

# 2007 Annual Report

## Lend A Hand

2007 can best be characterized as a year of great JOY:

- Joy to have witnessed the continuing support and participation of so many denominations, congregations and individuals.
- Joy to have been able to assist and aid so many people who had been devastated by natural disasters.
- Joy to have been afforded the opportunity to extend our hand of compassion beyond last year's Katrina relief without diminishing our efforts in D'Iberville.
- Joy to have met and worked with so many Christian people...the dedicated hosts and appreciative survivors of the disasters, and the angels we met on our buses, as well as the understanding and generous supporters of our efforts.
- Joy in the complimentary and unbiased reporting of the media and the recognition given to Skip Becker for his many years of faithful service.
- Most importantly, JOY in having experienced another year working in unsafe and sometimes unhealthful environments and not one major injury or catastrophe

2007 has also had its frustrations:

- We were unable to complete the purchase of our 'special' bus. .
- We were unable to locate adequate housing in Findlay, Bucyrus or Shelby, Ohio, which all experienced major flooding this past summer.
- We were frustrated by our computer system...untold Spam messages, incorrect emails for our volunteers, and other administrative issues which took time and energy away from our prime tasks.
- We were frustrated that airlines and motels could not be persuaded to give us discounted group rates so we could coordinate a Reunion trip to D'Iberville.

Organizationally, we strengthened our standing in the disaster assistance community. We met with PEMA and the South Central Pa. Disaster Network and have taken an active role in building a response program to any manmade or natural disaster which may befall any of our communities.

We have played a small role in recommending and endorsing a Synod-wide Disaster Assistance Network. With time, we will join in the active response to any call for help within Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

We continue to "vision" and dream of how best to accomplish our tri-part response to disaster...medical triage, rapid response and, reconstruction and recovery. We will pursue grants and bequeaths to help us fund an alternative approach, already in process.

PROGRAMMATICALLY, we have done the following:

<u>Month</u>	<u>D'Iberville</u>	<u>Hershey DeLand, FL</u>	<u>Roscoe, NY</u>
Jan	48		
Feb.	33		
Mar.	53		
April	36	15	
May	20		
June	7	15	
July			38
			28
Aug.			11

Sept.	21			15	
Oct.	14				
Nov.	55				
Dec.	43				
volunteers	<u>330</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>92</u>	452
Hours	13,200	120	600	1472	15,392

For the people of D'Iberville, our efforts resulted in the following:

- A. In-kind waiver of repayments to FEMA.....\$224,000
- B. Labor costs not borne by the homeowners.....\$330,000
- C. Lowe's gift Cards donated.....\$15,000

Lend a Hand continued to be a volunteer-run operation. No one receives a salary or compensation of any kind. The steering committee contributed in excess of 2,000 hours in behind the scenes efforts to organize and expedite the many volunteers who have traveled on our buses.

On the following page is our Fiscal Report for 2007. We continue to operate on virtually a break even basis. We have never cancelled a program because of lack of funds...the Lord has always provided just what we needed.