



Brethren Disaster Ministries Trip- Coventry Church of the Brethren: May 28-June 5

With great enthusiasm and energy, a group of 15 volunteers gathered in a circle to be protected in prayer by Pastor Mark Muthler. We piled into 2 vans, with snack provisions for the trip. Our group age ranged between 14 and 76 with a strong contingent of youth. Thus, we embarked on a two day trip to our destination on the other side of Nashville, Tennessee staying overnight in the awe inspiring and magnificent mountainous creation of God: Salem - Virginia. Here we were well nourished and sheltered by the loving generosity of 2 host families (and the same on our return trip).

What a blessing to be greeted in Waverly at the Presbyterian Church by our friend, sister in Christ, and member of our own church – Lynn Evans. With temperatures of each person measured and whistles wet, we settled into the softest beds ever imaginable on a sleep away trip. Monday morning started us out in 3 vehicles to 3 different work-sites. On a street with the same name as our home-owner, one group

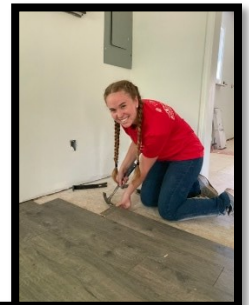
was blessed by our efforts of spackling, painting, and floor laying. This home provided the group with a luxury “porta potty” (AC, music, lights indicating occupation, and a 1500 Gallon water tank, the likes that was the envy of others). But better still, we had the privilege of sitting under a tree next to the brook (that backed up and caused damage to the bridge access to the homes and this home). Most amazing for this group, was the opportunity to fellowship and pray with the owner of the home during our lunch-time.



Our second home provided opportunities to paint the cinder block walls, lay flooring, and add doors. No running water in this home, and the group had to travel to a nearby finished home to use the facilities. This group met the owner and did some evening work, as well as adding additional help to allow the owner to move in sooner. Our third home required much spackling and painting as well as adding a door. We were well fed (snacks, meals and buffet-style lunch assembling).



We explored the area, celebrating a members’ birthday at Sonic. Many were thrilled when the Milkshakery across from the church opened midweek to allow sweet delights to be obtained. We were spiritually fed by evening devotions led by mostly our young people. Much laughter and joy was had as members joined in board games and singing. Several members also spent early mornings in the church sanctuary for personal devotions. We rejoice in the blessings of God, keeping the group safe and affording us the opportunity to serve while being spiritually enriched by our fellowship with each other.



~ Mark Egolf, Coventry CoB

