

KATRINA FOLLOWUP

Photos Illustrate Enormity of Katrina's Impact

The pictures on these two pages were taken the week of October 3 by Woody Keim, a member of Trinity Lutheran-Baton Rouge, LA.

In an accompanying email, Keim said, "The disaster is far from over . . . I had a chance to tour many parts of the hurricane

zone. The scope of the damage is incomprehensible. There are hundreds of square miles of homes and businesses that are completely destroyed or so damaged that they will require bulldozing."

The photos were taken from Keim's mother's house in

Chalmette, LA. "Her damage is typical of the damage in the New Orleans region," he said.

"I'm not sure if the media is still covering this nationally. I can't watch anymore. But, the story for them is likely over. They've moved on to the next disaster or scandal. I can tell you, the story is far from over here. There are hundreds of thousands of people who will not be able to come home. There will be no home in this region for most, for years to come.

"It will take enormous amounts of money and vision to rebuild. So far, both are seriously lacking. I have hope that the region can rebuild, but only with the support of the entire nation. Please encourage your churches to continue support and please keep us in your prayers."

According to Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director of

LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Southern District, congregations — "many of them with property and members hard-hit by the hurricane — are serving their communities, caring for displaced people, and volunteering to help each other."

Trinity-Baton Rouge is one of the Southern District congregations that has taken a lead role in Katrina relief. Trinity became a drop-and-distribution center for material goods (food, emergency supplies and clothing) shortly after the hurricane. It also temporarily housed the Southern District office when flood waters from the storm cut off roads leading to the office in New Orleans.

When Harrison visited the Gulf Coast the week

after the Category 4 storm struck, he preached at Trinity for weekend services.

"They asked for volunteers at the end of the service," Harrison said, "and en masse, maybe 200 people pressed forward."



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Hurricane Victims to Benefit from Habitat/Thrivent Alliance

Four-year, \$100-million program earmarks \$5 million to help rebuild Gulf Coast region

Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans have unveiled a financial, volunteer and advocacy alliance designed to substantially increase Habitat's capacity to build more affordable housing.

The alliance — Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity — represents a four-year, \$100-million commitment by Thrivent. Additionally, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Thrivent Financial has earmarked another \$5 million to Thrivent Builds to help rebuild homes in the Gulf Coast region.



The new commitment makes Thrivent Financial Habitat's largest ally in the effort to eliminate substandard housing.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity has four major elements:

- A joint homebuilding initiative designed to build up to 500 additional U.S. Habitat for Humanity homes annually by 2008 for families living in substandard housing.
- A giving program for Thrivent members that will promote and supplement financial gifts to Habitat for Humanity and help fuel Habitat builds.
- A program to annually build an additional 200 homes internationally by 2008 through short-term international and domestic trips.
- A national grant program offering approximately six grants of up to \$1 million to community organizations, coalitions and nonprofits for projects that will measurably improve entire neighborhoods.

Thrivent Builds Homes will engage both Thrivent chapters and Habitat for Humanity affiliates. Seventy percent of the funding for each Thrivent Builds home will come from Thrivent Financial with 30 percent of the remaining funding coming from the continuing fund-raising efforts of local Thrivent chapters and Habitat for Humanity affiliates. The average cost of a Habitat for Humanity home in the United States ranges from approximately \$40,000 to \$150,000.

Thrivent Financial and its members have worked with Habitat for Humanity since 1991. Together, they have built more than 500 homes, raised more than \$25 million and contributed more than 1.4 million volunteer hours in homebuilding time. □