

Presbytery of Transylvania

January 2006 Mission Trip

On Friday, January 13, 2006 4 members of the Transylvania Presbytery left for Bayou La Batrie, Alabama on a mission trip sponsored by the mission committee of our presbytery. Their ranks included, AJ Hall, a retired school teacher from Hazard, KY, Don Lilly and Fred Yost, a couple of retired railroaders from Ashland, KY, and Lee Boyd, the interim executive director of the Burnamwood Camp and Conference Center. The motley crew convened in the fine city of Corbin, KY, where they rested for one night before setting out on the journey south. While in Corbin, the group was welcomed graciously fed by the friendly faces of the Corbin Presbyterian Church. The next day was spent on the road traveling south to Cottage Hill Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Alabama. This destination was to serve as base camp for the days that followed. Cottage Hill Presbyterian Church is a beautiful white brick church built in the 50's in a small subdivision built around the same time. On Sunday the group decided to drive down to Biloxi, MS to get an idea of the damage that had taken place. It was like nothing any of them had ever seen before. Imagine the usual strip that runs along most beach town coast having to be completely demolished in some places as many as four blocks inland, Casino Boats washed ashore, cemeteries full of broken headstones, trees full of litter and debris, a coast line scattered with broken metal and glass.

Early Monday morning, even before the sun rose, the group traveled to Bayou Le Batrie to start work. They had been assigned to work with the Lutheran Disaster Response Group which intern sent them to work on a house for a Vietnamese family whose home had been flooded with over 6 feet of water. The flood damage was very

extensive inside the home. The house required all new windows, doors, drywall insulation and electrical wiring. Our group was put in charge of drywall. The work was difficult but by the end of the week everyone felt a sense of accomplishment and pride in their work.

Eventually it was time to leave and return home. It was hard to leave with so much work left to do, but everyone settled with the promise of returning again someday and the hope that other groups would pick up where they had left off.