

The Transition

Of and For Former N.C. State Park Employees

February, 2010

Issue No. 18

Greetings to all Former Employees,

What a winter—so far! I hope everyone has made it through this crazy weather. Many of us have had to deal with more continuous snowfall than has happened for many, many years. It's likely that many future winters will be compared to this one! Send me your snow stories! We'll have fun reading about them this summer!

Included in this issue is a report on the 2009 Alumni Reunion at Hanging Rock State Park. We had a great crowd! Many folks, who had not been to a reunion before, came to get reacquainted with old friends.

I hope that you enjoy this issue! Let all of us know how things are going with you!

Get in Touch and Stay in Touch!

John L. Sharpe

News Updates

From Leon Carter:

Received this from Jud Burns (10-27-09):
John and Carter,

The Hawkins family has contacted me and requested that the following be forwarded to our state park family. Would you please share this with the retirees?

Lucy Hawkins, wife of former Duke Power State Park superintendent Oren Hawkins, passed away over the weekend. The visitation is scheduled for Thursday, October 29 from 12 noon-2:00 pm followed by the funeral service at 2:00 pm. Both services are being conducted at Troutman Funeral Home located on North Main Street in Troutman, NC. The family has indicated that in lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Hospice and Palliative Care of Iredell County, 2347 Simonton Road, Statesville, NC 28625 (704-873-4719).

Her obituary appears at the website for the funeral home.

Jud

[Thanks for letting us all know. Our prayers and thoughts will continue to be with Oren and the family. JLS]

(11-16-09)

(The Alumni Reunion) About the best one yet. I really enjoyed it. Probably because I had been rather close to all. Even Dave Lattimore. We reworked the inside of the Ranger residence after he moved in. He was to paint the interior walls, we talked about colors, I suggested pastels. Next time I was in the house one wall in the dinning room was bright RED, we laughed about that yesterday.

I did pick up two e-mail addresses.

Kenny McGrady: marquezd19@yahoo.com this is his girl friend, just hope he keeps this one for a while.

Thomas Sutton: ksutton@wsfcs.k12.nc.us This is Kim's work address but she says to use it. She(is) something with a school system.

Annie Laura picked up on your mentioning possibly Reunion every (other) year. She is NOT FOR IT. She says on a two year basis there may be some like Becky Haygood who really wanted to come this year but a family crises came up Friday night and they couldn't come. If every two years it would be two more before she could come. Personally I like every year. Rotating East, Central, West. I'm not thinking MOMI or CHRO but some central west park. Not any of the Coastal Parks but central East. Then Central RARO, FALA, ENO. That way we may have only 15 or 20 from that area but I feel we would be giving more (folks) a chance not driving a long distance. I was

surprised to see Durham Pait from Bladenboro & Mac Goodwin from below Fayetteville. Know its a heck of a distance for you to travel to MEMI or JONE, but this is our choice. This year Betty Jo Rodgers, Roy's wife, from Oriental, said they would love to come but Roy has a church now and would be preaching on Sunday. TOO FAR. Every two years it may be they could come every four years. I believe I would rather keep it every year and see 10 different ones than go to every two years and the number be even less. My feeling your choice.

Reason I mentioned Becky when she changed her e-mail address, two e-mails to her bounced. I called her house twice with no answer. I had entered .net rather than .com With that we exchanged several and talked about HARO.

Just got a call to pick up my son he has three vehicles and two of them or in the wrong place. Got to give him some rides. Leon

[Leon, What you and Annie Laura think makes a lot of sense to me. A plan to rotate the reunions between districts is a good idea. Although we have, kind of, rotated in the past going from West, to East, to Central districts would give folks a chance to know when they might be more able to attend a reunion—and more time to come up with a great recipe! I'm thinking of rotating to the East this year-possibly Singletary Lake. November is a great time of year there. JLS]

(12-30-09) Just received the below in an email from Tommy's (Wagoner) wife, Mary.

Mr. Carter,

Just wanted to let you know that Tommy's (Wagoner) Mom passed away this morning. She had a fall on Monday and the stress was just too much for her. She will be at Hartsell Funeral Home in Albemarle Dec. 31 from 6 to 8pm. The funeral will be at St Pauls Wesleyan Church in Gold Hill, NC Jan 1 at 1100 with viewing time at 10:30. Tommy is down there now and I will be leaving shortly.

Thank you,

Mary Wagoner

[Tommy and Mary and family will continue to be in the prayers of the State Parks family. JLS]

Dedication of the new Mount Mitchell Observation Platform-April 17, 2009

[Oops! I forgot to include the dedication in the last Transition! JLS]



Supt. Bradley and dignitaries.



Descendants of Dr. Elisha Mitchell.



Director Lewis Ledford



New trail to platform.



New platform with Dr. Mitchell's grave in foreground.



Ribbon cutting.



Access ramp to platform.



Compass rosette inlaid in floor of platform.



Display which interprets vista (one of four).

Jay Wild sends the following photos of the new Fort Macon Visitor Center and Dedication ceremony (11-7-09):



Fort Macon V.C. Dedication Ceremony



Fort Macon Visitor Center Front Door



Entrance to the Fort Macon Visitor Center



Tom Wells and Sam Bland



Claude Crews and Lauris Joyner



Lauris Joyner and Cliff Phillips



Tom Wells and Phil McCorkle



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Jay Wild also sent photos of the Merchants Millpond Dedication Ceremony (10-7-09):



Floyd and Sid look on



Floyd



Merchants Visitor Center

[Jay, Thanks for the great photos! Wow! No one could have made me believe in 1972 that State Parks would have EVER had the money to provide the parks with facilities like these! I wish that I had a photo of the visitor center (park office) at Pilot Mountain in 1972!]

Julie Adamchik Lewis writes (11-09-09):

John,

Thanks for your prayers. Placing a parent in a nursing home is one of the hardest things I have had to encounter.

Re: Anissa, she has two children now, lives in Burlington, is married to a Baptist Minister and is full-steam-ahead with projects, school, and home.

She sends you a big hello. Julie

[Julie, You and your Mom will continue to be in the prayers of the State Parks family. Anissa has to be a GREAT Mom! JLS]

Dan Smith writes (11-13-09):

John,

Sorry that I must inform you that I will not be able to attend tomorrow as I had planned. I have been asked to assist with a funeral that is tomorrow as well.

I recently attended a surprise 70th birthday celebration for former CLNE Park Ranger Brownie Southerland and he is doing well. He regrets that he will not be able to attend as the date of this years reunion is too close to the opening of his Christmas Tree business next weekend.

Former MEMO and GOCR Ranger Mike Cavin made a recent quick trip down to North Carolina from his home in Alaska to visit family. The last that he told me, he was planning to move back to Nome, Alaska. Mike lived in Nome a few years ago as recently he has been living near Anchor Point, Alaska. It seems Mike can never settle down at one spot for long. One day he say's he may move back down to a warmer climate.

Back to Brownie's birthday celebration, former GOCR Superintendent Lauris Joyner and his wife were in attendance and are getting along well. He wasn't sure at that time if he could attend the reunion as there were family plans that might already be in place. Also in attendance was former CLNE seasonal employee Tom Lock, who is now a Superior Court Judge in Johnston County and works primarily from the Court House in Smithfield, NC. Tom worked as both a Park Attendant and Lifeguard at CLNE in the mid 1970's with both Brownie and myself.

As far as myself, all is about the same, still spending most of my time helping elderly family with their daily needs. I have not made any special trips this year, mostly within the state with one family gathering in Virginia. Again I regret that I am not able to attend the reunion this year, but other priorities have come about for tomorrow. I hope everyone has a great time and a good meal is in order.

Dan

[Dan, Thanks for the updates! Next year's event will likely be closer to your home and we missed you this year but look forward to seeing you this November! JLS]

Suzanne Southerland writes (11-17-09):

Hi John,

Brownie asked that I let you know how sorry he is that we weren't able to attend. I guess until he finally retires (from Christmas trees) we'll continue to miss the November reunions.

Anyway, he also asked me to let you know that he appreciates all your efforts to keep up with all of 'us old folks' and said to keep up the good work.

Take care,

Brownie & Suzanne Southerland

[Folks, We all missed you! This year's event will be a little closer to you. Bring a Christmas tree-we'll have a contest and let it be the prize! JLS]

Larry Outz writes (11-19-09):

John,

Sounds like my wife and I missed a good day. We will try to make the next event.

Larry Outz

[Larry, You did miss a good day! We all missed you too. See you this year! JLS]

Janet Daughtry reports (12-6-09)

[Scott and Janet Daughtry have made several reports of their experiences in the mission field working with Baptist Men. JLS]

Aloha to all, It is a beautiful and cool evening (70's ...no humidity) here in Waianae, HI. And it IS pronounced "Havaee" by the locals. The airlines and the Devil conspired to keep us from coming here but the Lord's will prevailed and we arrived safely. One airline had dropped us from our flight from LA to HNL. The other airline had cancelled our flight from RDU to ATL ...did not notify us or reschedule us! We found all this out when we tried to check-in online on Monday and the website said we had no flight reservations. Both of us taking turns on the phone with 2 airlines and Priceline from 9 am til 5 pm finally got the whole story and got new flights. The flights were very bumpy but on time. We managed to get to each gate just as they were boarding so no sitting around in airports for us!

We met Syble and Don in ATLarrived here about 8:30pmmet by Denver and Debbie with beautiful leis in hand. Drove from HNL amid huge trafficvery impressed with the 8 lane highway ...bumper to bumper! Anyway we arrived in Waianae about 11:00pm and moved into our little cottage. It is a duplex which was once a tool house. Syble and Don live on the other side. Very comfortable. Large bedroom/kitchen area and large bathroom/dressing area. We are roughing itno ice maker or dishwasher. Each couple has a golf cart and we

share our Cadillac with the Freemans! At staff meeting on Wed. morning we met the couple who cooks...Paula and Tony. Also another temp couple ...Bev and Pat. There are also 3 post college "interns"...Courtney, Tate, and Blake...called "The Kids". It's fun to have some young folks around!

No wasting time....we had to get right to work. The Kids and the men are completely renovating a duplex cottage. New windows...sheetrock, tile, etc.. This weekend we had an important event here....a first ever associational men's retreat....120 pastors and men of their churches. So Syble, Paula, and I had the task of preparing beds, cleaning rooms, and bathrooms, sweeping, mopping, raking yards, etc. Then the men arrived and we went to work in the kitchen helping with meals and clean up. Denver wanted everything at its best and I think it was! The food was wonderful. Monday we can get to work on the mountain of sheets and towels waiting for us.

Once the men left today, we got a few hours off and were able to drive around and see the town in daylight. We are in a very local area. In fact most places that we go we are the only "pale" face Americans around. Scott commented tonight that he has to remind himself that we are not in a foreign country and I am almost surprised when someone speaks to me and it's English. Actually it is "Hawaiian" lingo and we are learning new terms. We have been to the grocery store twice and it is quite an experience. Prices are very high. Many products we don't recognize. There is a lot of SPAM.

The weather man here has a cushy job. The biggest part is the wave/surf report. This weekend Big waves are coming in...25 ft. By Monday they are supposed to be 40-50 ft. on the North Shore (not far from here). Surfing competition is on standby.

We drove north to the end of the road this afternoon and saw the Big surf. Beautiful sea and mountains. But miles of shoreline are lined with tents and shanties of hundreds of homeless people. Quite an unexpected sight and sad situation.

Tomorrow we will attend Waianae Baptist Church...right outside the gates. And have some free time. What a blessing to work in such a beautiful and special place with such wonderful folks! Please keep us in your prayers, and write us too, Janet and Scott

12-13-09

Aloha Family and Friends, A Wonderful Sunday morning to all....the usual sunny skies, soft trade winds, temperature...82*. The evenings are cooler...about 70*. It is hard to imagine that the stores have winter clothes just like at home. And some folks are wearing long sleeves because it is "chilly" to them! We are on the leeward side of Oahu (west) and it is very dry and dusty. A fine red powdery dust settles on everything. The mountains around us are covered with a

sedge type shrub which is brownish/greenish color. They look furry and you just want to touch them. We have had rain one night about a week ago...even tho this is the rainy season. Rain clouds reach the top of the mountains but don't come over to our side.

Monday there were 45 ft. waves on the North Shores so the Big Surfing competitions were held. The waves reached 30 ft. on our side. The road ends 12 miles north of here at Kaena Pt. It was closed due to the high surf.

We had no group here this week so Syble and I have been washing the linens from the last group and folding them just so. That has taken us 3 days.....we will have to get faster when the groups return in Jan. The men and Kids continue to work on the duplex renovation. They finished the plumbing and are into sheetrock and painting. We continue to clean the Big House. The hours are many but in a beautiful setting with wonderful folks.

Friday night we all went into Honolulu for our Christmas dinner party and Dirty Santa exchange. We ate at the Pagoda Restaurant which "floats". It was a fun evening of fellowship with our co-workers.

Last Wed. the ladies all went to the Swap Meet at the Aloha Stadium. Hundreds of vendors set up booths to sell just everything. We even bought local produce from Phillipino/ Chinese/Japanese folks. Here signs are in English and Japanese. Food is much more expensive which may help with our weight loss program! A box of cereal is over \$5....bread..almost \$4. Every meal is served with 2 scoops of rice and 1 scoop of macaroni. We have had rice for breakfast even.

Yesterday Debbie (director's wife) Syble, and I were able to attend a women's conference in Milikani (middle of island) (green area!). The speaker was Dr. Brenda Robinson from GA. We had an inspirational day of fellowship with other Christian women from around the island.

We have seen nothing outside of our area yet have put in many hours here at the Conference Center.

Please keep us in your prayers. Love to all, Bombai in Christ, Janet and Scott

12-22-09

Good morning family and friends, Another sunny day here in Wai'anae...temperature 80* with light trade winds. Another round of Big Waves predicted for the North Shore this week. Maybe a shower but I doubt it. The beautiful birds are singing and chattering as usual. One mongoose watches me intently as I water the thirsty plants. There is a young mongoose family living near our "condo". There are no snakes in Hawaii....very comforting thought! There are tiny mosquitoes, small geckos, teeny tiny ants, big black bees. But not nearly as many insects as I expected.

We were able to get Sat. off and go out exploring a bit. We spent the morning at the Swap Meet at the Aloha Stadium. Found some Hawaiian fabric!!!!!! Anything you want is there.

We hiked to the top of Diamond Head. It is a rocky, winding, strenuous trail with many switchbacks, tunnels, and steep steps up into a WWII bunker. But what a view when you reach the top! We drove thru the "million"\$\$\$\$ neighborhood and around the windward side of the island.

Very differentgreen and lush and it rained. Drove back across the middle to get home. We noticed that the east side does not have homeless camps, housing is more affluent. Larger, newer shopping centers. But we have become "at home" here in Wai'anae. We are accustomed to the sounds of sirens, and nightly fireworks, and the music of the ice cream truck.

Folks are friendly and answer our questions of "What is that?" in the grocery store.

Work continues on the duplex renovation. We are in the painting, tiling, flooring stages. Syble and I have joined the painting crew. Don is STILL working on the wiring. Scott has been doing wood trim and flooring and anything else. It's looking good and we have hopes of the couples moving in by the end of the month.

There is a large group of 7th and 8th graders coming in on Dec. 26. That should create some energy around here. Denver will return from Alaska on Christmas Day.

Christmas seems a little unreal here. There are some decorations on a few homes and businesses. Live Christmas trees are sold out of refrigerated trucks. There was apparently a shortage and more were shipped in. Can't imagine the cost....shipping cost was \$30 -\$40 per tree!

Stripping away all the Christmas trappings will cause you to focus more on the true meaning.

I have contracted some sort of "coughing crud" which I blamed on the volcano "vog" which we had last week. After resting for a couple of days, I finally feel human again.

Please keep us in your prayers. For Denver and Debbie's safe return to HI from AK. For the youth who will worship and fellowship here next weekend. For the people sleeping on the beach each night. We love receiving your mail. Mele Kalikimaka (Merry Christmas), Janet and Scott

2-14-10

Dear family and friends, It is a quiet Sunday morning here at the Team House. Everyone even Scott has gone to the Hospital to work. I am taking time out from my chores to write. This has been very hard to do. There has been so much to organize and do but most of all because there are no words to describe the poverty and desperation of these people. Scott says he has never seen so much poverty, so much destruction, and so many heroes in one place. We are just so humbled to be working shoulder to shoulder with so many of them.....from our own teams of doctors, nurses, feeding and handymen to Samaritan's Purse to 82nd Airborne troops and UN troops. And so many more from countries all over the world.

So I may as well start at the beginning.... After 2 days of delays due to snow in NC, we flew into Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and were met by wonderful Dominican Baptists. They fed us and housed us in their church overnight. EARLY the next morning we began the long 8-10 hour drive to Port-a-Prince, Haiti in our "new" van and truck purchased for our use here. After many hours of driving thru DR villages, we reached the border. What a sight! Masses of people boarding buses to DR, convoys of military with heavy equipment, street vendors lining the road selling everything, troops guarding the gates and roadways. One of our drivers did not have correct papers so we had to leave one vehicle at the border and drive on. Hot, dusty, mountains on one side, beautiful lake on the other, traffic is an endless line of freight trucks, buses, military vehicles. We get halfway to Port-a-Prince and the driver asks US for directions. We assumed that he knew! To cut the story short....we got hopelessly lost, asked directions of an 82nd Airborne trooper

, but ended up in the epicenter of the quake. We realized there were no more police or troops just thousands of Haitians digging thru rubble to salvage any piece of lumber or anything of use. The buildings are collapsed like a stack of pancakes. Buildings were collapsed across the roads. Power lines down everywhere. Even still bodies in the street. It is not a small area. It is complete. We were very nervous about being there unprotected and with our luggage in the back of a pickup truck. But we finally wound our way thru and back out. Decided to try to find the hospital. Some UN troops from Chile led us to the correct area. Our "new" van began to run hot (as were we) but we found the hospital and Team 3. Followed them to the compound...1-2 hour drive from hospital due to traffic. Impossible to find without help. There is not even a sign on the gate.

We are staying at the compound of Global Outreach. It is 66 acres between the mountains and the sea at Titanyen. (The mass graves are 2 miles from here.) It is desert...very,very dry. Palms, cactus, rolling vista, brown mountains, scorpions, tarantulas (haven't seen any yet). Their ministry includes a burn clinic, a school, well drilling, bunkhouses for mission teams, and other areas. The school is closed since the quake and folks are living in the classrooms and rapidly building tents/shantys on the ball fields.

When you leave the gates, we immediately see the affects of the quake. Many are moving from the city and setting up shanty/tents here to survive. The team house is a home vacated by a missionary family who left after the quake in order to get their adopted Haitian child out of the country. It is very nice and spacious. We can sleep about 24+ people and have adequate storage for food stuffs. The family left with 24 hours notice so we have been packing up their belongings and storing them in one room. This has been quite a chore ...now almost finished. Women are sleeping in the house. Men on the large galleria (porch or lanai for the Hawaiians) and in some tents also on mattresses and bunks.

We have a washer and a clothesline. Cold running water. Drinking water and ice have to be fetched each morning from other spot on the compound. We are so blessed to be here in such a comfortable and secure location. Global Outreach has opened its arms and welcomed us in. Samaritan's Purse and some US Army are also sharing the compound.

Franklin Graham was here for a couple of days last week. Samaritan's Purse has built a helicopter pad in front of us. Copters come and go all day.

My days consist of cleaning, washing laundry (challenge!), cooking for the team (some creative cooking with ingredients we can get), bookkeeping. I have only left the compound twice since arriving. It was days before I realized that I could see the ocean. So similar to our days in Hawaii.....brown mountains, blue ocean, watering plants! Debbie and Paula and Syble, I even make sheet sets like you taught me in HI. It seems that every mission trip that came before was preparation for this time and place....just as Martha often told me. Scott, of course, is running here and there....trying to organize, hire drivers and interpreters (We are dealing with three languages! English, Spanish, and French/French Creole. I dropped out of high school French!), repairs to the house, scouting out new locations for team work, planning with the teams, hauling water, meeting with NGO's and so on.

Teams are coming and going. Team 6 is here now . Team 7 arrives tomorrow (a hectic day). There is a two day overlap of teams in order to provide continuity at the hospitals....Petionville Community and St. Damiens' Children's Hospital. That means very quarters here at the house for 2 nights. But some med staff are doing 24 hours on and we are getting the hang of accommodating everyone. The highlight of the day is when one group returns in the evening and we can hear the stories of the people they have helped treat that day. Of babies being saved from starvation, of children who have lost arms and legs, new babies born, people burned in the fires and explosions, dehydrated mothers who give all their food and water to their children, and the smiles and stoic endurance of these hardy people. Last week the team had 3 salvations and we rejoiced in hearing those stories.

And the stories of our small 3 person feeding team who are feeding about 250-300 hospital staff and patients a day in a substandard "kitchen" in the basement. Our handymen are working to improve it with new sinks, lighting, etc.

When you drive out through the roads and see the thousands lined up at the UN and Army sites to receive a bag of rice....the thousands(700,000 estimated) homeless..living in not just tents but any kind of tarp/rice bag structure that they can construct.... washing clothes in the muddy river....pumping water from wells (some drilled by Global Outreach...very much like the ones we drill in India.).....walking the roads with bread or rice or wares to sell balanced on their heads...you wonder at how a people continue to survive in such conditions. The churches here are packed I am told. Many are still praising God. This is the third day of Three Days of National Mourning. Church services are running from 6 am to 6 pm.

Please keep these people in your prayers. Pray for the many medical teams from all over the world who have come to help. As always, pray for our military. They are providing a valuable service here. And of course, keep us in your prayers that we may have the wisdom and strength to stay here as long as the Lord wills. Pray that the men and women of NC Baptist Men can share the love of Christ with more Haitian people. Pray that I NEVER see a tarantula! In love and in Christ's service, Janet and Scott



Team house and truck



New tent camp near compound



Teams at hospital



Yes I can with two hands

2-22-10

Dear Family and Friends,

You may not know but here in Haiti we are wearing new shirts that are red. They say Rescue 24 which represents our rapid response search and rescue teams from NCBM (North Carolina Baptist Men). I have just come in from hanging the clothesline full of red Rescue 24 shirts. They are quite a sight flapping in the breeze. Scott has told the story of being mistaken for an angel when our disaster volunteers wearing yellow shirts arrived on a site in Gulfport after Hurricane Katrina. Here in Haiti our red shirts are our badge to travel and enter into any area we need. They are so respected that our handymen can walk into the operating room freely. Our Haitian drivers wear one to have access thru the gates of the compound and clear passage on the roads thru roadblocks. This morning our newest interpreter was given one to wear to the clinic and to gain entrance to the compound. He beamed from ear to ear...."NOW I am a member of the team!" he said.

Team 8 arrived two days ago..after a 10 hr. road trip from the DR....all "green" and full of questions and energy. Team 7 left this morning to return to Santo Domingo and home. They are now veterans and well-bonded from their shared experiences in the hospitals, long drives on hot, dusty, congested roads, scenes of Haitian peoples and tent cities, sights of piles of rubble with people digging to find anything of value and of sharing our only 2 bathrooms and close living quarters. The medical staff have experienced medicine in different conditions, lack of facilities, lack of their customary equipment, working in tents and in courtyards under tarps, seeing diseases that are rare at home...TB, malaria, scabies, typhoid. ...falling in love with orphan children.

Two days ago our doctors retrieved 19 children from an orphanage run by an 86 yr old lady.

These 19 were sick, starving and malnourished. They were taken to Community Hospital where a tent was set up for them to receive treatment for the next four days. Our feeding people prepared special "rice soup" for them to eat. Some were not able to eat it yet and are on Pedialite. They were all clean and cared for.....they simply didn't have any food.

Arrangements are made for them to go to another orphanage upon release. But I am sure that they will never forget the "angels" in red shirts.

Our feeding team has been feeding 300-400 patients and staff at the hospital ...delivering meals to each room and trying to manage the many people who line up wanting a meal but perhaps are not staff.cooking with Haitian volunteers in a basement kitchen on small gas burners in gigantic pots. Our handymen have installed 3 sinks with running water and some lighting down there. They have also built shelving to try and organize the mountain of donated supplies and food that come in and have been stacked in hallways. And they have begun constructing a small shower house for the male team members here at the team house. That will relieve some of our "necessary" needs.

Our medical director here for NCBM ... Dr. Eric has started two clinics here in nearby villages. In the clinic in Cite Soleil he and other med staff saw 280 patients last week and had 3 salvations. The new clinic in Cabaret will open tomorrow. I was excited to accompany Dr. Eric and 3 team guys to scout out the location. It will be in a classroom at a church and school. The church and school both are heavily damaged but one room is save and secure for use. I will have to tell you that both sites have some toilets that I have never seen before. They are pit toilets built of concrete with square holes for the openings. Outside the gates of the church yard, there is a sight that I can not get used to seeing.

People are living in shipping containers. They have them set up on metal tire rims for cornerstones. On the open door end, they have built a thatch covered "porch". I have seen them also in other areas. I cannot imagine how hot and dark they are inside. But I also cannot imagine living in the open with rice bags stretched on sticks for walls. Rainy season is approaching. It has rained a little for 2-3 nights. The UN and US Army has switched their priority from food to shelter and waste management. The once bare mountainsides near our compound are now dotted with make shift shanties. The number grows daily. There are an estimated 1.2 million displaced people here.

Please pray for our volunteers who are giving so much of their selves. Please pray that others will say "Yes, send me." Please pray that people at home will continue to care for "the least of these" and not forget. Please pray for the more than 400,000 orphans here. For they are truly the "least of these". Please pray for our military who are not only helping the Haitian people but providing needed security for us. Please pray for the volunteers who are coming with Samaritan's Purse. They are doing much good here.

Please pray that our witness will be bold. Please pray for our continued strength and wisdom in carrying out this mission. Please pray that I never tire of hanging out Red shirts!

In Christ's love and service, Janet and Scott

New Additions

Congratulations to Jodi Merritt and Tim McCree on becoming Former Employees of North Carolina State Parks. We all hope to see you at future events and Alumni Reunions.

Events

A great time was enjoyed by all at the Seventh Annual N.C. State Parks Former Employee Reunion. The reunion was held at Hanging Rock State Park on November 14. Perfect weather, a great location, and wonderful food created the exceptional scenario for renewing acquaintances with old friends.

Thomas Sutton provided his special barbeque and chicken and all of us contributed the rest of the menu. Best food in the world !

Cliff Phillips won the grand prize, a Money Jar that automatically counts his coins, by answering correctly all of the questions in a State Parks trivia game. Cliff really liked the prize; he wanted to pass it around and let everyone drop a coin in to try it out!

We had 32 folks in attendance; more than any other reunion! For those who may not recognize these old timers, standing in the group photo below are-left to right: Jay Wild, Dave Lattimore, Kenny McGrady, Tom Johnson, Leon Carter, Helen Johnson, Tom Howard, Jud Burns, Floyd Williams, Sue Phillips, Thomas Sutton, Annie Laura Carter, Larry Milton, Barbara McCorkle, Phil McCorkle, Linda Milton, Pat Franklin, Joe Franklin, and Mac Goodwin. Kneeling-left to right, are: Tim Benton, myself, and Cliff Phillips. Also in attendance were: Ginger Sharpe, Durham and Rosella Pait, Elvira Howard , Denise Marquez (Kenny McGrady's fiancé) , Kim Sutton, Signa Williams (Floyd's wife), and Sandra Burns. [Please forgive me if I failed to mention someone. JLS]

We all missed the ones who couldn't attend but were excited to see several "newbys". Jay Wild, Dave Lattimore, Tom Johnson, Kenny McGrady, Tim Benton, Tom Howard, Floyd Williams, and Durham Pait were all first timers. We hope to see you guys next year!

Hanging Rock Superintendent Dave Cook, his wife Sheila, and two of his ranger staff, Jamie Anderson and Matt Haynes, joined us at the reunion and enjoyed the fine meal. All of us sincerely appreciate the graciousness of Supt. Cook and his staff in assisting with the facilities.











