

The Transition

Of and For Former N.C. State Park Employees

August, 2009

Issue No. 17

Greetings to all Former Employees,

It seems that now with every issue of The Transition I am honored to report new additions to the ranks of former employees. Congratulations! I hope that you new alumni will have as easy a transition to civilian life as I did.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Seventh North Carolina State Parks Former Employee Reunion! This year's event will be held at Hanging Rock State Park! November 14, the second Saturday in November, is the date that you need to remember. Don't forget! Make your preparations now! (See the special flyer at the end of this issue).

For those traveling long distances, two of the new cabins have been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights, Nov. 13 & 14. Each cabin has two bedrooms and will house two couples comfortably (a description of the cabins can be found on Hanging Rock's web site). The cabins have kitchens, so additional meals can be prepared in the cabin or can be had at nearby restaurants. Dave Cook, Superintendent of Hanging Rock, and the Division of Parks and Recreation have graciously offered these cabins to us at no cost! Please let me know by September 30 if you are interested in staying in one of these very nice cabins! First requested, first reserved!

Get in touch and stay in touch!
John Sharpe

News Updates

From Leon Carter:

March 10: Welcome to the new retirees. I missed the last several retirement parties of which I would have loved to have attended. You were in my thoughts on those days.

Bit of good news, three of our retirees have been named to the Board of Directors of the Friends of State Parks. Billy Totten, Sid Shearin, & Dwayne Stutzman.

As one of ours said a while back when they were asked if they missed State Parks. "No, I don't miss State Parks, but I miss our people we worked with." - That sums it up .
Leon.

March 31: Annie Laura's brother, Elvin just left the house, headed home in Tulsa, OK. He and his wife Marie had come to the Carolina's visiting family. Marie still has family in Columbia, SC and Warsaw, NC area. They will be stopping in Jackson, TN to see grandchildren. Elvin & Annie Laura are the last of the immediate family. Still cousins niece & nephews, ect. Luckily my daughter Bonnie & son Rodney were able to stop by and we all went out to supper last night. Not often we get to see them. Leon.

Sandra Burns writes (March 10): Hi John,
Hope you guys are doing well. Sorry we missed the last retiree's luncheon, but hopefully we'll catch it next year. We're still hanging out in Raleigh, waiting for some rich Floridian to come buy our house. In the meantime, Jud finished building and installing all new oak cabinets in the house in Danbury. If I do say so myself, they turned out really nice for a rookie carpenter. We plan to try our hand at a tile backsplash next and neither one of us has ever done any tile work, so we'll see how that goes. We also completed the remodel of one bathroom and guess we'll start the next one soon. Somewhere in the midst of all that, Jud built a pantry out of hickory for Sandra and Billy and has sworn off ever working with hickory again.

As I browsed through the Transition, I spotted the list of past employees and checked to see if our info was correct and discovered that it was not. The e-mail address listed is mine. Jud's is rngburns@yahoo.com. so you might want to change that. Hope you're still enjoying your retirement. I've never seen Jud smile so much and sleep so well. A wonderful change!

Have a happy Spring. Sandy

Robert Skinner reports (March 11): Hi John. Pat& I were in Fla. the month of Jan. Been in Myrtle Beach since Mar 1. Patsy is in watercolor workshop for 3 wks serving as a monitor for the teacher. I am helping out the Director in airport runs and tending bar each night. Our lodging is free and Patsy's classes are at no cost. Most of my afternoons during the week are open to do whatever. Having a good time. Robert

Jo Anne Clendening writes (March 13): Hi John and Carter--

Just wanted to give you the sad news (for us--happy for Dad). He passed on Monday, February 9, here at home. It was wonderful having him here with us for the past year. Thought you outdoor guys would enjoy the picture we had posted at the Hall-Wynne Funeral Home Website. My parents lived on Lake Hickory (Catawba River) for 26 years--this picture is of Dad in his front yard in 1986 with his 34", 18lb bass. And it WAS a great tasting fish--I remember! ~Jo Anne
[Jo Anne, We all continue to keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.]

James Curtis Neely

Died Feb. 9, 2009 and resided in Durham, NC.

Visitation: [Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009](#)

Graveside Service: [Friday, Feb. 13, 2009](#)

Cemetery: [Catawba Memorial Park](#)

Please click on the links above for locations, times, maps, and directions.

James Curtis Neely died peacefully at home on the morning of February 9, 2009. Mr. Neely was born on April 10, 1924, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Van Madison Neely and Mary Pearl Chapman.

Mr. Neely served in the US Navy as an Electrician's Mate during WWII and fought in the Pacific Theater aboard the ship the USS New Mexico. He was discharged from the US Navy in 1946. On December 6, 1947, he married Lois Lorraine McKelvey of Shadyside, Ohio. They were married for 59 years until her death in May 2007. Mr. Neely and his wife were active members at First Assembly of God in Hickory, NC.

Mr. Neely graduated from George Washington University in Washington, DC, in 1954, after which he enjoyed a successful management career as an Electrical Engineer. His career was capped off with a teaching position in Electrical Engineering at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory NC where he taught for ten years and retired in 1988.

James is survived by two daughters, Jo Anne Neely Clendening and her husband, Frank; and Jeanni Neely Snider, and her husband, Ron. There are also seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife; and brother, Van Arvon Neely, Sr.

A graveside service will be held at Catawba Memorial Park in Hickory, NC, on the morning of Friday, February 13, at 10:00 am.

Visitation will be held at Hall-Wynne Funeral Home, 1113 West Main St., Durham, NC on the evening of Thursday, February 12, 2009, between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mr. Neely's memory to First Assembly of

God, 1301 12th Street Drive, NW, Hickory, NC 28601.

Arrangements are entrusted to Hall-Wynne Funeral Service.

On-line memorials: www.hallwynne.com. Select obituaries.

Scott Daughtry writes (March 14): Jo Ann, Old Friend

Thanks for sharing the information about your wonderful DAD. I lost my Father over 13 years ago and would still give almost anything to sit with him and seek his advice just one more time.

One of my favorites southern gospel songs is "if you only knew" and it speaks about how we on earth just can not imagine what a time Christians new to Haven are having with friends and loved ones that have go on before. And how we just can not understand what a magnificent thing it is to be in the "presence with the Lord."

Thinking about theses things does not make me miss my parents any less, but it sure changes the sadness I feel to happiness, when I think of them.

You and your family will be in our prayers. We love and miss you , and hope to see you soon.

Have a Blesses day, Scott and Janet.

Becky Haygood writes (March 20): Dear John:

I cannot remember, having gotten your e-mail address wrong several times, if I sent you my phone number so I can get Transition No. 16. So I am sending it again.

Even though I worked there many years ago at the Yorkshire Center (but I worked there part-time for Scott 13 years!) and left before most of y'all even thought about retiring, I love reading about the State Parks folks whom I knew and those I didn't know! Husband Ray always says "Finest people on earth!"

Our phone number (in case I never sent it) is 919-847-5125.

Thanks so much - love and God Bless to you and precious wife - remember we went to your wedding.

Becky Ann Haygood

Tom Wells writes (March 21): Attached is the latest in a series of highly literary works entitled "The Slackass Newsletter". Please be advised that this newsletter is four pages in length so you might wish to find a time whence you can relax and train your entire being on it's contents...its that interesting and of course enlightening.

BY THE WAY THE WELLS HOUSEHOLD NO LONGER HAS A HOUSE-LINE PHONE. IT HAS BEEN CONVERTED TO A FAX LINE ONLY. YOU MAY REACH US BY CELL PHONE (LINDA-919-971-1446; TOM 919-345-4575)
[Tom, Thanks for sharing the newsletter! Lots of Fun!!]

VAUNTED SLACKASS INC. NEWSLETTER
SENT BY USING ELECTRICITY AND MAGIC ON THE INTERNET
TO
SELECT AND MOST FAVORED RECIPIENTS
WHO ARE FORTUNATE BEYOND COMMON WORD DESCRIPTIONS
TO BE RECEIVING IT.
BEGUN BUT NOT FINISHED MARCH 23, 2009 AND COVERING SOME OF 2008
TOO
"THE EASTER BUNNY EDITION"

FOND MEMORY OF "EASTER PAST"

R. Dean Coleman, SLACKASS INC. SUPREME TREASURER and part-time water dowser, did, while he was gainfully employed as Alamance County Parks and Recreation Director, by himself, put an end to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Alamance County Parks and Recreation Dept.'s Cedar Rock Park in a fashion that while and colorful and well-intentioned, was, at the same time tragic and grotesque. Little children's lives and those of their parents and guardians were unalterably and permanently laid waste as a result of the macabre scene that day. Many of those in attendance then (Most of who are even now in a twelve-step program and receiving counseling) have flashbacks and nightmares even though they are thirty years old and should be adult-acting. (SLACKASS TREASURER Coleman says that people who have the Cedar Rock Park Post-Bloody Easter Egg Hunt Syndrome . . . "CRPPBEEHS" . . . are sniveling worthless, sissy cowards who should be General Patton Slapped . . . "GPS")

The True Story; Several Years Ago:

SLACKASS COLEMAN, always the center of attention and a bit of a glory-hog at any event where there are media representatives haughtily deemed himself to be the one to portray the EASTER BUNNY and therefore STAR at the annual Easter Egg Hunt in Cedar Rock Park in Alamance County. As Director of Parks and Recreation SLACKASS COLEMAN could and did usurp the EASTER BUNNY duties and declare himself to be the one who donned ("put-on" for some who might not know what "donned" means) the pink and white EASTER

BUNNY costume; big limp floppy ears, puffy tail, permanent buck-toothed goofy smile, humongous rabbit feet and all the rest and rode the back of the local fire-truck (“BIG RED”) sirens wailing, into the park and to the delight of a gathering of sweet, innocent, delighted children who had been summoned . . . nay invited . . . to receive candy and earn prizes for finding Easter Eggs; candy and prizes from the happy hands of the smiling EASTER BUNNY. Then tragically all turned to crap.....

As the big-eyed EASTER BUNNY deplaned from the fire truck, TV crews filming, newspaper photographers/reporters snapping photos, radio announcers/personalities announcing, children stared transfixed then screamed in horror and ran hard as they could; just like little snot-nosed jet planes to their parents and guardians shrieking . . . nay, HOWLING IN TERROR AND REVULSION at the sight of the grim-visage EASTER BUNNY confronting them. His smile once so friendly and inviting was soaked with blood which oozed from buck-teeth and from the place where the head joined the body and it flowed from his chin down his white furry tummy, drying to a dark color at the entrance of the EASTER BUNNY’S “innie” navel. The EASTER BUNNY looked like a child-threatening EASTER MONSTER who had just eaten someone’s pet live chicken or worse.

Parents and guardians, overwhelmed at the bloody, grisly countenance of the EASTER BUNNY, snatched up their precious little charges and frantically raced away in cars and trucks with engines roaring and horns blowing; escaping the possible carnage; to their homes and later to psychotherapists. Reporters, hardened to the rigors of dealing with Little League Baseball players parents conduct and having seen the death of a sheep being sheared at the Cedar Rock Park “Farm Day” (A story for another time) declared that they thought they’d seen it all but.

It began to rain at Cedar Rock Park. Dried blood began to wash down the EASTER BUNNY’S tummy to his toes. He stood there perplexed and dismayed in the mud and blood, the goofy smile permanent, little piles of candy and gaily colored eggs at his feet, the rain ruining and washing away all that was left of the day’s promise of celebration and joy and the EASTER BUNNY tried to determine how it had gone so terribly wrong.

Turns out SLACKASS COLEMAN a.k.a. “CALL ME LUCKY” had trouble “donning” his EASTER BUNNY head when he was dressing for his starring EASTER BUNNY role. The head/mask was made of paper Mache and the head hole was too small for SLACKASS COLEMAN’S head which is startlingly large. Therefore he had to twist it on; down over his nose (he has quite a large nose as well) it came and, unbeknownst to SLACKASS COLEMAN as it twisted the hard and sharp paper Mache cut little furrows on the surface of his nose which bled like a stuck hog. The blood built up in the EASTER BUNNY head/mask and

quietly trickled out the orifices of the mask as SLACKASS COLEMAN happily rode to his destiny on the back of BIG RED the fire engine.

(Note: SLACKASS COLEMAN, while despising the sissy, fop-coward children who ran away and their parents and guardians who left him standing in the rain has a certain understanding of their reasoning and graciously gave his permission to print this story in the hope that others may plan more carefully and not be subject to the slings and arrows of cruel fate such as that which befell him.)

SLACKASS COLEMAN STATED: "ALWAYS MEASURE YOUR HEAD-HOLE! "

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EASTER MEAL RECIPE: HAM, HAM GO AWAY

Ingredients: 1 - 8lb opossum, fat removed; 1 opossum liver, salt, pepper, butter as needed; 1 med. Onion, chopped, 1 cup cracker crumbs, ½ tsp soy sauce, 1 hard-boiled hen egg chopped, ½ tsp celery salt, 5 cups boiling water, 8 beef bullion cubes, 6 strips fat back strips.

Directions: Rub opossum in and out w/ salt and pepper; fry liver in butter then remove, brown onion in same pan, chop up liver and blend w/ onion, crumbs, soy sauce, 1 cup water, w/ 2 beef cubes. Stuff opossum with this mixture and truss. Put in roaster back-side up, pin on fat back. Dissolve rest of beef cubes in remaining boiling water and pour around the opossum. Roast @ 350 degrees for 3 hours, basting frequently.

YUM, YUM. Serve with Cornbread, sweet potatoes, creasy greens and buttermilk (The above recipe submitted by Ms. Linda Wells, purveyor of new thinking about fine foods)

PHYSICIAN TRIVIA:

"Good health is really the slowest rate at which one can die"

PATRIOTIC TRIVIA:

Did you know that Benjamin Harrison 23rd President of the US looked a lot like SLACKASS WELLS. And that Pres. Wm. Taft was the fattest Pres. and the last to have facial hair and looked not in the least like anybody. Pres. Tyler had a nose like a chicken beak Bless his heart.

SUMMER MERRIMENT:

Each and every member of SLACKASS INC. did and forthwith go to the beach and have fun, all together this summer. SLACKASS INC. CHARTER MEMBERS COLEMAN, FRAUSON AND WELLS AND JUNIOR SLACKASS MEMBERS HAGAN AND LEWIS (WHO WILL ONLY BE PROMOTED TO

THE EXALTED LEVEL OF SENIOR SLACKASS UPON THE DEMISE OF THE CHARTER MEMBERS AND MAYBE NOT THEN) met at a SEA SIDE motel, disrobed and then robed into swimsuits, went to the motel pool and promptly offended an innocuous little family of “Snowbirds” (wussie dad, mom and child) who promptly/politely/nervously left the pool to the frolicking members of SLACKASS INC. Food was eaten in copious amounts, laughter pealed, backs peeled, alcohol was consumed in real tiny amounts, not enough to harm a house fly, and the gentlemen delighted all with whom they came in contact with six minor exceptions.....

SLACKASS COLEMAN saved SLACKASS WELLS from the pounding surf and he saved SLACKASS FRAUSON from the pounding surf as well.

SLACKASS COLEMAN in carrying out this harrowing rescue lost his prescription sunglasses in the pounding surf. Both the saved SLACKASSES complimented and heaped praise on SLACKASS COLEMAN for his daring rescues and commiserated with SLACKASS COLEMAN on the loss of his glasses in the pounding surf. SLACKASS COLEMAN lamented the \$300.00 loss. Both SLACKASS WELLS AND SLACKASS FRAUSON again commiserated with SLACKASS COLEMAN and admonished him gently to be more careful when rescuing in the pounding surf next time and maybe he'd learn from the experience. Both SLACKASSES FRAUSON AND WELLS mentioned some kind of money reward for SLACKASS COLEMAN for the rescue and sunglasses loss but in the end wisely decided against it on the grounds that the rescue could have been carried out more gently in the pounding surf and SLACKASS COLEMAN could not produce a viable receipt for the prescription sunglasses.

This SLACKASS INC NEWSLETTER SPECIAL EDITION IS DEDICATED TO MS. NANCY WESTON AND BROUGHT TO YOU THE VAUNTED AND MOST FORTUNATE READER BY:

Hairstylist: Al “Show dog” Peedin, Barber to the Stars, Shear Shack Ltd. Raleigh NC

Caterer: “Possum, Pickles and Peaches owners of The Saliva Sisters Café, Salt Lake City Utah

Best Boy, Makeup Artist and Grip: Wayne “Everything I Own Has Muscles” Weston, Lake Wylie, NC

Sound Effects and Drama Instruction: Hilda Howerton (SLACKASS WELLS adorable sister) who upon mistaking dried “hotter than the hinges of Hades” habanera peppers for beef jerky decided to try a small handful and popped several in her mouth, briefly chewing with gusto.

JACK, DEAN, TOM, NEAL, AND KEN, SLACKASSES ALL, WISH YOU
AND YOURS ALL THE BEST THROUGH OUT THE YEAR AND
REMEMBER.....HAVE FUN; DO GOOD.

Scott and Janet Daughtry write (**June 6**): [Scott and Janet have written several e-mail letters about their experiences this summer. We are all blessed to have friends who devote so much of their time to helping those in need. JLS]

Dear Family and Friends, After a long, tiring but uneventful trip (a good thing!), we arrived in Colombo on Wed. morning to find the main Galle Road closed due to celebrations of the end of the war. It is a great thing for this country and people are very excited. Huge posters of their president line the roads. But it meant that we could not stop and do our shopping because businesses were closed also.

We arrived at the NCBM mission house and settled in. All were excited to see us. Joyce and Curtis (newbees) were introduced and began learning about the culture. On Thursday, Scott, Curtis, Jill, and Margaret went to the church to help split, cut, and load rubber trees onto a truck going to the cinnamon factory where it was sold for firewood to make money for the church. It seems rubber trees are great firewood. (Firewood here is not for heating but for cooking.).

Joyce and I stayed at the mission house to organize the activities and items for Ladies' Day... Gayani joined us for a shopping trip to Galle to purchase some items that we needed. Everything here is one fourth the price of US so I don't know why we pack dozens of suitcases and bring things here!.. Anyway, the van was having problems and would stall. It is quite a sight to see Joyce and Gayani pushing a van down a busy street with toot-toots and buses swerving around them!. We ended up flagging down a toot-toot for a ride back home!. Van is repaired now.. Shops were closing early due to the funeral of a government minister.

We have had rains and wind every night which is refreshing and also good for the rice and tea.. The locals are planting rice across from our house.. The cattle egrets are so beautiful flying and wading in the rice paddies.. They do not eat the seeds!

On Friday, we left here at 5:30am to drive back to Colombo to the Bible House to do our shopping for items for VBS and the Ladies Day.. Found great things in Sinhala and were very happy.. Passed an elephant walking leisurely down the Galle Road along with the buses, etc.. ..Returned to Poddala just in time to attend the funeral of a church member who was one of the first Christians in this area.

This was quite a touching experience.. White flags line the road to his homewith banners about him near the entrance of the home.

The service was at the home...large elephant tusks and brass candle stands were around the casket.. We then walked behind the casket as it was carried down the path, up the road, up a hill thru a coconut grove to the grave site.. There was more singing and a continued service.. The beautiful hand craved casket was slipped into the grave and the family placed handfuls of dirt in. The men then began cementing the opening and we all walked back to the home for refreshments and visiting.. It was very peaceful, touching and respectful.

Today was the Ladies Day. It was the beginning of a new Ladies Fellowship for this community around the mission house.. Thirty two ladies came from the church and from this community in a combined day of activities and fellowship... We had praise and worship,. a Bible story about Ruth and Naomi, games, and crafts... The ladies learned to play BINGO and of course loved it.. We had crochet lessons, lunch, and then a basket class held under the trees with a nice breeze and Sri Lankan "gospel" music playing.. Finished just as the heavens opened up with another deluge of rain!. What a great day of fun, music, and fellowship.... OH....Scott and Curtis painted a fence.

At 4:00 on Saturday,. there is now a Sunday School and worship service here at the mission house for a newly growing congregation in this community... There were about 35 present for today' service.. One lady made a profession of faith!!!!!! Praise the Lord!

Tomorrow is Poya Day... Full Moon Holiday.

Supper is calling.....Must go..... Thank you all for your prayers, support and contributions to this ministry.. Amazing things are happening here.. Will share more. about them later,..... Love to all,. Janet and Scott

(June 8):

Friends,.. It's a quiet Monday morning here at the Mission House after a busy weekend.. Joyce and I waved the others off this morning and stayed "home". to work on VBS materials.. The rest of the team are working on block making....there is an order to fill for 1000 blocks...income for the church.. That's only 500 sets since you can make them 2 at a time.. There is a cement mixer here but it is still "preferred" to do with a shovel... Meanwhile,. Joyce and I got instructed on splitting coconut, grinding out the meat, and squeezing out the juice/milk to make curry for lunch.. After 5 years, today I learned that I have been eating dried fish in my curry and sambol!!!!

...

What a blessed and wonderful day yesterday!. It was first Sunday so other area congregations came to the church for joint worship.

First, at 8:00 we had Sunday School with about 65 children... Singing and then we played Bible Bingoa new game for them.

Services began at 9:00 and lasted until 12:00... Marshall says if he makes it shorter, they are not happy.. Many have come from miles away on foot and bicycle (not a car in sight) so they want a full schedule of praise and worship.. The Calvary Church was filled to capacity.. There were many testimonies,. much praise singing, and a powerful message by Marshall.. The service concluded with Communion... Some families from a distance away brought their lunch to eat before heading back.. Also the men's group met afterwards as did a youth group!.. The ladies did not meet since they had spent the whole day on Saturday.... The team took Marshall and family out to Unawatuna Beach for lunch out.

We had to return by 3:30 for the new youth group meeting at the mission house.. There were about 12 young people who came for study with Marshall.. Held under the trees in

the front yard... Looking out back,. I noticed kids in the outside classroom.. Discovered a math tutoring class being conducted there.. This classroom is also being used to teach English classes... Every day. we are amazed at the growth of this church and the ministries that are being offered.

This afternoon,. the ladies of the team and some ladies of the church are going to a ladies' home to provide an evening meal and activities.. We have prepared bags for them with sewing kits, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc... I believe these are disadvantaged women with no family to care for them.. The women of Calvary Church have been ministering here already.. Will report more on this later.

I was a little unclear about the lady who was saved last week but have learned more of her story... The family moved into this village near the mission house some time back... The house was filled with evil spirits.. The family was suffering with discord, and lack of sleep and other problems.. One of the believers began witnessing to them.. They accepted the Good News and removed all their Buddhist statues and icons from the house... All of their problems and discord vanished!.. The husband, wife, and son and daughter all accepted Christ.

Saturday was the first time they came to worship service... What a wonderful day!

..... I have another great story of testimony but will save it for next time that the computer works!!!!

Thank you all for your prayers and words of. encouragement... We can feel them all the way to the ends of the earth,. Janet and Scott

..

(June 12)

Dearest Family and Friends,

It's a quiet Friday evening here in Meepawala at the Mission House.. Especially after the strange and frightening events of yesterday.

So much has happened this week but yesterday's news comes first... As Margaret explained this morning,. I have had a closer experience at walking in Sri Lankan shoes.(...sandals). Our team went to dear Priyanthe's house (built by NCBM) for a second morning of moving the dirt of Sri Lanka to a new location.. We had worked hard all morning moving a wall of clay using an iron bar, short handled shovel, "wok" pan, rice bags, and 2 rickety wheelbarrows.. Of course the dirt needed to be dumped down the mountain on a rocky, windy path!. We had a wonderful lunch prepared by the family and headed back out... Priyanthe's father has a "pet" monkey who lives on a tree perch attached to a chain.. For some unknown reason, as I walked out of the house, he lurched at me, broke the chain and attacked.

Like lightning he grabbed onto my upper thigh....grabbing and biting!. It was terrifying and traumatic. I am not sure how I shook him loose but think that the dog frightened him off.. He was. berserk ... jumping around, attacking the window and the dog, finally going up a tree...as we huddled in the house with doors closed for about 45 min.. Jill and Margaret cleaned my wounds and applied some ointment from their packs. Finally we slipped out one by one down the path to the van as her father kept the monkey distracted.. (It was much later in the evening before he was captured.). After returning to Mission

House to quickly shower and change, we took toots into Galle to the government hospital where they have a rabies clinic.(Marshall had a funeral to conduct.)Much waiting until we see a doctor. He advises emergency treatment but does not have "first quality" vaccine.. Sends us to a private hospital. Doctor there also agrees I need the emergency dose but they only have 4

vials and I need 6..Scott and Priyante and her cousin, a nurse, take a toot-toot and search pharmacies to find the vaccine but none is available. The doctor gives me a tetanus booster. (\$2.60).. Scott and Marshall head to Matara (2 hours away) to get 2 more vials of vaccine.. Each vial is \$58.00.. They return about 9:30pm..Back to the private hospital where a new doctor is on duty.. He does not feel "clever enough" to administer the vaccine due to my penicillin allergy!. Find out that he is a surgeon!. Finally they call the other doctor. and he returns to hospital to help me.. I am checked into ICU (WW1 era). Pastor Marshall, Scott and Gayani have prayer for me bedside.

.He does an initial skin testvery painful...and observes for reaction.. Then I receive 4 more injections in 4 locations ...not to be disclosed....and wait for observation...while listening to evening Buddhist prayers broadcast over the speakers in the hospital.. I am praying that. our bedside prayer will be a witness to the 2 Buddhist doctors and 2 nurses as they attend.. They were very kind and reassuring.. Now I am to arrange for the rest of the series when I return to US.. We count out our rupees right there on the bed and pay the nurse.. ICU fee: \$10.00.. Doctor's fee: \$25.00. Vaccine: \$348.00... I have not signed any forms,. not been asked my last name, wound not touched or treated....only my age, birth date,. blood pressure taken... Such is socialized medicine... What must it be like if you can not afford "first quality" vaccines.... do not have a vehicle to go get them yourself....are in a life-threatening condition....do not have the comfort of friends/family....have prayers over a loudspeaker instead of loved ones praying and holding your hand... No,. I have not actually walked in their shoes.....only glimpsed what it might be. My favorite passage: " Tho I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, there my hand will guide you and my right hand will hold you." has never been more true.

I have been lovingly cared for and have had no reaction to the vaccine. So all is well except. for the new nicknames and teases that follow me now... The. frog in my hairancient history!

There has been so much to tell about this week but everyone is gone to bed and the big day of VBS is tomorrow so the other stories will have to wait.

Please keep us in your prayers.. Margaret is so grateful to Hilda and Joyce for their help as we all are for the kind contributions and support.. Every item we brought has found it's way into one area of ministry or another... Good night and love to all,. Janet and Scott

(June 12)

Beloved in Christ, Janet and Scott

Thank you for sharing about what the Lord is doing through your life in my mother land. I will be going to Sri Lanka for a short visit shortly to see my mom. I am doing well with my work in prison here in Sweden. On the 18th I will go out with few prisoners and go on fishing. This week end I am working in the retirement community complex, my night shift. I will stop working in health service by the end of this

year and will be full time prison chaplain. It will be a great joy for me to see my brother and sisters when I come to mt home in Poddala. Give my regards to all people who is concern about Sri Lanka and giving their time for the ministry there. God bless you all.

Rev. Chris Gammeddehewa

Former Pastor of Calvary Church & Prison Chaplain in Sweden

(July 21)

Dear Folks back home..... The Selma Team arrived with no delays or events, in sunny, hot Montana.. You immediately know why this is called Big Sky country.

There are few trees.....Helena is on a flat plain surrounded by mountains.....the sky is so big and blue... Shade is hard to find!

Today we jumped into the Kid's Club....time sharing with the Roxboro team.. We had a record number of 29 kids come to Club.. It was a great day of Creation Story, music, games, flower craft, lunch, and movie... One of the church members cooked a wonderful supper for both teams and all the family.. Tomorrow we continue with Kid's Club and begin our clown ministry at the Last Chance Stampede... And NO,. we will not clown in the bull ring!!!!

..... Please keep all of us in your prayers.....for stamina in our long schedule for the next two days....for the kids we are ministering to....some are unchurched.....for Darren's growing ministry here.. In Christ's love,. Janet and Scott

(July 26)

Howdy Folks, This has been an incredibly busy week.....so full of blessings and encouragement. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday we helped with Kid's Club at Big Sky Fellowship from 9:00am to 3:00pm. We shared the responsibilities and activities with the team from Westwood Baptist in Roxboro. A young team with lots of energy!!!! The theme for the week was The Creation and what a great theme to work with. We had up to 30 kids by Friday. They enjoyed many crafts, games, stories, and ended with a make-your-own treat ice cream party. At 5:00, the Selma team went to the Last Chance Stampede and Fair just to "clown around". We have made hundreds and hundreds of balloon animals and Hilda did hundreds of "witness tattoos". She is now our expert tattoo artist! Tommy amazed the crowds with his rope illusions! & nbsp; The Roxboro team ran a basketball game with free prizes. We time shared the booth to cover the day and evening (Until 10:00pm). So we had long days but soooo rewarding.

Scott and Jim Hales, Tommy, Bobby Temple, & some others worked on the play structure at the church to reinforce it and add to it and worked on painting some picnic tables . Jim and Judith repaired and painted some furniture for the YWCA shelter for women. I got to help re-cover some chair seats for the center. Selma Baptist Women prepared and sent journals for use by the Pregnancy Center. Judith has fed us, packed lunches and suppers, and kept the kids corralled. WOW!

We managed to squeeze in a 2 hour boat tour to the Gates of the Mountains. Very beautiful and informative tour. Also got to go to a real pro rodeo one night....quite fun

and interesting. It was "Tough Enough To Wear Pink" night. To raise money for the Komen Foundation. Cowboys in pink!!!! Great event.

This morning we had a wonderful worship service at Big Sky. Darren led a enthusiastic service with touching music by two precious girls. A record attendance of 72 folks. A team from SC arrived yesterday for next week's camp. The Roxboro team left today. We will leave tomorrow with full hearts and so appreciative of this opportunity to see this ministry grow in this beautiful setting. Tonight Scott and I will sleep in our third location. The last three nights we slept in the street! (In a Winnebago!) Tommy has been sleeping in the church but will be here in the basement tonight. Hilda has only had one bedroom with the neighbors who treat her like family. Gotta go.....Ladies Bible Study at the house is beginning. We have truly been blessed by this experience and will travel home with full hearts.
In Christ's love and service, Janet and Scott

New Additions

February: Sam Bland joined the ranks of Former N.C. State Park Employees with a great send off. As you can see from the photo below, Sam does not appear worried about abandoning State Parks.



Good Luck Sam on the transition to a new life! Get in Touch and Stay in Touch!

George Barnes celebrated his final days with N.C. State Parks with a big send off March 6. Everyone wished George their best and encouraged him to replace the sand between his toes with and little red clay once in a while!

Good Luck George on your transition to a new life. Be sure to Get in Touch and Stay in Touch!

To all Former Employees of North Carolina State Parks!

Notice!

The Seventh Annual North Carolina State Parks Former Employee Reunion will take place in Western North Carolina at **Hanging Rock State Park!**

Date: Saturday, November 14

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: The picnic shelter near the lower parking lot.

There will not be

Special Music

and

Doc Watson

Will not be appearing!

Exciting Entertainment

Is hard to come by and

David Letterman

Was never contacted!

Great Food

Is as always a given! And this year we will have a special treat;

Thomas Sutton

Will provide all of the meat with

barbequed pig and chicken

Which he will cook himself!

So join us November 14 for a great time!

Make it and don't forsake it!