For example.....the dissolution of Tomorrow's Hope. Chip Olmstead filed the paperwork to dissolve the corporation....a minor error was found by the examiner and the request for dissolution was returned for corrective action. In the meantime, the land we so desperately needed became available through the chance meeting of Sammy Hudson and Chuck Stokes. The request for dissolution was

These are exciting times for us and we want you to be a part of this!

Our gathering time is 11:00 AM. After registration, we will make a presentation entitled, "Where we are.....Where we're going." Barbeque lunch will follow. After lunch we'll divide into groups and tour the property under the direction of a board member. At 1:30 PM we'll gather for a short worship service including praise music. You'll be on your way between 2–2:30 PM and should be able to catch the second half of that ECU, Carolina, Duke, State or Wake Forest football game. However, you'll be too excited by all we're going to tell you to worry about that! We can't wait to share this with you!

DECEMBER 2, 2006 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
LOWERFIELD ROAD
AYDEN, N.C.

Call Chip Olmstead (910) 451-9995 or Sammy Hudson (252) 560-9134 for more information.

canceled and Tomorrow's Hope became Son Set Ministries. Coincidence? Okay, how about this? A two acre piece of property adjacent to the entrance of the Refuge along with a partially completed home went into foreclosure with BB&T. Jimbo Perry made a few inquiries and BB&T decided to convey the property to Son Set Ministries for \$10.00. After renovations or reconstruction, this will be the home of the Executive Director. Coincidence? As a youngster, Todd Tripp, (see Fuss & O'Neil article page 1), our senior project manager for land use development used to ride horses over the very property that is now the Refuge. There's even

Our Two Most Important Assets – Faith & You

As I opened my mailbox I discovered the delivery to contain just five pieces of mail – two from conservation advocacies, two from Christian Ministries and a catalog. This was typical of each day's mail. So how do you choose what to support and at what level? How do you determine where your hard-earned dollars will make the biggest difference? For most of us, the answer is a combination of passion, demonstrated success and appreciation.

In this newsletter we have attempted to highlight what Son Set Ministries is and has accomplished in just nine short months. We recognize this is the Lord's ministry and we are

but the instruments of His will. We remain strong in our faith individually and collectively that the Lord will provide.....as He has at every turn thus far. We recognize the magnitude of the effort being undertaken and exercise our responsibilities with hearts of servitude. We want your confidence, enough so that you will pray for this ministry, participate when possible and support us financially. Every dollar you contribute brings us a moment closer to bringing disadvantaged youth and young adults to "the Refuge" and to providing hope and love in the spirit of Christ to many who have known neither. Please give generously. You are our

**PROGRESS
REPORT**

**TOURS
LUNCH
WORSHIP**

**DEC. 2, 2006
11:00 AM TO 2:00
PM**

*Fight for our
Families*

*Fight for our
communities*

Fight for the Lord



*"When it comes to
giving, some people
stop at nothing."*

Financial contributions are tax deductible and can be made to:

**SON SET MINISTRIES
P.O. BOX 5247
KINSTON, N.C. 28503**

SON SET MINISTRIES, INC.

*Ministries of Hope for a Better
Tomorrow*



Property Address: 782 Lowerfield Rd.
Ayden, NC 28513
Business Address: PO Box 5247, Kinston,
NC 28503
Phone: 252-560-9134 or 252-746-9182
Fax: 910 451-9994
Email: stillwaterschip@yahoo.com

WE'LL BE ON THE WEB SOON
WWW.THESONSETREFUGE.COM

A Message from the Chairman

For the past nine months I have had the privilege of serving with a very dedicated group of individuals as we work to fulfill God's will for this ministry. I am reminded that before Nehemiah began the reconstruction of the walls of Jerusalem, he envisioned what the walls would look like once they were in place—he knew they would be better than what had previously existed. He not only saw in his mind what the walls would look like, but also saw a new Jerusalem...a hub of activity that would follow once the walls were completed. Just as Nehemiah had a vision for the future—one that he knew was from the Lord, so do the directors of Son Set Ministries believe. In all things, Nehemiah challenged the people to “remember the Lord.”

Focus, clarity, and determination are among the greatest gifts that we can receive from the Lord as we continue on this journey together.

The board of directors has envisioned what Son Set Ministries can be and is working diligently toward that end. I am grateful to serve with Sammy Hudson, one of the original Board

members of Tomorrow's Hope; to Chuck Stokes whose benevolence has made this possible through the conveyance of the property to the ministry and whose spiritual motivation serves as our conscience; to Sandra Thompson who brings expertise in financial record keeping and whose demeanor keeps us calm and focused; to Mike Van Scott whose analytical skills help us to read into the details and to think outside the box; to Jimbo Perry whose legal skills keep us out of trouble and whose prayerful nature keeps us on the path of righteousness; to Laura Beth Tyndall whose experiences as a Young Life Leader provide knowledge and common sense to our approach and youthful exuberance in service to the Lord. Special thanks are also due to Darnell Maye, Felicia Solomon, Gary Herring of BB&T, Cindi Kitrell, Lyston Peebles, Gary Brock, Webb Tyndall and Bob Klinksdale for their advice and consultations.

In all that we undertake, we strive to hear the Lord, serve the Lord...and in so doing earn your confidence and support. Peace and Grace to You All.



**“...and Jesus said to Peter,
“Do you love me?” Peter
replied..yes master. Jesus
said, “Feed my lambs.”**