



MEREDITH HERALD

Volume XXVII, Issue 16

Educating Women To Excel

February 9, 2005

ON THE INSIDE:

Music
Downloading
Page 2

Single-Gender
Research
Page 3

Cultural
Events
Page 4

Campus
events
Page 5

Campaign
Advertisements
Page 6

Classifieds
Page 8

Meredith's Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY
Showers
High 62/ Low 45

THURSDAY
Windy
High 49/ Low 25

FRIDAY
Sunny
High 49/ Low 27

SATURDAY
Mostly Sunny
High 54/ Low 28

SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 52/ Low 36

MONDAY
Showers
High 58 Low 34

TUESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 57/ Low 38

Sri Lanka Native Reports to "Tide of Hope" Team

KELLY JONES
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, February 3, 2005, Tony Andrady, president of Carolina-Sri Lanka Friendship, provided insight to Meredith's "A Tide of Hope" team. The 10-member team, led by Campus Minister Sam Carothers, is organizing Meredith's tsunami relief efforts. Andrady is a United States citizen originally from Sri Lanka. He gave his personal testimony of being in Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004, the day the devastating tsunami struck. Although Andrady was not in the area of Sri Lanka that suffered the greatest damage, he witnessed the effects around the city of Colombo.

"I saw the desperation and panic in the eyes of the people," said Andrady. "Being exposed to that scale of human confusion somehow transforms you."

According to Andrady, societal damages are even greater than the economic impact. In a culture where people live very close together and personal relationships with their extended family are valued, social displacement has become an important issue.

"People have been isolated suddenly," Andrady said. "Between the social displacement, the lack of relationships and the creation of orphans - they weren't equipped. No one would be equipped to handle that." Andrady described an individual he knew who lost 40 of his relatives in the disaster.

Because victims have lost relationships, Andrady encourages aid to assist



Tsunami victim in Sri Lanka

photo courtesy of www.mapaction.org

their emotional needs, such as counseling. He said that the coastal fishery industry, which makes up 10 percent of Sri Lanka's Gross National Product (GNP) has been severely affected because the surviving fishermen are "hesitant to go back to occupations that will put them into contact with the sea."

"There has to be some bright light in this," Andrady believes. He advised the team that personal contact is important for the victims. He believes the victims need to see people coming to interact with them, to see what went wrong and to help them. Andrady encouraged an educational trip to document and preserve the experience of this tragedy. Andrady promotes aid to help the long-term relief effort. "Things will go on for months to come," he said. He pointed out that the orphaned children will need up to 10 to 12 years of care and that it takes time for aid to "trickle down."

"It can take six weeks for millions of dollars to provide even one loaf of bread," Andrady said.

Andrady also said poor water supply and contamination of wells are concerns. He says "a lot of things need to be rebuilt," and schools,

clinics, orphanages and homes need to be refurbished.

"Little projects make a difference," Andrady says, even if it is sending school supplies or paying the \$25 or \$30 a month needed to feed, clothe and educate one orphan."

He added, "All activities would be greatly appreciated."

The "A Tide of Hope" team has begun a two-phase plan to coordinate both Meredith's immediate and long-range relief efforts for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

Meredith's immediate efforts, referred to as Phase I, have set a goal of \$25,000 to support *Save the Children*, an international, four-star charity founded in 1932. All of the funds from Phase I will go to *Save the Children*.

Save the Children is dedicated to helping some of this disaster's most innocent and powerless victims. It currently aims to help children and families in Indonesia as well as the coastal areas of India and Sri Lanka. Among *Save the Children's* top priorities are providing shelter and other protection services, reuniting children with family members and organizing activities to help restore a sense of normalcy.

At this point, \$2,805 has been raised for Phase I. Do-

nations for Phase I should go to Carothers's office in Jones Chapel. Checks can be made payable to *Save the Children*. The checks will be mailed to the organization, and the donors will receive a charitable gift

confirmation for tax purposes. Groups who have fundraisers can also bring cash to Carothers which will be deposited into a special account. As the funds build, checks will be issued from the college to *Save the Children*.

Carothers said, "Everyone knows that this is a reach, but there is a sense that Meredith must respond to this disaster; and I am hearing of more and more fundraising events being planned by students." The committee also wants to work toward a more focused and individualized response called Phase II. Phase II will seek to support relief efforts in Sri Lanka concerning more specific needs. Approximately \$300 has been raised for Phase II. Checks for this phase should be made payable to Meredith College. Carothers adds, "It is important that campus groups or individuals be clear as to whether they are giving funds for Phase I or Phase II as these are separate college accounts for different relief initiatives."