

October 29th, 2005

Week Four of the Race to Rebuild Churches Affected by Hurricane Katrina

The Rebuilding and Renewal Begins



Dear Friends,

The last two weeks have really gone by fast as we finished two roofing projects and helped on a third one. We were blessed to receive donated materials from San Diego the week of October 9, from Pat Strafford Roofing. Truck driver Randy Hagerty delivered the supplies to us in Petal, MS. Petal is located right next to Hattiesburg.



It was an exciting day to finally receive materials we so desperately needed. Two weeks ago materials were very hard to get. It seems that materials are becoming more available as time goes on here.

We started our first project the same week we received our materials. The Trinity Church of Petal Ms. was the direct benefactor of everyone's hard work and generous donations. Pastor Jimmy Garrard and his congregation were so pleased that we started their church first. Their roof was in dire need of help and Adopt-A Church came through. I hope to share Pastor Garrard's letter of thanks with you shortly.

We had approximately 20 people working on the Trinity Church Thursday and Friday October 13-14. We stripped the roof and re roofed the entire church in two days. I had estimated it was going to take us at least three days and maybe four day to complete this project. We had students from a college in Tennessee that really work there tails off. We would not have finished this project if it was not for these wonderful students. I cannot thank this group enough for their determination and will to get this roofing project completed.

Bobby Shurden made contact with a Christian building ministry from Memphis TN. to come down from Memphis to provide the skilled labor. These guys provided the leadership and the skill to put 8800 square feet of roofing materials on this church in just two days. It was heart-warming to watch this project come together and know we were serving the Lord, and these wonderfully grateful people in Mississippi. We have made many friends here in a short period of time.

The congregation of the church was so thankful for our work that almost all of them became involved. The ladies of the church made breakfast, lunch and dinner for all of us and some of the retired men helped with the clean up. Even a neighbor who was 91 years old came over on his tractor and helped clean up. What a great two days of service.

Please visit the web www.adoptachurch.com site under Trinity Church and you will see great pictures of this project.

This last Wednesday, October 19th, my friend Steve Arnold and his wife Mona and four of Steve's friends, including Pat Strafford, the person whom donated the roofing supplies, flew down from San Diego to start a new project at The Miracle Temple Church in Hattiesburg. This church is in real need of a lot of help, both inside and out.

Katrina took off most of the roof and the water damaged a lot of drywall and carpeting. Jean and I have taken on this church as a special project as it was in great need of renovation in many ways before the storm.



Steve and the crew started early Thursday morning and by the end of the day we had completed the roof. We came back Friday morning and finished off the ceiling drywall. We also completely cleared the parking lot of weeds and debris. It still needs paint, new siding, a sound system, new pews and some wiring but, when it is finished, a lot of peoples lives are going to change due to this rebuilding project. We'll have more pictures next week of the finished job.

If you visit our web site this church will be under the Miracle Temple church.

More work continues also. In the last two weeks I visited and did assessments on 6 other churches and have five more projects ready to start.

We just need labor now and we can complete these roofing projects before the rainy season begins, which will be soon.

I would like to thank everyone that has been so gracious in donating to this special mission. I cannot wait to share with you the pictures and the stories we have seen and heard. You are truly changing lives and serving Christ, which is the greatest commandment He gave us.

God Bless You All,

Chip & Jean Rumis