



THE SOUNDS OF “THE REFUGE”

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Son Set Ministries, Inc.

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Erasing the Lines Brings Kinston Together

June 25th through 29th marked the fourth annual Erasing the Lines in Kinston, N.C. Originating in 2004, Sammy Hudson began this program with 26 youth from the Kinston area. Their purpose was simple, “to erase the lines created by race, class, denomination and economic status within our communities.”

In cooperation with over 20 local churches and businesses, 25 projects and worksites were identified for the participants, food was provided, Rochelle Middle School allowed them to use their facilities for evening activities and sleeping arrangements, dining and worship.

The youth were divided into smaller groups, each with its own team leader. On the first night, each team constructed a cross, upon which they wrote the attitudes and relationships by which they wanted to abide and by signing their names to their cross, it became a symbol of their covenant as a team. To each project, they carried their cross as a reminder of that covenant.



Morning Gathering with 120 youth prior to departure for various work projects.

Projects ranged from spending a day serving food at a shelter, packaging over 30,000 meals for shipment to third world countries as part of “Stop Hunger Now”, building a handicap access ramp at two homes, painting a community teen outreach building, cleaning up and repairing a park area in a low income housing area, spending mornings with the senior adults at Day Break center, and washing and repainting the interior of the home of an 88 year old woman who is confined to a wheel chair.

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Available on our Web Site:

- Web site: (www.thesonsetrefuge.com)
- Architectural Rendering
- Work Team Volunteer Waivers
- Previous Newsletters
- Photos of Progress at the Refuge
- Erasing the Lines Photos

Group of 10 Embarks on Maiden Little Contentnea Canoe Trip

“He sends the springs down into the valleys, which run among the hills.” Psalm 104: 10 ...

As we journeyed down the 22 mile trail in our 5 canoes, we encountered some of the most beautiful landscape any of us had ever seen. Huge cypress trees greeted us as we meandered through thick forests, abounding with life and amazing our senses with every bend of the creek. The ten of us, not sure what we would find, were filled with awe and wonder as we explored this small portion of God’s creation. We saw eagles overlooking the creek from their perches high above, and watched otters and muskrats playing along the banks. We enjoyed singing praises by the campfire with the help of the guitar as well as eating the tasty meals prepared over the open fire. The truth is.... I could never put into words what we experienced on this

first of many canoe adventures that will be leaving from “The Refuge”. This is an experience that can only be explained when God meets you as you make the journey yourself.

Sammy



“Brian Becker Brings Life in a Nairobi Shanty to the Refuge”



Brian Becker walks back to the shanty along Lower Field Road with containers of water; a 3 mile journey made each day....about the same distance people in Nairobi's shanty towns have to walk for fresh water.

Shanty illustrates life of world's poor

By Amanda Karr
The Daily Reflector

Friday, May 18, 2007

SNOW HILL – It's three miles to Scuffleton where Brian Becker has walked for the past two days to get drinkable water. It's a trip he has to make. He and the people he is living with are counting on the water sloshing inside the plastic jugs he carries slung on a stick.

Wednesday night that water helped cook several handfuls of rice that, along with a couple of sweet potatoes, comprised dinner for Becker and two others living in a homemade shanty tucked on the edge of a field.

It took Becker and several others about 12 hours over two days to build the shanty using items discarded on a piece of land off N.C. 903 just inside Greene County.

"Two Saturdays ago, here I am digging through a pile of trash and my 6-year-old is standing next to me, and it struck me— somewhere there is a mom or dad doing the same thing with their 6-year-old and they're getting ready to move into this thing and they don't know if they're ever going to leave," Becker said.

The future isn't so uncertain for Becker, a Greenville attorney. He plans to live in the shanty cobbled together from scrap wood and metal, two broken refrigerators and other odds and ends through Sunday. Others have joined him, including Hanna Zhu, a 35-year-old resident adviser coordinator at East Carolina University. He expects a larger crowd over the weekend.

"It makes me realize how many people at this very hour do not have a roof over their head," Zhu said. "We are so blessed, and we

have to help those people. It's what God calls us to do."

Becker, 40, hopes the project draws attention to slum conditions in other parts of the world, particularly Nairobi, Kenya, where he has been on two mission trips. Another mission trip is leaving in June, comprised mainly of members of Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church, where Becker attends. He won't be going on that trip, which he said prompted the idea of building and living in a shanty here.

"Here I am sleeping, and a vision came to me that why don't we bring Nairobi here," Becker said. "I just want it to be real to people. If you step into that world even for a few days it changes your perspective."

Becker encourages people to come see the shanty and even to spend the night. It's an eye-opening experience, he said.

Wednesday night the shanty occupants awoke to rain inside their temporary home. Zhu found herself on a wet cot and discovered the tarp she had covered herself in had holes in it. The three abandoned their self-imposed personal space and crowded into the dry spots in the shanty.

Becker was far from complaining though.

"I'm thankful for the rain last night because you know they leak over there too," he said, referring to the shanties in Africa.

Becker has a passion for the children who live in such conditions. Through mission trips, he's worked with the Fountain of Life Church and Children's Home, which takes in orphaned boys from the streets. There were about 60 boys living in the home in Nairobi when it was destroyed by a mob recently.

In addition to drawing attention to the conditions in Nairobi, Becker hopes people will be moved to donate to the ministry so it can continue its mission.



For four days, Brian Becker and Hanna Zhu lived in this shanty constructed of materials collected in a clean-up of the refuge. The pair, along with many visitors shared the plight of millions who call such dwellings home in Nairobi and other parts of the world.

Sustainment Pledges Vital to Success

As we approach the second half of the year, the Board of Directors wishes to express our gratitude to the many persons who have graciously contributed to this tremendous undertaking. To date over \$100,000 has been contributed. A recap of all that has been accomplished with these funds includes:

1. Hiring a full-time Executive Director
2. Contracting with Fuss & O'Neill for land development and master plans for the refuge. This includes subcontracting the services of J. Davis Architects for renderings.
3. Supporting Erasing the Lines
4. Funding the movement of the Dale farm house to the Refuge and subsequent renovations.
5. Clearing and hauling debris and refuse from the land.
6. Developing promotional materials essential to conveying the vision and plan for Son Set Ministries.

As we continually meet and share the vision for Son Set Ministries with persons from whom we hope to gain financial support for the upcoming capital campaign our excitement continues to grow. However, one point is consistently driven home to us: the need for a solid sustainment base of support. Large contributions will help us build facilities and infrastructure, but it is your pledges for sustained monthly giving that will keep this ministry afloat and provide demonstrated sustainability.

To help us achieve this, the board has set a goal of attaining **400 pledges of \$25 per month** for a period of three years. That is approximately \$5 a week.....about the cost of a hamburger and fries at a local fast food restaurant. Won't you consider making this pledge?

October 13 has been set as the date of our official kickoff for our Annual Giving campaign. This event will be a "hoe-down" at the Refuge from 4:00 PM to

6:30 PM featuring a barbeque dinner, tours of the Refuge, a brief program and music by the talented bluegrass group "Grassy Creek."

By enlarging our donor base and demonstrating sustainable income, Son Set Ministries will be solidly positioned to commence a subsequent capital campaign for the phased development of the Refuge. Phase I will include the necessary infrastructure development, a dining facility capable of feeding 250 persons, a minimum of four cabin facilities capable of housing 160 persons, two boat houses and docks, a high-ropes course, one multipurpose center, two public restroom facilities, and the necessary recreational and athletic equipment for program support..

Phase II and Phase III development will include the worship center, a conference center, two additional multipurpose centers, additional housing for another 120 youth and housing for 60 adults, an adult retreat dining facility and conference center, an administrative building and an on-site residence for the Executive Director.

Great strides are being made and significant interest in helping us achieve our capital campaign goals is being expressed by a number of persons. We need **you** to help us to demonstrate our sustainability by pledging \$25 a month on the enclosed card. Your contribution means everything to us and to those such as the youth in Erasing the Lines who are ready and willing to serve the Lord.

Prayer List Items for the Refuge

Tractor with front end loader /box blade / Riding Mower / Push Mower / Table Saw / Water Hoses / Chain Saw / Weed Eaters / Yard Tools / New Windows for Farm House / Lumber for Boat Docks and Boat Houses / Bush Hog Services / Brick and Mortar Services for foundations.

Erasing the Lines



Work team at the Refuge clearing future site of the Dale farmhouse.

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Each evening, the participants would gather for worship together and reflect on their experiences of the day. This is always the most powerful part of this active ministry as the entire community is invited to participate and listen to how God has worked in the lives of these youth.

On Thursday evening, the traditional community picnic was held in the parking lot of Queen's Street United Methodist Church with over 700 people from throughout the community joining together for fellowship and a covered dish meal. Everyone was treated to a terrific concert by the Praise Truth Band.

Erasing the Lines continues to receive acclaim from the Mayor and Chief of Public Safety in Kinston for its success in breaking down barriers and focusing on the needs of the city. Officials in Greenville and Wilson are looking at the program for feasibility in their respective cities.

Son Set Ministries is proud to sponsor Erasing the Lines under the continued leadership of Sammy Hudson, Terry Barnes, Cindy Nicholson, Justin Combs, Ashley Gower, and John Robert Harris and the many others who graciously give of their time and talents.



"Fundraising begins with Friend-raising"

SON SET MINISTRIES, INC.

*Ministries of Hope for a Better
Tomorrow*



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Board of Directors Welcomes Robert Spruill, Debbie Gastmeyer and Dr. Randy Outland

As I reflect for a moment on the past several years and the manner in which Son Set Ministries is coming together, I am continually awestruck by how God is at work in this process. Six years ago, the initial board of directors met in Swansboro to develop the foundations of this ministry. The efforts of Joanne and Tom Scholl, Susan Ward, Victor Morales, Robert Patterson and Jimmie Bean, along with Sammy Hudson, helped immeasurably in bringing this organization about.

Beginning in 2006, God brought new faces and fresh ideas to the board to include Sandra Thompson, Chuck Stokes, Mike Van Scott, Jimbo Perry, and Laura Beth Tyndall. The passion of these individuals in answering God's call to serve is inspiring and their efforts are taking this ministry from concept to reality.

In March 2007, Mike Van Scott completed his year on the board and after great consideration and prayer decided that he was being called to serve in a more active missionary role to those in need in Africa. Mike was an invaluable member of the board in helping us to get through the details of organization and planning, and was particularly instrumental in developing our relationship with Fuss and O'Neill and monitoring that contract. We will miss him but know that God will use him mightily in his mission work.

As we bid farewell to Mike, God has blessed us with new faces and talents. Robert Spruill, former headmaster of Bethel

Christian Academy in Kinston joined the board in March along with Debbie Gastmeyer. Robert has been involved in Christian schools and mission work for nearly thirty years. Debbie is a licensed registered nurse and is active in the Emmaus Community with particular focus on youth. In April, Dr. Randy Outland, Pastor of Spilman Baptist Church and Professor of Religious Studies at Mt. Olive College joined the Board. Trust in the Lord and He will provide.

Every day, those of us who serve on the board pray that God will continue to provide the people and the resources necessary to bring this endeavor to completion. Every day, we see our prayers answered in the faces of those we meet, the phone calls we receive, the donations made and the ongoing efforts of volunteers. We don't know exactly what tomorrow will bring, but God does. In God We Trust is more than an inscription on our paper money, it is how we continue from day to day as we seek to answer the call to "be the church" by making the Refuge a place worthy of helping others deepen their relationship with God.

We welcome our new board members, extend our best wishes and thoughts of gratitude to former board members and look forward to meeting those who may not yet recognize that God is calling you to serve.

Chip Olmstead

If you would like copies of previous "Sounds of the Refuge" newsletters, contact Son Set Ministries at