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Educating Women To Excel

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Meredith's Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY	Partly Cloudy High 48/ Low 33
THURSDAY	Wintery Mix High 42/ Low 32
FRIDAY	Showers High 45/ Low 31
SATURDAY	Sunny High 56/ Low 30
SUNDAY	Partly Cloudy High 52/ Low 32
MONDAY	Partly Cloudy High 56/ Low 32
TUESDAY	Partly Cloudy High 55/ Low 32

Tsunami relief team encourages Meredith community to help rebuild hope in devastated regions

SYDNEY SIMPSON
Staff Writer

In response to the enormous destruction caused by the tsunami on December 26, 2004, the Meredith community has responded by creating a 10-member "Sustaining the Tide of Hope" team. The team is comprised of students, faculty, and staff, and they will coordinate Meredith's long term and short term relief efforts. The team is led by Campus Minister Sam Carothers and consists of Elizabeth Loftis, Lauren Byrd, and Rebekah Meek (students); Nikki Curliiss, Kristi Eaves-McLennon, and Hillary Allen (staff); Betty Webb, Gail Kenyon, and Bill Landis (faculty), and John Rose (consultant).

Meredith's immediate relief effort will focus on donating money to the Save the Children organization. Save the Children is a four star organization that is dedicated to helping the children of this tragedy. More than one-third of the tsunami victims were children. The children who survived the catastrophe are at risk of diarrhea and other diseases.

Campus Minister Sam Carothers said the team

chose Save the Children because of its four star rating, the highest rating a relief organization can receive, because 90% of the funds the organization receives goes to relief, and because the organization has integrity and aid workers already in place. Plus, "the name can't be beat," Carothers said.

The team hopes to send relief money and eventually have a Meredith-based relief effort. "Right now we only know how to send money," Carothers said. The team eventually wants to get a group together to help build houses, work with children, etc. Carothers said they definitely want to do something in the region.

The team wants to encourage but not actually hold a fundraising drive. They hope to support other groups on campus who want to raise money. Carothers thinks that many relief efforts will eventually spring up on campus. "I hope every student has some involvement in this relief effort. That goes for faculty and staff also," Carothers said.

One long term goal the team has is to create a website about Meredith's continuing relief effort. The main ob-

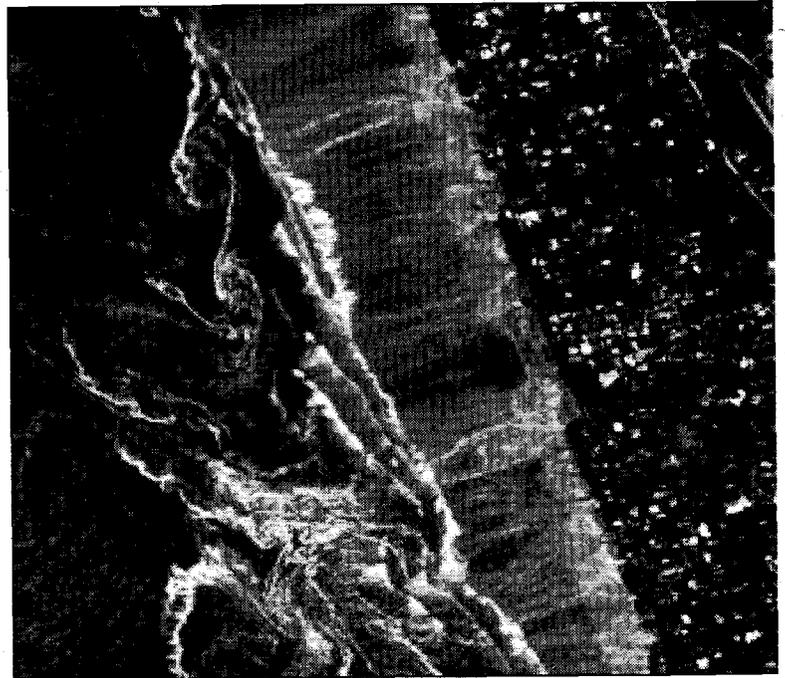


photo courtesy of www.news.bbc.co.uk

A stretch of coastline in Sri Lanka as the tsunami approached

jective in this is to keep the need out in the open; the team does not want people to forget the victims. The website will publicize information about relief efforts that other groups are doing. It will also educate people about the region. "We want students and faculty to know who the people are and learn more about the culture," Carothers said.

Carothers said students can help by getting creative and excited about fundraising efforts. He suggested that students sacrifice money they would have spent on entertainment or new clothes and put that money toward

the relief effort. He said the immediate thing people can do now is send money.

Any student who has money she wants to donate to the relief effort can bring it by the Campus Minister's office. Carothers said they will see that the money gets to where the student wants it to go.

Carothers hopes this is something the Meredith community can do for a long time, hopefully through the 2005-2006 school year and beyond. "There are people there who will need help for a long time, possibly their whole lives," he said.



photo courtesy of www.cnn.com

Survivors wait in line for food in Indonesia



photo courtesy of www.cnn.com

A doctor visits with a survivor in Indonesia.