

# YOAM NEWSLETTER

4-09-09 2009 vol1. no.4

## The-End-Of-The-Week Blues

Thursday, April 9: YOAM has been on its mission for five days already, and we have been getting so much done, it's **ridonkulously** insane. Throughout the week, we've made friendships, we've reconstructed lives, and we've weaved in and out of traffic. There have been hysterical times full of hysterical laughter and hysterical tears. We've touched each others' lives and built bonds between buddies.

Collaborating with crews commenced the camaraderie of cool cats and Christians. Dynamite Dan, the dad of the Dukes of Drywall (D-Crew), demonstrated the dominant theme of da work de Dios, endless empathy, fastidious fairness, and grand gumption.

However, as the end of the week starts to loom ahead, we've begun reflecting on the relationships we've made and the work we've done. It's hard to leave our problems behind when we come to Slidell, but it's even harder to think about returning to them after the tremendous week we've experienced. So, if you get some depressed text messages from your friends and family on our awesome trip, no worries; it's normal. We've just got the end-of-the-week blues.



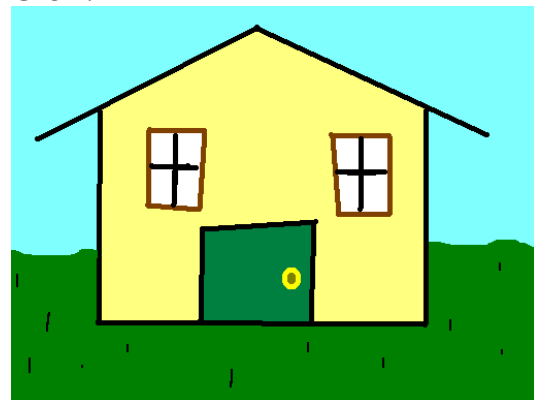
## A Trip Home

## Slidell, Louisiana

Something very personal happened on April 9, 2009, to one specific crew: The D Crew. The D Crew has a different experience than many of the other crews because one of its members, Caroline Sellers, is from Slidell and was displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Her experience is what has driven this entire group down here. D-Crew's mission became much more personal and real as they returned to Caroline's old neighborhood and saw how much one hurricane can change someone's life.

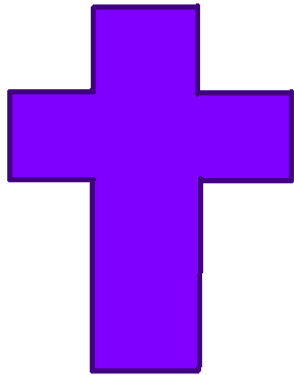
Returning to her own neighborhood made this trip's efforts much more than just rebuilding a city to which no one holds particular attachments. Seeing Caroline's house gave a much greater sense of reality and closeness to home, which ends for some people at the end of the week. However, that journey across the normal barrier of YOAM in Slidell, I-10, has inspired and burrowed into the hearts of the D-Crew.



## Maundy Thursday

Everyone put effort into the events of each evening's devotion and thanksgiving. Tonight consisted of the Maundy Thursday Message of Jesus' trials and tribulations. Amanda related the trials of Jesus

and his disciples to how we should face the trials that we experience in our daily lives. When Jesus was squeezed to his maximum, he produced the fruits of the spirit: patience, peace, kindness, and self control. What do we produce when squeezed to our limit? We left the service with a new understanding: we need to face our problems as Christ would.



### **Brown Bear vs. Amanda: The Eternal Battle**

Best friends – two people who have a very strong, beautiful connection. They've been through good and bad times, and they always are there for each other. They are there to lend a hand to hold, a shoulder to cry on, and an ear to listen to problems. However, there are two best friends on this trip who have been fighting an eternal battle for years, centuries, eons: Brown Bear and Amanda.

Starting out on a date as youngsters, Brown Bear and Amanda began their friendship. Amanda can be quoted saying, "You were so mean to me. I don't know why we're still friends," but all of us know that deep down, they have a great relationship. Their friendship will last through time, through freezing, thick milkshakes, punches in the stomach, and fights leaving Amanda stranded on the side of the road. All of the youth on YOAM look up to their friendship, and everyone looks forward to their crazy antics.

