

Volunteers Aid Hurricane Victims

by Steve Carter

Six students, armed with hammers, shovels and chainsaws, plunged into Gulf Breeze, FL to assist families currently homeless as a result of Hurricane Ivan from Friday, November 12 through Sunday, November 14.

The team included seniors Christina Heckman, Brent Huffman, Stuart West, and juniors Josh Williams, Maria Nelson Stewart West, Jeremy Bagwell. Junior Eric Spoon spearheaded the fundraising and groundwork for the trip.

The group conceived and organized the trip as part of their group dynamics class. "The

main focus of the group was to remove waterlogged carpets and drywall, shovel away sand which winds shored up in many buildings, and clear away downed trees," explained West.

Houses heavily damaged by flooding needed to be stripped to their frame in order for rebuilding to start. Heckman summed up the job as "pulling everything out of the house so [homeowners] can start over again."

Many families now live in motorhomes close to their destroyed houses, while some



(Top row) Josh Williams, Eric Spoon, Brett Huffman, Jeremy Bagwell, (Bottom row) Stuart West, Christina Heckman, Maria Nelson. The group traveled to Gulf Breeze, FL to help homeowners rebuild after Hurricane Ivan as a class community service project.

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America Calls Genocide, Sudan Calls Foul

by Tim Tyson ('04)

Government aircraft fly over a rural village in Sudan strafing straw roofed houses. A mechanized military unit pulls up to the burnt out village followed shortly by the government sponsored militia on horseback and camels. The community is surrounded with a consistent volley of gunfire.

Government of Sudan (GOS) aircraft return to bomb fleeing villagers. Soldiers enter the ruins of the village with the mission to loot. This scene has been played out over and over against many

non-Arab Sudanese in Darfur, according to a USAID report based on interviews of 1,136 refugees.

The GOS and the government's militia, the Janjaweed, are made up of mostly Arab Sudanese, while non-Arab villages are the primary targets according to the report. "The primary cleavage is ethnic: Arabs (GOS and militia forces) vs. non-Arab villagers. Both groups are predominantly Muslim," the report said.

USAID also explained the global scale of this civil war.

"The conflict between the Government of Sudan (GOS) and two rebel groups that began in 2003 has precipitated the worst humanitarian and human rights crisis in the world today," the report said.

The findings prompted President George W. Bush in a recent press release to urge the international community to

support relief efforts in Sudan. "Genocide has taken place in Darfur," Bush said. "We urge the international community to work with us to prevent and suppress acts of genocide."

Virginia Beach resident Steve Swango echoed the president's opinion. "They definitely need

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Venturing Post Honored

by April Heyward

Black Mountain Mayor Michael Begley and town manager Anthony Caudle recognized the Venturing Post for their volunteer work during the flooding crisis.

Members of the Venturing Post, a volunteer fire and rescue organization sponsored by the Black Mountain Fire Department and made up of seven Montreat students, offered their time when remnants of Hurricane Frances and Ivan pounced the region with

record-breaking rain levels.

The seven volunteers lent a hand to the fire department in twelve-hour shifts, responding to fallen trees, medical calls, motor accidents, evacuations, and water distribution. Venturing Post Captain and Montreat Junior Chris Carter remembers staying for "24 hours during the first hurricane."

Carter also said the experience gave him first-hand experience

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VERSE of the WEEK

"With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid."

- Ezra 3:11 NIV

What's Inside
 Letter from Nathan Thomas