

Boys Camp – 2006

Cabin Devotion: Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Scripture reading: Colossians 3:15-17

How would you like to drive a fire truck? Billy Schwartz, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista of Santa Maria on the Rio Grande River, was searching for a way to reach the men of his town. Most of the homes in Santa Maris were mobile homes that could burn to the ground in ten minutes. There was no fire department nearby. The Lord gave Pastor Schwarz the idea of a volunteer fire department. Most men would love to get to drive a fire truck and help with fighting fires.

The church made it known to Baptists that they had a need for a fire truck. In just two months the Westwood Baptist Church of Alabaster, Alabama called to say, "We have a fire truck for you." It was a nice shiny red fire truck with all the necessary equipment.

As soon as the fire truck arrived in Santa Maria the town had a parade with many men and youth riding on the truck and marching behind it through the town. Many men of the town volunteered immediately to become volunteer fire fighters. The church now hopes to build a new fire station to house the truck and their equipment. In addition, Primera Iglesia Bautista has other ministries to their community, such as, computer training, clothing and food distribution and a health clinic. They also have a basketball court where 25-30 children come every day to play basketball.

They still need more help to build their new fire station and to provide training for their volunteer fire fighters.

Questions for Discussion

1. Have you ever heard of a church sponsoring a fire department? Why did Pastor Billy Schwarz decide to do that? Do you think it was a good idea? Why?
2. What other community ministries does this church have?
3. Can you think of other ways a church might reach men and boys for Christ?
4. Why is it important that churches help churches to reach their communities for Christ?

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