Orland Park Christian Reformed Church at Outreach

By Brenda Venhuizen

Christ's Outreach for the Blind in Mount Vernon, KY was, for the second time, the site of a volunteer service project for the Orland Park Christian Reformed Church from Illinois.

The group of 28 included five men, three of whom are experienced tradesmen, 12 women, two of whom served as cooks for the week, three big, strong boys and eight very willing and able young girls. Everyone worked hard in very hot, humid weather conditions and worked together very harmoniously throughout the week.

On Monday afternoon a huge thunder, rain and hailstorm caused flooding in one of the staff apartments which necessitated a project that was no doubt not planned for.

New drain tile was laid to prevent future flooding there. A decorative pond in front of the Outreach Building (office, kitchen & sleeping rooms) overflowed and also needed new drain tile installed. These were huge jobs that required many man-hours of labor. Some of the women pitched in to help with digging too.

Other projects that the Orland Park Christian Reformed group worked on:

Ceramic tile (6" squares) was laid in five bedrooms and four bathrooms;

A stone wall with a cement ledge and sidewalk squares were completed;

A teardrop shaped hillside near the camp entrance was planted with daylilies and other perennial flowers;

A stone retaining wall was rebuilt & extended and drain tiles were laid in the area;

A flower garden area was cleared of huge weeds, roto-tilled and made ready for planting;

A variety of flower bulbs were put into pots in the greenhouse, which was cleaned and organized;

The gifts sent with us by the congregation were sorted, inventoried and put in place;

A beautiful 15' cross was set in place, in memory of Everett Ipema, on a hilltop that will one day be the site of a Prayer Garden;

A new flag was raised on the flag pole we helped to install last October;

Three wonderful meals a day were prepared. A kitchen helper was assigned to the cooks for a hour before and after each meal.

After supper, time was spent as a group playing crazy games and enjoying each other's company. On Thursday night, the group gathered at the cross site for a dedication ceremony and then returned to "the barn" for a time of worship and reflection. That was a special night for all of us as were the mealtime devotions we shared.

One afternoon, a few of the moms took the kids to a water park. On the way home they got to have Kentucky Fried Chicken - in Kentucky - the original store, no less, with a KFC museum attached! The group felt that this was, "Such a treat!"

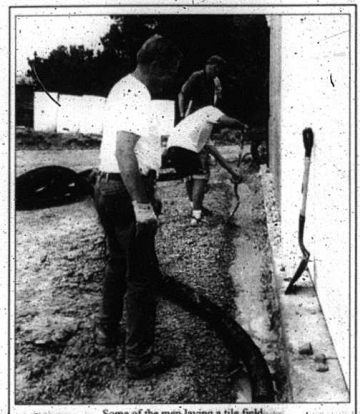
Another special treat was the ride Hank Gates, Mike's Dad, gave us. A hay wagon was attached to a tractor and off we went sightseeing on a part of the 900 acres that make up the camp property. "It's somewhat like a roller coaster ride - on the ground. We passed the huge vegetable gardens from which we enjoyed wonderful sweet corn and tomatoes. We saw the area from which all of the rock was taken for use in developing the campgrounds and building retaining walls, etc. A 10-minute walk took us to a beautiful waterfall area topped with a huge rock ledge - a really gorgeous sight. The road at times seemed a bit treacherous to the timid at heart, but everyone agreed that it was a beautiful ride in the woods."

"There is a lot of work to be done before the camp is ready for the blind and handicapped children to come, and we're thankful that we could be a part of the many volunteers who have brought the work along this far. It was a great experience!"

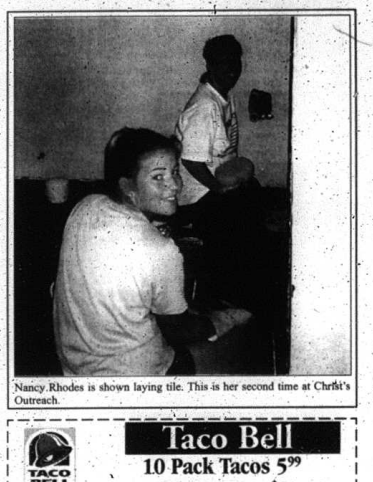
Nick Ipema said: "The week I spent in Kentucky was a great experience. When I left to go there, I thought it would just be work - pretty boring, but okay. But what it actually turned out to be is something I will never forget. Meeting Mike was an awesome experience - to see how God is working through Mike's life. The things that Mike can accomplish while being visually impaired are a testimony to how God can use people to do His work.. Mike is not only thankful to God for being alive, he is doing everything he can to fulfill his dream to honor God. I am very glad that I had the chance to see what Mike is doing at his camp and to be able to help with the work. I want to say thank you to my grandparents for inviting me. The week I spent with them will have a lasting impact in my life."

Kristin Ipema said about the trip: "When my grandparents asked me to come on the trip, I wasn't sure if I wanted to go. Then I thought about it, if I went then I could experience what my dad had done on other service projects to the Dominican Republic. I am so glad I decided to go. In the beginning of the week, some of the girls and I were working on the top of the hill at the outdoor classroom, digging and building a retaining wall. On one of our breaks we were all saying how proud our dads would be of us. I thought my dad would be especially proud of me for going on a service project and working so hard. One of the girls brought up the cross my dad put on the roof of the church in the Dominican. So we thought when we were done with our job we could make a cross and dedicate it to my dad. We talked to Mike about it, and he liked the idea and thought why make a small cross and not a big one? So he ordered a cross that was 15' tall and 4' wide. We picked the perfect spot for it on the top of the mountain where the scenery was so amazing. You could even see a church steeple in the distance. On Thursday night after the men had put up the cross, we all gathered on top of the mountain and formed a big circle around the cross. There we sang songs, read some Bible passages and prayed. There were many tears that night along with some laughter and reflection time. I had an awe-some time on this trip and I hope to go back next year and look back on all the great work we did this week and hopefully get a lot more done."

Ken Ipema is shown laying tile with Nick Ipema and his sister along with Desiree Overzet.



Some of the men laying a tile field.



Nancy Rhodes is shown laying tile. This is her second time at Christ's Outreach.

"Court"

(Cont. from B2)

$500 and costs/suspend $450; Failure to wear seatbelt, $25 fine.

Joshua L. Dooley: Fleeing/evading, $100 and costs and 10 days; DWS, $50 fine and 10 days/conditionally discharged; Reckless driving, 30 days/consecutive.

David Lee Durham: Harassment, $50 and costs.

Christopher Blake Fletcher: Theft by deception, $10 and costs and 10 days/conditionally discharged.

Crystal A. York: Fines/fees due ($125.50), 5 days in lieu/pay or stay.

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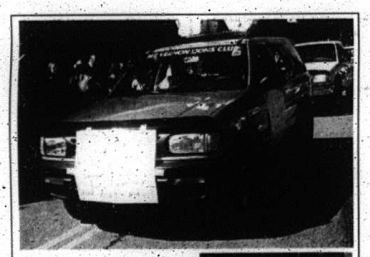
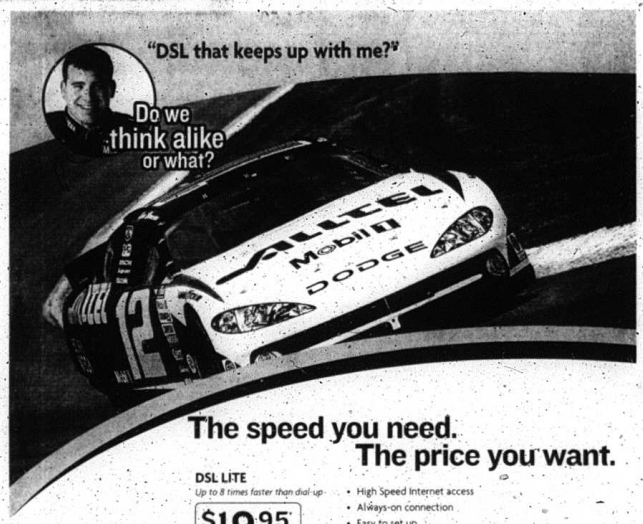


Mt. Vernon Lions Club president David DeBoard would like to share activities for our community performance at the Bittersweet Festival and parade. The club was honored by an appearance of their mascot, (Lion Chad Brown of Somerset). It was the second appearance this year by their mascot. Also in the parade was the "Pathfinder to Better Vision" displaying the Optic 2000 vision testers, which are taken to local schools for eye screening. The Lions Club would like to thank all Rockcastle businesses for their donations to help purchase these machines.

The Mt. Vernon Lions Club president David DeBoard, Brindle Ridge Fire Dept. chief Eddie Brock and asst. chief Tiny Mullins would like to thank all members that participated in the recent Adopt-A-Highway cleanup from Conway Bridge to Snyder Grocery. Pictured top of fire truck; Katie Cope, Dwight Brown and Chad Croucher. Second row; David DeBoard, William Foster, Eddie Brock, Larry "Tiny" Mullins, Lori Cope, Donnie Cope, Brianna Bussell, Kenny Partlett, Brian Bussell and Billy Partin. In front is Gary Wilson. Not shown is Clyde Burdette, Jim Bush and Steve Still (newest member of Lions Club). A special thanks to jailer James Miller for allowing three inmates to participate in the cleanup.



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