

PRESS RELEASE

Healing & Helping Day #2, In Memory and Behalf of Those Who Have Suffered During and After Hurricane Katrina.



Gulfport, MS (OPEN PRESS) April 7, 2006 -- On April 14, 2006, the North Gulfport Church of Christ, located in North Gulfport, will be hosting along with the Lewis Street Church of Christ of Little Rock, AR the **"Healing and Helping Day #2"** on the North Gulfport Church of Christ grounds. The first **"Healing and Helping Day"** occurred on September 17, 2005 and was a tremendous success for the community and the city as a whole. 1,000 + persons were fed and comforted as they awaited the Red Cross to administer Emergency Relief Aid in the form of vouchers for those who had been directly affected by Hurricane Katrina and to assist them in some type of financial relief after the storm. The North Gulfport Church of Christ and the Andrews Street Church of Christ in Mobile, AL coordinated this first effort respectively.

The **"Healing and Helping Day #2"** has evolved into a true humanitarian effort in that it has incorporated the Guardian Angel Adoption Program, a direct community life-line to assist those people who needed help during the Katrina Aftermath in an ongoing benevolent fashion. James D. Harris, Jr. is the author of the program and developed it during the Hurricane Aftermath after noticing the great gulf of needs that were not being met in the community where the church edifice resides. After working with the Red Cross personally, Minister Harris, Jr. saw a need that was waiting to be met through immediate and positive action to link others outside the area of devastation to those who were directly inside the eye of the devastation. The Guardian Angel Adoption Program is a family-to-family endeavor that pairs families who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina to get assistance from other families across the nation to collectively meet the needs of the **"adopted"** family in need. Usually, 5 or more families are paired with the one adopted family to spread the responsibility of meeting the needs of the devastated with no one family bearing the burden of the relief effort alone. To date approximately 50 to 100 families have been assisted in some way with more relief coming the days and months to come.

A program outline and prospectus has been developed by Minister Harris, Jr. and has been distributed to many organizations and churches around the country. The response has been encouraging unto this point and now it seems to have created an energy of it's own. The items being given to the families in need will be collected by family name, so there will be no long lines of waiting for "your turn". The packages of relief have been pre-organized and readied for distribution at the point of contact during the **"Healing and Helping Day #2"** at the North Gulfport Church of Christ, 4525 34th Street, on the corner of MLK, Jr. Drive & 34th Street across from the Fire Station and beside the Isaiah Fredrick's Community Center. The gathering will occur on Friday, April 14, 2006 and start around 10 am and will continue to around 3 pm. Refreshments will be provided and the public is invited to attend and anyone who has a need of being helped and were directly affected by Hurricane Katrina and live in our Gulf Coast Area are invited to attend and become one of those who are being assisted after the Hurricane to move into a point of normalcy in the days to come. Potential Donors are asked to contact James D. Harris, Jr. for logistics and information leading to assisting the families in need. All families involved are screened and verified for the needs validity and placed into a relief database for future follow-up and assistance management.

Contact: James D. Harris, Jr. – agapetre@cableone.net / (228) 539-2966 or (228) 731-0160 - Cell

APRIL 14, 2006 / 4525 34TH STREET / NORTH GULFPORT CHURCH OF CHRIST / 10 AM – 3 PM
PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND!