

# Problems continue to arise in hurricane-hit areas

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PERRINE, Fla. — Pastors and churchgoers heard messages of hope and thanks Sunday in Hurricane Andrew's aftermath, while hundreds of thousands sought relief from heat, rain, traffic and shortages.

Platoons of volunteers were joined by more U.S. soldiers called out by President Bush. Troops in cargo planes and helicopters reached the heavily damaged areas carrying tents, clothing, water, ice and can openers.

Health officials feared disease could arise from a lack of clean water, rotting food and garbage covered by swarms of

## Lack of leadership, organization obstructs increased relief efforts

mosquitoes, while disorganization continued to plague the massive, sometimes overzealous relief effort.

Tempers simmered as temperatures hit 90 degrees.

"I'm hot, I'm tired," said Gwen Bullock, an official from hard-hit Florida City who lost her home and has been sleeping in the trailer that now serves as City Hall. "My wife is getting shorter and shorter."

"I'll follow anybody who's in charge. But we need somebody in charge right now!" said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Mike Anderson, trying to get a supply-filled plane unloaded at Tamiami Airport.

An Army Chinook helicopter also sat on the runway, waiting to be unloaded. The aircraft were loaded with bottled water, fruit juice, iced tea, and pallets of charcoal and charcoal lighter fluid.

"I can't even get hold of the front gate," Anderson said.

He complained that the various military, government and local authorities were operating on different radio frequencies.

Few rested Sunday, the seventh day after Andrew swept through South Florida.

Religious and political leaders tried to rally spirits.

"We don't know how this is all going to be put back together again," chaplain Matthew Cox of Wesley Chapel told soldiers at the damaged Homestead baseball stadium. "But God comes in a vision to say: 'Do not be afraid.'"

Gov. Lawton Chiles, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Roman Catholic Archbishop Edward McCarthy of Miami were among those who spoke to congregations.

"Somebody said this area will never be the same," Chiles said as sunlight streamed through a hole in the roof of the otherwise-dark Bethel Baptist Church in Richmond Heights.

"I think that's right — it's going to be even better," Chiles said to a cheer. "Amen!"

"After the flood, there is reconstruction," Jackson said before speaking at another church. He urged that Florida poor and immigrants be put to work building.

Authorities said four disaster aid offices were open and 11 more were to be set up Sunday.

Some 160 miles of road had been cleared and all primary roads were open. Banks and check-cashing services opened Sunday, and distribution of government checks began in the disaster area. Carriers made rare Sunday home deliveries in other parts of Dade County.

# Local churches offer spiritual aid as work crews continue to rebuild coastal regions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORGAN CITY, La. — Sermons and hymns rose above the whine of chain saws clearing hurricane debris in Louisiana on Sunday as the spiritual and physical healing inched forward.

About two dozen worshippers at New Zora Baptist Church fanned themselves with cardboard and shouted "Amen, brother" after the Rev. Ezekiel Simmons II told them:

"I was sitting there in that shelter watching the trees fall and the wind rise, and the Lord gave me a message. The Lord said, 'Don't worry. I won't give you more than you can bear.'"

Like most of Morgan City, the tiny church had no electricity. Windows were propped open with branches of trees toppled by Hurricane Andrew.

Nearby, at the First Baptist Church, a throng jammed a building that was missing part of its roof and window glass.

Through plastic sheets covering gaping holes, the refrain from the hymn "Praise Him From Whom All Blessings Flow" spilled into streets littered with wind-thrashed tree limbs, utility poles and power lines.

Wallace Stickney, director of the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency, surveyed damage in the area Sunday and met with victims at one of five disaster application centers that opened Saturday.

By Sunday morning, the agency had received 2,198 applications for aid. It can take seven to 10 days for checks to be processed after the paper work begins.

Centers were besieged with so many requests over the weekend that appointments have been booked through Wednesday to file applications for checks rent, groceries, new clothing, emergency home repairs, transportation, household items, prescription drugs and occupational supplies.

"Everything is on a fast track regarding emergency federal aid," Gov. Edwin Edwards said.

Hurricane Andrew hit the Bahamas and South Florida before raking Louisiana on Tuesday night. In Louisiana, four deaths resulted from the storm that caused an estimated \$400 million damage, including \$300 million to sugar cane, corn and other crops.

An estimated 8,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, and the Red Cross said 25,000 people are displaced. It had 887 evacuees staying in nine shelters, down from 50,000 in 206 shelters at the height of the storm.

More than 63,000 customers dured their sixth day with electricity Sunday, down from 300,000 whose power was knocked out earlier in the week.

It may take as long as 10 days to restore power in hard-hit areas such as Jeanerette, Franklin and Patterson. Battalions of utility workers rebuilding the power grid in some areas. The storm obliterated 102 miles of line and 300 towers between New Orleans and Morgan City. In the Bayou Rouge area, the storm snapped 600 utility poles and wrecked 3,500 miles of transmission lines.

"In the areas where there are crews and trucks working, customers are cheering," said Benedetto, spokesman for the States Utilities.

In areas without power, residents had no electricity for stoves, microwaves, refrigerators, openers, lights, air conditioning, hot water heaters and televisions.

Residents queued up all Sunday for water, ice and scrambled eggs and grits from Louisiana Baptist Convention kitchen, hot meals from Louisiana National Guard sandwiches from the Salvation Army.

# Bush returns to original election year issue, jobs

## Post-convention rhetoric shift still includes 'family values'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Before the Republican convention, before Woody-bashing and Hillary-bashing and the God-less Democratic platform, before the phrase "family values" became a political sledgehammer, there was the economy.

Now, having charged up their socially conservative base, Republicans are back to square one — President Bush's declaration months ago in chilly New Hampshire that the issue this year is "jobs, jobs, jobs."

Democrats and some Republicans are saying the GOP blew it at their Houston convention with a two-week assault on Hillary Clinton, working women, homosexuals, draft-dodgers, Congress and Democrats.

They say their research shows moralistic messages from speakers such as Patrick Buchanan, Pat Robertson and Marilyn Quayle may have solidified support among core Republicans, but they left other voters cold.

"They hurt themselves. People were turned off," said George Stephanopoulos, communications director of Democrat Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. "They're backing away so energetically that it makes you know they made a mistake."

Some Republicans, including campaign and White House officials, concede the cumulative effect of the convention may have been overkill. "They messed up. They went too far," said one party strategist who insisted on anonymity. "They just lost control of the tone."

There was a thematic shift to economics last week. But even as the president lurched from values-laden assaults on Democrats to promoting his job-training and trade policies, even as prominent clergy berated Bush for bringing God into the race, campaign officials denied they were in retreat or had detected any signs of backlash.

"We're not downplaying family values. But that is not the central issue. The central issue is the economy," said strategist Charles Black.

The convention, with its heavy values orientation and large contingent of religious-right delegates, seldom conveyed that impression.

Haley Barbour, an informal Bush campaign adviser, said that's because its principal goal was to make sure people who typically vote Republican got excited about voting for Bush.

"His strong support for family values is a part of

that," Barbour said. "But as we move in the coming weeks from a secure base to building on that with the swing vote, some issues will be more prominent and some less."

Last week started off in the convention's second wake with Bush scolding the Democrats for leaving the "three simple letters" G-O-D out of their platform and Rep. Newt Gingrich likening Democratic values to those of Woody Allen, whose new girlfriend is his ex-girlfriend's adopted daughter.

But the rhetorical temperature fell rapidly after that. GOP officials in the campaign and the White House now insist that when their candidates' surrogates talk about family values, they'll stick to policy — highlighting what they see as sharp partisan differences on child care, school choice, welfare reform, health insurance and tax changes. "They'll do it in a good natured way."

The shift in tone and substance is welcomed by Republicans who believe their party needs to reach the many voters who polls indicate are not interested in hearing about homosexual rights, radical feminism and the like.

"The mandate has been laid down," said political analyst Neil Newhouse. "I'm not sure how the decision was made. I think it was the right decision."

•Bush praised Clinton on Wednesday for supporting an anti-flag burning resolution in Arkansas.

•Barbara Bush, campaigning Thursday in California, defined family values this way: "It's caring about each other, respecting communities, it's putting your arms around each other and being there, it's setting an example. . . . Family values are different things to different people."

•Marilyn Quayle, in a television interview Thursday night, said criticism of Hillary Clinton was a tribute to her writing and other professional accomplishments.

•Vice President Quayle denied Thursday that "family values" is a code phrase for bashing gays or Hillary Clinton.

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