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ing store, showers, a laundry and cabins (8-foot by 16-foot) built by Amish in Pennsylvania where volunteer labor groups can sleep. The place can find medical supplies and personal hygiene products. All this is made possible by churches from around the country. A sign placed at the front door of the tent reads "Not one church, just God." There were people from New York, Alaska, from North Dakota to New Orleans, all there as volunteers in mission. There were Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Amish, Holiness and many other denominations represented, all serving the same God. Service Under Grace.

**Message of hope**  
We got in on Friday afternoon and quickly started to meet folks. People like Chris and Wendy, who organize work details and make sure the workers are taken care of. Folks like David and Stephen from Texas Road Race, who were in charge of the tent and showed us where to set up U.G. 1. Pastor Dave (not sure of denomination), who was in charge of the nightly preaching, asked to bring a message that night. There was also Jenny, in charge of the serving; Marge, in charge of the serving and a man from Italy who spoke English but communicated quite well with sign language. Local folks came by and said they heard we were bringing fish for supper on Saturday. I went that first night visiting with different folks and getting acquainted at the camp. It brought a message of hope in the beginnings through service that night. We watched a praise team of young women from Hawaii sing in song language to a song. We listened

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created us for and wants us to love. During his earthly ministry Jesus showed us of what it takes for people like Peter to open wide the gates for us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind," "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." "I was hungry and you gave me food." "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." "I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

to a choir from Louisiana. We talked with folks and heard stories of devastation and hope, despair and faith, and stories of moving forward. We found the prayingest bunch of folks around.

Saturday morning found us riding around and taking pictures, from Waveland to Biloxi. We found local folks to visit with and we listened to their stories. One man had ridden out the hurricane in the rafters of a boat storage facility and had marked the water line at 41 feet. He said he would never ride out another one.

While visiting with one man and his wife, he found her wedding ring in the rubble of their home. We didn't find that the people were depressed. They were happy, laughing with us and telling us funny stories. One of the volunteers had gone to help cut trees off a house. The owner watched while he cut, and when he turned the saw off, the resident asked him if he did that for a living. The young man told him no, that was a preacher. With a grin on his face, the older gentleman simply said, "Good. Stick to preaching."

**A blessing of service**

We got set up to cook and had the first fish on by 2:30. As the smell drifted across the compound and into the surrounding neighborhood, people started to drift by and stop to visit. The first few pounds of fish went out for samples. We had a lot of quality control experts.

One local lady pretty well summed it all up for the people of the Pass

"I was naked and you gave me clothing."  
"I was sick and you took care of me."  
"I was in prison and you visited me."  
God will not want to hear our puny excuses for why we did not serve him!  
As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called above the fray of squabbles and pettiness to live out the words of Jesus to feed, water, clothe and visit.  
During this Lenten season, and in every season, may it be so!  
[Jim Lane lives in Sherwood and attends Levy UMC, North Little Rock.]



**Helping hands from Jonesboro**

First UMC, Jonesboro recently sent the second of three scheduled mission teams to Pass Christian, Miss., to help with cleanup in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The most recent mission team included (from left) Cindy Dickey, LaNita Cooper, senior pastor Rex Dickey, the daughter of one of the local families, associate pastor Russell Hull, Bob Guelle, Jim Grisham, Carla Moseley, Nancy Puddephatt, Nancy Melton and Cathe Carnes. The first group of 13 workers spent the week of Oct. 30-Nov. 4 mucking out homes. This second team was in the region Feb. 12-17 and worked on the reconstruction of homes. The shift to rebuilding brought great energy to the workers, who cleared yards, painted and installed flooring and roof shingles. The third trip sponsored by the Jonesboro church is scheduled for March 26-31.

when she hugged my neck and said, "Thank you. You folks, all of you, are a Godsend." Service Under Grace.

We fed about 350 folks that Saturday night — not just the food, but with love and the sharing of God's hope. I think the little group from Southern Arkansas received the biggest blessing.

On Sunday morning we said goodbye amongst tears and laughter. New friendships formed, addresses exchanged, and the hope of a new beginning sprang forth. A revival that crosses all denominational lines has begun in Pass Christian, Miss.

Wouldn't it be great if it spread across this nation we call America?

I want to thank some folks for making our trip possible: all the churches that sponsored us, the good people of Bright Star and Doddridge to George Goynes, who helped me with the leg work; and Dennis Cutshall, Jimmy Powell and Clyde Hudson, who took the motor home and Mike and Raye Fry.

Small churches do make a difference. Wouldn't it be something if it spread across Methodism in Arkansas? God bless as we Serve Under Grace.



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