

Our disaster, their calling

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS TOWNSHIP - Local disasters are a call for help to Southern Baptist church volunteers who have set up a mess hall in the parking lot of the Dallas Baptist Church.

Their first visit to Northeastern Pennsylvania was prompted by this month's flooding. They aren't accustomed to the cold or the altitude. Ice has formed on their equipment and work area.

But none of these conditions matter to 15 volunteers from the Kilpatrick Baptist Association Disaster Relief Team, who arrived at the local church Thursday to cook meals for flood victims.

"Part of our Christian commitment is doing disaster relief work in the name of Jesus," said team coordinator Garry Adams.

The Kilpatrick team is one of two Southern Baptist teams which set up mobile kitchens in the church's parking lot to cook two hot meals per day for the Red Cross to take to the Wyoming Valley. Ready to respond on a moment's notice, they drove 860 miles in 17 hours to get here.

Each hot meal, consisting of a meat, a vegetable, two fruits and hot and cold drinks, is prepared from food provided by the Red Cross. The Baptists provide the mobile kitchen, experience and manpower.

Hailing from southeastern Georgia, the Kilpatrick team goes wherever it's needed. It has been to the California earthquakes, flooding from Tropical Storm Alberto in south Georgia, Hurricane Opal in Alabama, Hurricane Andrew in Miami and tornadoes in northern Georgia.

Their mobile kitchen is set up to cook between 10,000 and 12,000 meals per day. Today they made 700 hot lunches.

"The main challenge here is staying warm," Adams said. "We're not used to the cold weather and have never worked in snow before. This is the farthest north we have ever come to work."



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Nick Nichols, Albert Strother, Jack Williford and Bruce Poss were among the 15 volunteers from Georgia who cooked meals for flood victims in a mobile kitchen set up in the parking lot of the Dallas Baptist Church last week.

"I just called in and told my boss I'm going and will be back sometime."

Rev. Elwood Ulmer
Disaster team coordinator

"We're not used to walking like penguins," wisecracked Nick Nichols, imitating the careful way one walks on ice.

Neither did they anticipate having ice form on their equipment or having the altitude affect their propane burners.

No two disaster projects are alike, Adams said.

Al Strother, who has worked on every project but Hurricane Andrew, said he'll never forget a man he met, a volunteer like himself, during the California earthquake.

"He pinned this on my shoulder with such love," he said,

proudly showing off a tiny white liberty bell sporting a Red Cross emblem. "I'll probably never see him again."

The '96 flood was the first disaster project for another team from the Northeast Baptist Consortium, which covers New York, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and New England.

After setting up Tuesday afternoon, they cooked nearly 2,000 meals for the Red Cross before leaving Thursday afternoon for Williamsport.

"We came in on the power of prayer," said coordinator Rev. Elwood Ulmer. "We were prepared to cook 500 meals without a problem, but the Red Cross told us they needed 1,000. We prayed for guidance and relied on the Lord to get us through."

Like their counterparts from Georgia, this group of 11 volunteers is composed of people of all

"We're just simple people trying to serve the Lord."

Garry Adams
Disaster team coordinator

ages and from all backgrounds. Many took time off from work to come here.

"I just called in and told my boss I'm going and will be back sometime," Ulmer said. "I took this job with the understanding that if there's an emergency, I must leave."

Why are the volunteers leaving their families and jobs to help people they don't know and will probably never meet?

"There's a need," Ulmer said. "Each of us felt called by the Lord to minister to the flood victims."

Miller to compete in PA Perfect Teen pageant

Rebecca Miller, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Miller of Trucksville, has been selected as an entrant in the 1996 Pennsylvania's Perfect Teen Pageant, a Carvern Production, to be held in the Sheraton Inn in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, February 3 and 4.

The State Pageant will select Pennsylvania's representative to the national America's Perfect Teen Pageant, this summer in Orlando, Florida. Miller, who was selected at an entrant-at-large, will compete with girls from all over the Keystone State for the title of Pennsylvania's Perfect Teen.

She is a student at Dallas Area Senior High School. Her interests include singing, acting, writing short stories, and working with

the homeless in New York City. She enjoys playing various sports and is very active in the Out Of Bounds Youth Ministries at her church.

Her sponsors to the Pennsylvania's Perfect Teen Pageant are: Mary Lou's Model and Talent Mgmt.; The Revolution; Curtis L. Swanson Funeral Home; American Asphalt Paving Co.; Out of Bounds Youth Ministries; The Highlands at Newberry Estate; J&J Deli; Salavantis Development; Small Wonders, Inc.; Back Mountain Auto Specialists; Trucksville Pharmacy; Pizza Perfect, Inc.; Russ Majors Sales and Service; Country Deli; Lester E. Stuck, Inc.; Keister's Keys; Keister Construction, Inc.; Gertrude Hawk Chocolates, and friends and family.



REBECCA MILLER

BMT Harvest women to host speaker

The Rev. Berniece Cunningham of Willingboro, NJ, will be the guest speaker at the February dinner meeting of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly Ladies' Fellowship of Trucksville.

The dinner meeting will be held at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estates in Dallas on February 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Rev. Cunningham has been active in Christian ministry for more than 25 years and is a former faculty member of Pinecrest Bible College.

She has also been a frequent motivational speaker. Her message is focused on bringing hope and encouragement to women.

For additional information contact Juanita Sarnak at 655-9405 or Ann Karusa at 654-1238. RSVP by Feb. 2.

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SKI TIP #15
by Sean O'Shea

Q. What is the difference between Water Proof and Water Resistant?

A: Water resistant will keep you dry in the snow. Water proof will even keep you dry in the rain. Most skiers find that water resistant clothing is fine.

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Wyoming Seminary's Trustee Achievement Scholarship Exam: February 10



Jami Layaou of Mehoopany is a Trustee Achievement Scholar at Wyoming Seminary.

AREA EIGHTH AND NINTH-GRADE students are encouraged to register for Wyoming Seminary's Trustee Achievement Scholarship exam, to be held Saturday, February 10 at the school's Kingston campus.

The Trustee Achievement Scholarship, now in its 15th year, provides an opportunity for the highest quality education in the region. Up to five scholarships will be awarded to students who combine outstanding performance on the competitive exam with a solid record of citizenship and achievement.

Students entering ninth or tenth-grade who are not currently enrolled in Wyoming Seminary's Upper School are eligible. For more information, or to pre-register, contact the Office of Admission at (717)283-6060.

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School turns 'Super' for a day

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

STEELEBURGH - Although the Dallas Cowboys won, the Dallas Elementary School changed its name for the day January 26 in honor of the Pittsburgh Steelers' appearance in Super Bowl XXX.

Visitors to the school were greeted by large banners on the front of the building renaming the school "Steelersburgh Elementary," while more Super Bowl signs decorated the halls.

The lighthearted rechristening was the brainchild of fifth grade teacher Mrs. Sharon Hartshorne and the students of the school's KIDS morning in-school radio show, who coordinated the vote.

The entire school voted on whether to keep the school's name or rename it "Steelersburgh Elementary" for the day, with 59 percent of the student body voting for the name change.

Super Bowl fever also spread to Mrs. Kathleen Reiss's fifth grade class, which received a packet of letters from a fifth grade class in Plano, TX, whose students wished the Steelers good luck in the game. The Texas teacher, Ms. Amy

She enclosed a map locating Plano, which is about 15 miles north of Dallas, and a clipping from their local newspaper on one of the Steelers.

Ms. Rice's student, Brienne Chalmers, wrote, "In Texas sometimes winters are so hot you could wear shorts! Other times it's freezing....There is a city in Texas, named Pittsburg, that has changed (its name) to Cowboy, Texas, but not until after the game."

Brienne wrote she also enjoys playing soccer and watching or attending hockey games.

Mrs. Reiss said her students will write replies to the Texas students in spelling class.

Rice, who was trying to tie current events and special interest into her social studies curriculum, also suggested her students become pen pals with Mrs. Reiss's class.

"My students were very interested in all the snow, the problems associated with this and now the flooding happening in the Northeast (not to mention the football game and the fact that there is a city named Dallas in Pennsylvania)," she wrote.

Free blood pressure clinics at Meadows

Erwine's Home Health Care Inc., is offering free blood pressure clinics, the second Thursday of every month from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Meadows Apartments, beginning February 8.

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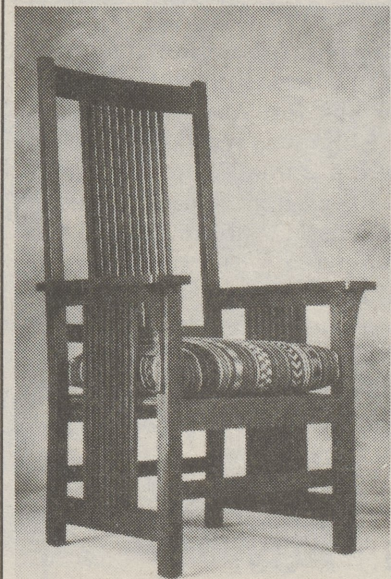
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