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Starter 1A page YEL BLK MAG CYAN

VOL'S WAKE-UP CALL

UT knows it has work to do before facing Florida in 2 weeks

SPORTS, Page 1C



WAGES FALL FLAT

Midstate workers find paychecks hard to stretch as prices rise

BUSINESS, Page 1E



CHEF DU JOUR

Midstate workers find pay checks hard to stretch as prices rise

BUSINESS, Page 1E

TODAY'S WEATHER

▲86
▼63

Five-day forecast on Page 6B

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2005

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

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FOUR PAGES OF HURRICANE COVERAGE: ON PAGES 9A, 11A, 12A, 13A

Baptists offer victims faith, hope, muscle

For Tennessee group, cooking and cleaning are part of ministering

By JEANNINE F. HUNTER
Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE, La. — In the midst of cataclysmic storm damage along the Gulf Coast, they busily honored God by serving people.

From Middle Tennessee and elsewhere, bands of Southern Baptists, donning yellow and blue T-shirts and hats, had converged upon Louisiana's capital city by Tuesday afternoon. Driving tractor-trailers filled with equipment and food supplies, chainsaws and backhoes, the volunteers came to help the hundreds of thousands left hungry, homeless and hopeless in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The visitors, including more than 100 Tennesseans, also carried a promise. A promise that when the first wave of volunteers returns home this week, more people will come to replace them, helping devastated storm victims by cooking for thousands, clearing away debris and counseling the suffering, among other tasks.

"We got an e-mail before we got here and the Red Cross needs 300,000 meals a day for 90 days and possibly 500,000 meals a day for 90 days," said Alan Cole, pastor of Huntingdon, Tenn., facing fellow visiting Southern Baptists from Tennessee who packed hot meals in a staging area behind Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge on Wednesday afternoon.

Wiping his brow, he added, "Is it enough? You know what you're doing and what you can do. You feel like you've done your best and that's all you can do — given the equipment and numbers of people you have."

Baton Rouge is about 70 miles northwest of New Orleans, but everyone feels deeply affected by what's happening there. The desperation is etched on people's faces as they shop in local stores and audible in their voices as they call local radio stations, trying to find loved ones. Newspaper and TV reports depict anguished families and angry politicians, all frantic for help.

"There are other kitchens running locally, but you know there are lots of folks who may not get the relief they need," Cole said. "There are so many people trapped in the city or too far away from help."



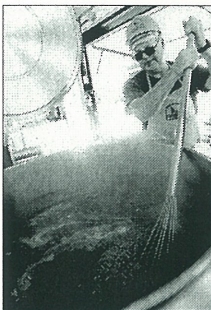
Charles Overcash, 73, of Pembroke, Ky., one of the many volunteers with disaster relief teams from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, cleans up branches and debris after working for more than two hours with seven other volunteers on cutting and removing a tree that fell onto a house in Robert, La., just north of New Orleans.

VOLUNTEERS

Like the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross, Southern Baptist disaster relief teams tend to respond right in the heart of disaster areas — ground zero in downtown Manhattan near the town's center in rural, tornado-ravaged Mossy Grove in East Tennessee; and amid flooded homes in Attmore, Ala., after Hurricane Ivan last fall. But the need is so enormous, with thousands of New Orleans evacuees shuttled across Louisiana and out of state, the Tennessee teams set up their staging area in Baton Rouge, said David Acres of Antioch, director of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief.

The volunteers from Tennessee joined other prospective relief workers just waiting for high waters to recede in New Orleans before they can help there. Meanwhile, there's still much work to be done. Inland communities sustained heavy wind damage. Many areas remain communication black.

► Please see KATRINA, 12A



Marvin Dockery of Knoxville stirs a large pot of baked beans at Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., where Tennessee volunteers have set up their relief staging area.

INSIDE

Government takes credibility hit

Thousands of residents in New Orleans sought shelter as directed, only to feel abandoned when help was slow to arrive after the storm. Some fear that will when the next disaster comes, people won't heed official guidance. On Page 9A

How to help

A list of places taking donations for Hurricane Katrina's victims. On Page 11A

Troubled response

A Georgia medical team's experience reveals some of the problems that hindered aid to people after Hurricane Katrina. On Page 13A

Mississippi sees relief roll in

The beleaguered Mississippi Gulf Coast finally got some relief yesterday as food and water began to arrive, but illness among its evacuees raised concerns. On Page 13A

Sermons and hugs lift spirits of those housed at a local church church. On Page 1B

At Tennessee.com

► Continuously updated coverage of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath

► More ways to help
Go to Tennessee.com and type HURRICANE into the keyword search box.

In New Orleans, the time comes to count the dead

By ROBERT TANNER
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Homeland security chief warned. As authorities struggled to keep order, police shot eight people, killing five or six, after gunmen opened fire on a group of contractors traveling across a bridge on their way to make repairs, authorities said.

AFTERMATH

Air and boat crews searched flooded neighborhoods for survivors, and federal officials urged those still in New Orleans to leave for their own safety.

To expedite the rescues, the Coast Guard requested through the media that anyone stranded hang out brightly colored or white linens or something else to

draw attention. But with the electricity out through much of the city, it was not known if the message was being received.

With large-scale evacuations completed at the Superdome and Convention Center, the death toll was not known. But bodies were

► Please see TOLL, 13A

After days of despair, woman rejoices in pair of miracles

She's rescued from New Orleans, then finds her family in Tennessee

By IVETTE CRAM
Staff Writer

Vivian Delaney always believed in miracles. Her faith in God taught her that, she said yesterday from a hospital bed here at Saint Thomas Hospital.

That faith was put to the test for the first time when the

SURVIVAL

62-year-old New Orleans resident watched her elderly mother grow limp from hunger while stuck on the third floor of a high rise for senior citizens.

Their food ran out. The power was gone. The toilet

would no longer flush.

Rescue workers in helicopters searching for survivors of Hurricane Katrina could be heard all around them day after day after day, but help never arrived.

Not even "SOS" scrawbled in large letters on bed sheets lured searchers to their build-

ing. Nor did efforts to send signals into the sky by wiggling hand mirrors outside the windows.

So Delaney, who had never been taught how to swim, ventured outside to find food and water. Her house was just a few blocks away and the pantry was filled with cans

"My mother's lips were so

dry," Delaney said. "I couldn't just let her die. So I prayed to God to help me and guide

Floodwaters were up to her chest. She took a few steps and went under. She managed to get her footing and went under again. When she tried a third time, she didn't resur-

► Please see SURVIVE, 12A

Death of Rehnquist may slow hearings

Democrats say Senate should wait to decide Roberts' fate

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist's death created upheaval in Washington yesterday, as President Bush and the Senate scrambled to deal with two court vacancies. It was unclear last night whether confirmation hearings for nominee John Roberts would proceed tomorrow as scheduled.

Rehnquist's body will lie in repose in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court tomorrow and Wednesday and he will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery after funeral services Wednesday.

The court announced yesterday that the public would be invited to pay its respects from 9:30 a.m. CDT until 9 p.m. tomorrow and from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, with funeral services open to friends and family. The burial at Arlington will be private.

Rehnquist died at home late Saturday after a long battle with cancer. President Bush ordered flags to fly at half-staff until tomorrow night in honor of the chief justice, who was on the Supreme Court for 33 years and its leader for 19.

But as workers planned to drape the chief justice's seat in black for the beginning of the Supreme Court's new term on Oct. 3, the



More inside

► Analysis: Bush may not be able to resist chance to tap Roberts as chief justice. On Page 2A

► See COURT, 2A

Neighbors say plan for homes belies eco-friendly theme

State accused of wrongly letting builder add more boat docks on Tims Ford Lake

By BONNA DE LA CRUZ
Staff Writer

Tennessee's first eco-friendly subdivision — set on the shores of Tims Ford Lake — isn't off the drawing boards yet, but it's already being accused of being eco-unfriendly.

Angry lakeside residents say the state is wrongly allowing developers to make a design change that would hurt the environment on the lakeshore property, 178 acres of pristine, forested land that the state sold earlier this year.

They also question whether Nashville-based GreenHouse Development may have received concessions because of its principals' past ties to Gov. Phil Bredesen.

At issue are GreenHouse's current plans to build the Fanning Bend subdivision with docks for three times as many boats as residents say they were sold on in the planning stages. The residents say the additional docks will add boat traffic, cause soil erosion on the shore and run contrary to conservation goals.

GreenHouse said its plans were consistent with the conservation theme, and that the state's eco-friendly requirements never imposed limits on the number and placement of boat docks. They and Bredesen say the developers have received no special favors from the governor.

Both sides are waiting for a ruling from the Ten-

► Please see TIMS FORD, 2A



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Iraqis set trial date for Saddam: Oct. 19

Iraq's government set an Oct. 19 trial date for Saddam Hussein, whose defense team complained that it won't have enough time to prepare. On Page 4A

Wilson parents look for dress-code answers

A handful of parents plan to ask the Wilson County school board tomorrow to clarify the strict dress code that prompted student protests last month. On Page 1B

Titans ask Payton to join practice squad

A day after the Titans released popular running back Jarrett Payton, they invited him back as a member of their eight-man practice squad. On Page 1C

Popsicle celebrates 100 years in the freezer

The Popsicle, which an 11-year-old invented by accident 100 years ago, has seen lots of changes over the years, but one thing remains the same: People love it. On Page 1D

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HURRICANE KATRINA

Katrina: Baptist teams help where help is needed

FROM PAGE 1A

holes. "Thank God for the neighbors," said Kathryn Tallo of Robert, La., a town about 20 minutes outside New Orleans. "I have three children and they are all at separate homes this week. I come here during the day to clear out what I can."

A large tree pierced the roof and smashed the front half of the 60-year-old home she rents from local resident Gretchen Catalanato. The women stood with their families and neighbors and watched Mike Watson of Clarksville, Tenn., walk along the fallen tree to the roof so he could continue cutting away limbs and sections of the trunk. "It could be worse," Tallo said. "It really could be worse. I have neighbors who cook for us, and the owner who is a friend and is understanding, and these church people who stopped her on the road out there to see if we needed help."

Baptists from both Tennessee and Louisiana cut felled trees and removed debris from properties in this community outside Covington, which was hit hard by Katrina.

Dragging away chunks of the tree, Charles Overcash, 73, a fellow Hilldale member, said, "I like to do this because I love the Lord and the Lord commands us to love one another. What better way to show that than to be there when someone is in their greatest hour of need?"

By Thursday morning, 109 Baptists from Tennessee were in Baton Rouge, some of whom worked in the Tennessee Baptist state feeding unit, a massive, stocked portable kitchen. Some volunteers operated recovery units — tree and brush clearing, repairs after mudslides and flooding — and shower and laundry trailers, communications/command post and water purification units set up behind Jefferson Baptist, which is headed by the Rev. T.C. French.

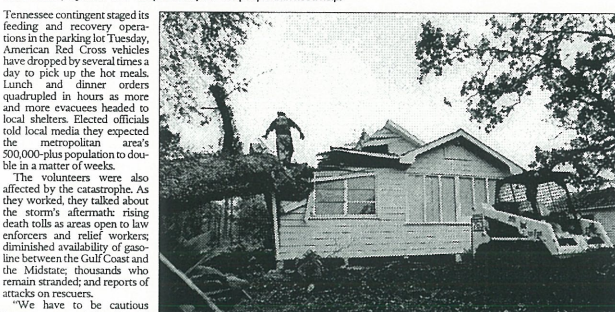
"We're helping to facilitate their efforts as this church also sets up a food and clothing pantry for people in the shelters," French said. "I have been working with the mayor's office here to respond to this catastrophe."

In Baton Rouge, tempers flare at convenience stores that are running out of products; lines for gas stations wrap around parking lots and spill into turning lanes, and 24-hour stores shut down by early evening. But in this city, the largest disaster relief area outside New Orleans, local residents also opened their doors and their hearts to thousands who lost everything in Hurricane Katrina's wake. Dozens of shelters opened overnight.

Food and clothing pantries sprang up at area churches like Jefferson Baptist. Since the



Mike Watson of Clarkville, Tenn., rests after working for more than two hours trying to remove a large tree that fell on a home in Robert, La., during Hurricane Katrina. When asked why he volunteers his time with a Baptist disaster relief team and works so hard, Watson said, "I just do it for God, that's all, and the people that need help."



Tim Baggott of Clarkville, Tenn., uses a chainsaw to cut up a tree that hit a house in Robert, La., while Randy Pokorny of Morristown, Tenn., uses a skid loader to move branches.

"My job is to talk to the families and see if there are any needs we're not meeting with this," said the Rev. Chris Ozment, pastor of New Harmony Baptist Church in Savannah, Tenn., who served as a chaplain during the group's trip to Robert and Covington, La. "I also do chainsaws and help out with rebuilding and mud-outs (mud removal), but this time we had enough people working and I wanted to check on this family. Everybody here in this ministry wears different hats. Everybody here is also a

minister." He pulls out a religious tract from behind his name badge. "The denominational lines drop at times like this. When I go up and my shirt says 'disaster relief' as opposed to 'Baptist' and we're doing something for them, they're more receptive to hear about God, but that conversation happens if they initiate it. "We're not here to make Baptists. We're here to meet needs. We're here to show the love of the Lord."

"I keep hearing people call the radio and complain about services not up and running and I am like, 'You're alive! You are able to see another day. You have family you can call on!'" she said. "I also know there are people out there who care like these people. They are awesome. I am sure they sacrificed being away from their own families to help families like mine."

For thousands, everything they depend on for normalcy in their lives does not exist.

Southern Baptist Convention response, by the numbers

110 Relief units, including feeding, recovery, shower and communications.

29 Feeding units activated in partnership with American Red Cross and Salvation Army.

12 Feeding units in Louisiana, including four in Baton Rouge, the largest relief staging area outside New Orleans. One of those is the Tennessee Baptist Convention's state unit at Jefferson Baptist Church.

15 Feeding units in Mississippi.

2 Other feeding units — one in Mobile, Ala., and one in Carrollton, Ga.

109 Baptists from Tennessee managing feeding, recovery, shower and communication units.

2,372 Lunches prepared Wednesday by Tennessee Baptists at Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

13,000 Lunches prepared Thursday by Tennessee Baptists.

10,100 Dinners prepared Thursday by Tennessee Baptists.

5,000 Meals prepared an hour at Jefferson Baptist Church for 13 local shelters.

2 Incident command teams — one at Carro Carraway in Clinton, Miss., and one at the Louisiana Baptist Convention in Alexandria.

'You have to love to do this,' volunteers say

By JEANNINE F. HUNTER Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE, La. — It takes hours of training, heart for service and flexibility to work in disaster relief, said Charles Overcash, Overcash, of Pembroke, Ky., is a member of the disaster relief team at his church, Hilldale Baptist, a Southern Baptist congregation in Clarksville, Tenn.

"To do this, you have to have a love for the Lord and you want to help people," he said after hauling chunks of a fallen tree away from a damaged house in Robert, La., Thursday.

The widower became involved in the ministry last year after his wife died. He said he was looking for a meaningful opportunity to share his skills and occupy his time.

Last Monday and Tuesday, Baptists from Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio and Tennessee who met at Cherry Road Baptist Church in Memphis were part of the first wave of Southern Baptist disaster-relief volunteers dispatched to the Gulf Coast.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, headed by David Acres of Antioch, is a ministry of 3,000 Southern Baptist churches in the state. It is part of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, which was established in response to Hurricane Beulah in 1967 and is recognized as one of America's largest disaster relief organizations. Volunteers operate mass feeding units, provide child-care services, and remove debris and fallen trees, among many other tasks.

"It's an extraordinary piece of cooperation," said David Reid, 60, a firefighter of Excell Baptist Church who took a break from cutting a tree away from a house in Robert, La. "The good Lord let me live this long for a reason. I have to do something for somebody."

Responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is the largest effort in the history of the ministry, which has 1,200 volunteers trying to help thousands displaced by the storm, according to the Baptist Press, the denomination's daily national news service. The Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Nashville, is the nation's largest Protestant group.

At post staged behind Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., last week, more than 100 volunteers worked together to maintain records and monitor inventory to assess what supplies were needed from local stores or agencies such as the American Red Cross. Some volunteers loaded car packages in their personal vehicles to deposit at local shelters. Cooks rose by 4 a.m. to prepare breakfast, which is served to volunteers by 6:30 a.m. Preparation for the mass feedings began about 15 minutes later. By 9 a.m., a crew of men and women drove an hour away to clear debris and felled trees and other obstructions in rural communities.

"I wouldn't work this hard for pay," joked Rachel Metcalfe of Clarkville during a break from clearing felled trees. "You have to love to do this. ... If you notice, a lot of us are retired or close to retirement because we have flexibility in our schedules to leave at a moment's notice. But do you also see that no matter how old you are, there is always room for you to serve?"

The North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist's domestic missions agency, coordinates the denomination's disaster relief efforts with state Baptist conventions. In addition to money from contributions churches make to the denomination's Cooperative Program, a funding mechanism for churches, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief receives a portion of the annual Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. Established in 1902, the offering is named for Mildred and W.C. Golden who encouraged a special session for prayer and fundraising for domestic and global missions. Last year's special offering was \$5,669,169, the largest collection ever.

This year's goal is \$6,300,000 and the observance is Sept. 11-18. The theme is "Many Ministries, One Mission."

"This is my calling," said Larry Yarger of Hendersonville, standing behind Jefferson Baptist Church before fellow volunteers assembled for a meeting. "I can't preach but I can work. That's what keeps this going."

Survive: Woman gets pair of miracles after rescue from New Orleans



Survivor Vivian Delaney is overcome during a visit with her family at Saint Thomas Hospital. From left are her grandson Darius Hamilton, daughter Sharon Dequair-Hamilton and son-in-law Randy Hamilton.

FROM PAGE 1A

Before she knew it an unnamed hero plucked her from the sewage-filled water and laid her on someone's porch. Soon, the helicopter that she had spent five days praying for was finally there.

When she realized what was happening, she cried out, "You can't leave my mother! Please, she's still inside. Oh Jesus, please don't leave her."

Assuring her all would be well, rescuers took her by air to a C-141 cargo plane. She was one of 93 hurricane victims flown to Nashville for help. By 1:57 p.m. Saturday, Delaney was checked into Saint Thomas, where she was treated for her high blood pressure and pneumonia.

Delaney didn't learn until yesterday that her mother was alive and well in San Antonio, Texas. Her story was aired on local television news, which led to more miracles for the great-grandmother.

Sharon Gladney of Nashville was getting ready for church when she tuned into Delaney's story. It moved her so much that she felt

compelled to visit Delaney.

"I had been feeling depressed by everything I had been watching all week," Gladney said. "They always say if you do something for someone else you'll feel better. ... The next thing I knew I was in her room opening the shades so she can get some sunlight."

Delaney and Gladney clicked as if they were old school chums. Using a telephone calling card, Gladney began calling all the relatives' phone numbers that Delaney had. The effort proved fruitful. She found her mother's daughters, who had fled Louisiana with her family to Jasper, Tenn.

"Mom" Sharon Dequair-Hamilton said as she walked yesterday afternoon into the hospital room where her mother was recovering.

Delaney found the strength to throw her arms open and around her family. "Oh, Jesus! I didn't think I was gonna ever see you no more. Thank you, Jesus. Have mercy on me, Lord."

Visitors and hospital staff found themselves caught up in the gripping reunion. Among the visitors were Allison and Tommy Bradford of Fairview. They also had

caught Delaney's story on the television news and brought clothes and flowers to her bedside.

"We knew we had to do something," Allison Bradford said. "Dequair-Hamilton, her husband, Randy Hamilton, and their 4-year-old son, Darius, arrived at Saint Thomas thanks to a Jasper resident — a stranger turned friend in a time of need."

"It had been the call I had been so desperately waiting for," Dequair-Hamilton said, weeping. "I had been glued to the television looking for any signs of her. We didn't know what had happened. Then I got the call from Ms. Gladney."

"My angel!" Delaney smiled, referring to Gladney.

Delaney, who said she's staying away from water "except to take a bath," was expected to be moved last night to a hospital in Jasper, where the family plans to relocate and start a new life.

Randy Hamilton, meanwhile, is still waiting for word about his two adult sons who were also living in New Orleans. ■

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