

The Flight of the Snow Birds

Those of us who live in the north are beginning to see the migration of the birds heading south. Random flocks of Canada geese dot the sky, and if you watch them long enough you will see the shared leader roles as the lead bird moves to the back and the next in line takes over as leader. It's a fascinating process and can be watched for hours....but this is not about the Canada geese, at least, not those in the sky.

We spend much of our time on the highways these days watching the migration of the Snow Birds, both Canadian and American, heading south. For those who do not know the term, it means those individuals and couples who pack up and head for warmer climate in the fall of the year. Look around and you will see the highways covered with them, campers, RVs, motor homes with license plates from all the Canadian provinces and most of the northern states.

I must admit we had a short time as snowbirds. But our move from the north to the south was related to the weather only indirectly. As members of NOMADS we "sign up" to work various mission projects throughout the year, with most projects running for three weeks, four days a week, with three day weekends. The NOMADS member(s) will work on a team of anyplace from two couples to twelve couples (or singles) to complete a project,

Projects may be at a church, on homes, at disaster recovery sites, at camps, at children's homes, at assisted living or retirement homes. We may build, remodel, tear down, build up, paint, put in windows, lay sidewalks, and build ramps. The type of job is determined by the host organization that has requested our help. Like the geese, we also take turns taking the lead, being crew sometimes and crew chief at other times. These are not all amateurs. Many of them have careers behind them in the building trades, but others of us are there to learn and to do. But how amazing, God always seems to send the ones needed.

In one sense, NOMADS operate on a shoe string, and we are the shoe string! We have one administrator who operates from her home in Kansas, keeping track of 20-30 projects during 15 work periods that are going on around the country at any one time, going on month after month all year. She sees that the slots are filled, handles membership, works to fill a slot when someone has to drop out due to health or other reasons. She sees that all NOMADS are kept abreast of needs through the NOMADS web site. A board of directors meets twice a year to make major decisions and keep the organization moving in the direction of doing the work of missions. Board members are not paid, but serve for the good of the mission work.

So the next time you see a camper, motor home or any type of RV going south, see if they have a NOMADS sign on the vehicle. If so, stop and talk to them. Find out where they are headed and what they plan to do. They may do just what they did to us, get you so excited about the work that you will want to join them. We currently have about 1100 members but there's always room for more. We are about fellowship, works, and fun. Perhaps you will decide to be a snowbird, too, and join the teams heading south this winter....



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NOMADS 2011 Annual Meeting

NOMADS members completed their annual meeting in Forest City, IA last month. We stayed at the Winnebago campground and it a wonderful time was had by all. This is a meeting difficult to schedule and to hold as NOMADS live and work projects all over the US and parts of Mexico. No matter where it is held, it is a long drive for most members, but well worth the time and mileage.

We went from our home in OH, about 800 miles one way and managed to have truck trouble on our way home. Praise God for the wonderful people at the Ford Co. in Fort Dodge, taking us in, repairing it and getting us on the road again in record time. They treated us so good we thought they were NOMADS in disguise! Thanks to all the wonderful people in Iowa from all the NOMADS. You're just GREAT!

Next year we will be at Niagara Falls. The plan is to offer a renewal of wedding vows. What a great experience for us old married folks!

www.nomadsumc.org

To receive the newsletter by email, email us at: svsufficient@yahoo.com Contact us as 937-365-1322 Ed & Cora Hamilton, Greenfield, OH (Please share this newsletter with your district churches and church members.) Comments and concerns welcome.

Having a Mission Fair, UMM, UMW, or other meeting and need a speaker or booth setup? Need a speaker during Annual Conference? Want to know more about YOUR UM NOMADS? Contact Carla at the website listed.