



# The Aletheia Weekly

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## Lending a Helping Hand

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"Unless you've been there, seen it, and lived it, even for a very short time, you cannot realize what it is like not to have a home, something to eat, or clean clothes." - Hardie Kennedy. Imagine being married and having at least two kids under seven years of age, while having to live in a shelter. At this shelter, all the space your children have is confined to a spot on the floor. Believe it or not, there are people existing under these circumstances in this area, and they need our help.

Jim Bates, Hardie Kennedy, Chris Lau, Tracy Job, and I left from Montreat to stay in The Shelter in downtown

Asheville for fall break. We each had a different reason for going, but the outcome was the same. Our central theme was



Photograph by Diana Klima

to serve others using the gifts God graced us with.

That Saturday, we spent the afternoon landscaping a house for Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is a group of

volunteers (like ourselves) and paid staff members dedicated to the idea that every person has a God-given

right to a home of their own. It accomplishes its goal by making interest-free loans to families who qualify, and combining that family's labor with that of many

volunteers to build homes for families that otherwise could not afford their own.

The work was hard but always enjoyable. We dedicated Sunday to worship and relaxation. We played putt-putt and had dinner at Ryan's in an effort to enjoy ourselves before starting to work at the shelter Monday and Tuesday.

The shelter is staffed almost completely by volunteers and its financial and material needs are supported by more than 150 local churches. It is truly a God-send to those who use it. The shelter provides financial assistance, food, a bed, and volunteer support to those in need. Al

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