

## MC Campus Ministry Hurricane Relief Crew Were Welcomed on Coast



photo by Benjamin Wells

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Staff Writer

Methodist College faculty and students helped to rebuild houses and churches in Carteret County, NC, where major damage from Hurricane Isabel occurred.

On September 20, twelve members, including nine students, left Fayetteville around 6:30 a.m. to work in the towns of Stacey and Sea Level in Eastern North Carolina. Their goal was to help people suffering from the storm damage of Isabel.

Campus Minister Benjamin Wells was in charge of the hurricane-relief-project. According to Wells, the flood from the storm surge caused major damage in both the towns.

Damaged houses, destroyed cars, power outages, and food shortages were the legacy left by Isabel.

Suzanne Reese, a faculty member, also said, "I did not see the damage until we got in the community. There was so much flood damage. Every house had to remove furniture and carpets."

The 12 members first cleaned up the two United Meth-

odist Churches in Stacey and Sea Level. They removed all furniture and carpets and mopped the mud out.

"We cleaned out the Stacey church fairly quickly. The crew worked well. In two hours, we cleaned and moved back the furniture," Wells said.

While they were cleaning up the Sea Level United Methodist church, they also helped to clean up a few houses near the church.

The storm surge washed out the town and flooded many houses. The majority of local people in the area do not have flood insurance, to protect a house in the event of a flood.

"They are still shocked from the hurricane. They have not experienced a flood like this since the early 50s when Hurricane Hazel came," Wells said.

Water has never come into homes in the other hurricanes the locals experienced in recent years according to Wells.

Although the Red Cross was providing food, and the United Methodist committee on Relief was doing damage assessments, Wells

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The locals were very happy to see our crews. They were very encouraged by that."

Sunday Ajayi, an MC student who participated in the project, said, "I feel amazing. As a student, I don't have any money to give to the locals. The only thing I have and can use is my strength, but I could support these people. I could only do the best I could. I feel really great. I was blessed."

There might be another project in the future. Those who want to participate in the future project can contact Wells at 630-7157.

Wells said, "I was proud of the crew; they have done a great amount of work in a short time."

Students, faculty, and staff who helped included:

Andrew Ubbens  
Melanie Gibson  
Katy North  
Suzanne Reese  
Terrance Boatwright  
Megan Galtanowicz  
Erika Dryden  
Sunday Ajayi  
David Merrill  
Brock White  
Benjamin Wells  
Mrs. Tobya Wells

Picture above: IT TAKES TWO! Two unidentified student workers scrub in order to clean up water-soaked floors.