

TOGETHER IN SERVICE

Judy Persons

People who know me know that I travel on our highways thousands of miles every year. Road trips are a norm for me. This week Betty Sweet (Moderator of South Alabama) and I drove 1775 miles. This was the most tiring and at the same time most exciting trip I have ever made.

We left south Alabama traveling up I-65 with stops in Birmingham, Nashville, Bowling Green, Elizabethtown and Louisville. We had the joy of meeting Shirley Jones, Miriam Craig, Betty Curry, Shirley Schoen, Nancy Aubel and Judy Robinson who met us along the way with hundreds of kits and shared their joy with us. This was after hundreds of kits from Alabama and Mississippi had already been delivered to me through Moderators, Cluster Leaders and individuals.

In an effort to help Church World Service ship these kits out as soon as possible, we did the first processing step which is to simply check each and every kit to make sure it had exactly what the list called for. We also noticed that the kits fit in the van better when they were loose. This meant that Betty spent the entire trip with a box at her feet and one in her lap. As I drove she opened each kit, checked it then tossed the kit into the back of the van and flattened the box. By the time we arrived at CWS, we were able to present Church World Service with 1,292 Hygiene Kits. CWS staff was stunned. (see photos)

Together with CWS staff, we reboxed your kits with an accurate count on each box, put the boxes on three pallets and your kits are already on to their next destination.

All in all, I was witness to how magnificently God works through us. I challenged my own Presbytery to make 200 kits. Well, that number didn't last long. I asked others to help out. What you did was so much more than that. And it didn't end there.

There were many of you who made kits and sent them directly to Little Rock and some worked directly with Red Cross. So many more kits were made than just the ones we took.

This whole project has been quite a learning experience in many ways. The best lesson has been just how much we can accomplish when we join together in the service of our Lord. When God's people reach out to do God's work, wonderful things happen.

On a personal note, I would like to express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to witness such a wonderful display of Christian love. My heart is bursting with the joyful spirit you all have shared. I humbly thank you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Hallelujah. Amen.

(See pictures on next page.)

