

Volunteer missions: COM rally stays dry

>> by Jim Dudley COM PR Coordinator

It was something that no one could remember ever happening before. It didn't rain on the Campers on Mission (COM) spring rally. Not that they wanted it to; it just didn't happen. Wind? Yes, and every day.

It was also different because the men of the group did not have a project to go to. That is, however, until they were recruited by the women to help with one of their projects. The women made 18 baby blankets, 25 hats and 10 lactos warmers for neonatal, 31 dresses for Africa, seven kids quilts and 50 bears for disaster relief.

Now, the bears are where the men got their project from the women. It became their job to stuff the bears with cotton. Almost, but not quite all, of the men were good enough sports to do the job. After all, they are used to construction jobs, and they were, certainly, helping to "construct" the bears.

Guest performances were given by Ken and Verna Newby on Wednesday evening, who blessed the group with their singing. On Thursday evening, Bob Willis put on an awesome performance, molding from clay a bust of Jesus, while his wife, Lynn, sang and read Scripture.

The group was also visited by Jerry and Renee McGovern, volunteer missionaries for Campers on Mission. They work out of Missouri, but travel virtually full-time. They had just been to the Texas spring rally, and were headed to Missouri for their rally. While here, they joined the Oklahoma COM, which is what they do in every state they visit.

New president and vice presidents were elected at the Thursday evening business meeting. The new president is Marvin Smith, and Earl Day is the new vice-president. The election is for a one-year term, with a limit of two consecutive terms. Thanks went to Joe Becker for his fine leadership during his two terms.

The chapter was also presented with a nice plaque from the Mabel Basset Correctional Facility for its work on the new chapel that was built in their compound.

COM is searching for new members. If you feel that this might be something you would be interested in, you can get more information from Marianne VanZandt, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Volunteer Missions ministry assistant, 405/942-3000, ext 4336, email mvanzandt@bgco.org; Jim Dudley, PR coordinator, 405/733-0977, email dudleyfamily2000@hotmail.com; Marvin Smith, president, 918/791-8931, email marvinsmith@sbcglobal.net.

You do not have to own an RV to be a member. A number of our members do not have RVs. Housing is provided in many places where we work.

/// COM tool trailer gets new home

The COM tool trailer was recently given a new home, thanks to COMers David and Lois Kirkegard, with help from Craig Kirkegard, Ed Henry and fellow COMers, Jim Conley, Joe Becker and Paul Day. The new steel building will keep the trailer out of the weather and where it is less likely to be tampered with or stolen. The Kirkegards generously provided the space for the building. David pulls the

trailer to the work sites, and then returns home to pull his RV to the site.

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PHOTOS: PROVIDED

1) Men display the bears they stuffed to go to the disaster relief ministry; 2) Whynema Becker and Renee McGovern put tags on bears; 3) Bob Willis begins his sculpture as his wife, Lynn, sings; 4) Willis' finished sculpture of Christ; 5) Samples of the ladies handiwork are displayed on the wall; 6) The COM tool trailer sits in its new steel building at the Kirkegards' residence.