

Nashville Mission Trip - October 2 – 9, 2010

Submitted by: John Cooper

Under the able leadership of Tom House, a six member work team from Central New York spent a week in the Nashville area repairing two homes and a church that had sustained damage during heavy spring rains. Some of the damaged homes had been flooded due to the opening of a local dam's flood relief gate. The gates had been opened to reduce the risk of a catastrophic failure of the dam's earthen works. Unfortunately, the increased water flow caused swollen creeks and rivers to expand the problem.

The team saw numerous flood damaged homes that were still waiting for help to restore them to a livable condition. Residents said that the flood waters came up and receded quickly, but in that short time of a couple of hours, cellars, floors, and walls were damaged. Earlier work teams had stripped out drywall, cellar insulation, floors and sprayed for mold in many homes.

Our team was assigned to re-install rolled fiberglass into the floor joists under two homes. This required crawling under the building through a small opening, laying on our backs upon damp, stone littered ground, and pushing fiberglass up in-between the joists fastening it with flexible wires. The team though sore and tired insulated two fairly large homes. On the last day, the team worked on a small church that had been damaged by both the flood and years of neglect. A little topical repair and paint was all that the team could complete in one day.

The team enjoyed meeting the home owners, neighbors and the volunteer staff that manages the work teams in the flooded area. They were all up-beat and welcoming. The team had the pleasure of meeting one of John Cooper's students a graduate from Red Bird Mission school, who lived in the area. She, Aimee Hoskins, invited the team one evening to volunteer in a special bridge ministry for Nashville's homeless. The team assisted the ministry by setting up, serving and visiting with the homeless men and women. On another afternoon, Aimee accompanied the team on a visit of the famous Ryman Hall, the original site for the Grand Old Opry, a walking tour of the musically live Broadway Ave, followed by a dinner at Monells in downtown Nashville.

As usual with this type of service, those who are ministering come away with warm feeling from serving those in need. Prayer pals from the Warner's church were given to the home owners and other special people who shared in this ministry.

A full report on the daily activities of the work team can be found on the website. A picture presentation will be offered by Tom and John at a later date.