



**Mike Grant building stairs**

# Building Blocks Fall 2007

The Quarterly Newsletter of Community of Faith Ministry  
and our Related Programs

## How To Build A Home In Just Two Weeks

No Way! A complete house from raw ground to hanging curtains in just two weeks? For about \$40,000? Yes Way!

Start with faith. Believe that it is God's instruction to us that we help the needy in this world. Add a healthy dose of experience in scheduling, with skilled trades leading the crews. Mix in a swarm of volunteers and committed donors. Finish with plain old fashioned hard work; the sun-up to sun-down kind of work. And, presto—a 1500 sq.ft. home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi for the Barbazon Family.

On Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, CFM volunteer Conrad Velasco delivered the award selection to the family that a new home would soon be

theirs. The 276 sq ft FEMA trailer they had lived in for two years, along with a tar paper shack, would be



**The Barbazon's new home with some volunteers.**

gone. The family was selected in part, because they committed themselves to our goal of helping another family in need as well.

Board members Chip Rumis, Steve Arnold and Karl Higgins, along with volunteer Don Melucci, immediately went to work raising

money, materials and volunteers. The response was overwhelming.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, volunteers from a church in PA dug and poured footings for the 14 ft high posts the home would be built on. 14 days later the keys were presented to the family. In between, almost 50 volunteers would fly into Mississippi, in a tightly choreographed schedule, then give way to the next wave of craftsmen. There wasn't much room for error. Following a blessing, tears of joy flowed from the Barbazon's as they walked into their new home.

More than 48,000 Gulf Coast residents still live in FEMA trailers according to local newspapers in Mississippi.

## Meet the Barbazon Family

Beaux is a carpenter working in New Orleans. Margie is a home-maker. They were high school sweethearts. 16-year-old Alexie is a high school graduate about to start her freshman year at a local community college. She would like to be a plastic surgeon. 13-year-old Andre is a young man with a quick smile who likes to catch small 'gators when his mother isn't watching. They're God-loving, hard working, aver-

age Americans whose world was swept away in Katrina.



"What struck me most about them is they had

endured as a family after the devastation of Katrina, the social upheaval of living in a matchbox FEMA trailer and the daily, numbing grind of trying to claw their way back from the complete loss that enveloped the area," said Steve Arnold. "These are people who needed a break. I wish we had more money and more time because there are thousands of folks just like them in Mississippi."

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2007

### Five Questions:

- Did I love my family today?
- Did I nourish my soul today?
- Did I serve the unloved today?
- Did I serve the Lord today?
- Did I pray today?

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## Donor Recognition for the Barbazon Build

**Thank you to our generous donors and suppliers.**

- Dawn Marie Albanisi
- American – DeRosa
- Steve & Mona Arnold
- Dean Barad, Overseas Development Co.
- Eric Barron
- Harry and Margie Barbazon
- Rick & Patti Beckstrom
- Kyle Berringer, Surface Shields
- Paul Bishop
- Jeanne and Gerald Cannon
- Jason Carr
- Kevin & Teresa Carr
- Gary G. Cooke
- Mike & Debbi Chatman
- Mike Dolan, State Fram Ins.
- Diamond Mattress

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|---|--|
| <p><b>Company</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Dunnam</li> <li>• Jerry Dutton</li> <li>• Brian K. Edwards</li> <li>• Ron Elder, California Lighting Company</li> <li>• Judith Embury</li> <li>• Fairmont Design</li> <li>• Jared Frank</li> <li>• Debi George</li> <li>• Joseph Giannino</li> <li>• Greg Gilmore, Coastal Hardware</li> <li>• Greg Grant</li> <li>• Kevin &amp; Julie Grant</li> <li>• Bobbie Green</li> <li>• David Greenbaum</li> <li>• Tom and Lorri Griffin</li> <li>• Judd Halenza</li> <li>• William Hamling</li> <li>• Karl &amp; Dawn Higgins</li> <li>• Bruce &amp; Georgia Higgins</li> <li>• Benjamin Hong</li> <li>• B Hunley, The Uttermost Co.</li> <li>• Tim Hunt</li> <li>• Basil Kennedy</li> <li>• Pat Kumpman</li> <li>• Marv Lank, H &amp; M Distributing</li> <li>• Michael Lawrence, Najarian Furniture</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legends Home</li> <li>• Furnishings</li> <li>• Lite Source Inc.</li> <li>• Magnussen Home Furnishings</li> <li>• McNamara Pump and Electric</li> <li>• Don Melucci</li> <li>• Mike Meziere</li> <li>• Kyle Meziere</li> <li>• Joel Meziere</li> <li>• Mark &amp; Tami Miller</li> <li>• Modus Furniture</li> <li>• Domingo Morera</li> <li>• Brian &amp; Sheila Morris</li> <li>• Ed and Jill Moss</li> <li>• Paul Neighbors, Christian Motorsports Intl.</li> <li>• Paul &amp; Stephanie Norvell</li> <li>• Alwin Olstad</li> <li>• Chris Olstad, Pacific Aircraft Cleaning</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

“Dear Lord,  
 Bless this house  
 and all who  
 enter.”  
 Margie  
 Barbazon, upon  
 receiving her  
 family’s new  
 home in  
 Waveland, MS.

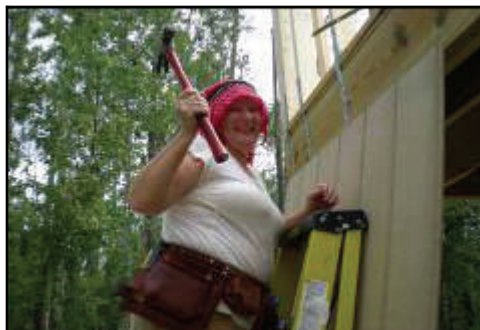
## Volunteers Who Helped Build A House—Thank You!!

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve &amp; Mona Arnold</li> <li>The Barbazon Family</li> <li>Eric Barron</li> <li>Bruce, Crystal &amp; Jim Blount</li> <li>Jason Carr</li> <li>Kevin &amp; Teresa Carr</li> <li>Pastor Willis Carter &amp; Family</li> <li>Mike &amp; Debbie Chatman</li> <li>Steve Chatman</li> <li>John Dunham</li> <li>Jack Farrell and Family</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debi George</li> <li>Kevin &amp; Julie Grant</li> <li>Bobbie Green</li> <li>Karl &amp; Dawn Higgins</li> <li>Don Melucci</li> <li>Mark &amp; Tammi Miller</li> <li>Mike, Kyle &amp; Joel Meziere</li> <li>Brian &amp; Sheila Morris</li> <li>Joan Northridge</li> <li>Paul Norvell</li> <li>Gary Rowe</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chip &amp; Jean Rumis</li> <li>CJ Rumis</li> <li>Bill &amp; Valerie Sanders</li> <li>Allen Schramm</li> <li>The Shurden Family</li> <li>Pat Strafford</li> <li>Conrad &amp; Missy Velasco</li> <li>Curtis Wallar</li> <li>Bob &amp; Patty Weirich</li> <li>Michael Wolczewski</li> <li>Sorry if we missed you...</li> </ul> |
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# Pictures from the Barbazon Build in Bay St. Louis, MS August, 2007



**Volunteers From Week One**



**Margie lending a hand**



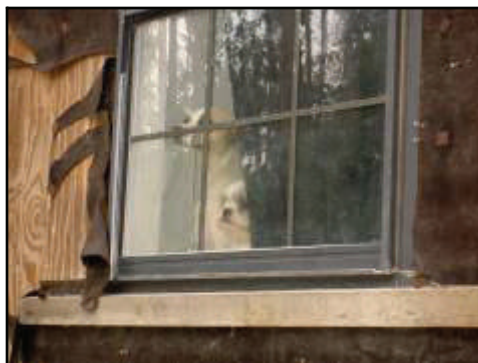
**Teamwork on a roof dormer**



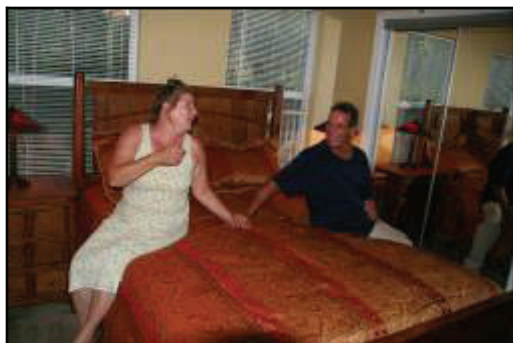
**Early Progress**



**Air Conditioning—Finally!!!**



**Are we getting a new home too?**



**Bo & Margie in their new bedroom**



**Almost done....**

## Donor Recognition for the Barbazon Build, Continued

**Thank you to our generous donors and suppliers.**

- Christian Pham
- Gary Rowe, So Cal Pro Gas Assn.
- Chip & Jean Rumis
- CJ Rumis
- Resource Floor Inc.
- Gary Ross and Family, B & B Electric
- Bill & Valiery Sanders
- San Diego County Floor

- **Covering Assn.**
- Allan Schramm
- Ed and Pat Silva
- Dave Simone
- Sitcom Furniture
- Paul & Mary Smith
- P & J Trailer Repair Inc.
- Anthony J. Spinola
- Pat Strafford Roofing
- Michael and Betty Tashjian
- David Thompson, Delivery Solutions Inc.
- Gustavo and Rachel Vasquez
- Conrad Velasco
- Curtis Waller
- Thomas Warner
- Bob and Patty Weirich
- Welk Resort Group, Jon Fredrick CEO
- Chris and Kathy White
- Connor White
- Mike Wolczewski
- Shelly Wong

**“Dear Lord,  
Bless this house  
and all who  
enter.”**

**Margie  
Barbazon, upon  
receiving her  
family’s new  
home in  
Waveland, MS.**



## Has The Gulf Coast Really Recovered?

Two blocks from the Gulf, Waveland City Hall remains a twisted pile of wreckage, two years after Katrina swept through. Locals describe the 175 mph wind driven storm surge as a 31ft high wall of water destroying all in its path.

Just off the interstate highways and a block or two behind Main Street, the Gulf Coast is struggling to rebuild. Bare foundations, silent witness to the losses, are

more common than new construction. Debris still litters outlying roads. Boats are still suspended in trees. And that's the physical description. Divorce, suicide and domestic violence has spiked, compounding the devastation.

Many have left the area for good and moved north, into upstate locations according to local reports. For those who remain and rebuild, the average price for homeowner's insur-

ance averages \$4,000 a year; a difficult bill in a depressed area.

Please pray for these people. Their struggle continues daily.



**“The mosquito is the Mississippi state bird—it’s true.” A volunteer in Waveland, MS.**



**Curtis and Dawn work on a roof dormer.**

God asks each of us to not store up treasures for ourselves here on earth, but

rather, to store them up in Heaven. Do you think He is calling you to serve the needy and less fortunate? Curtis Waller is 76. He has answered the call many times for us from his home in Petal, MS.

Carpenters, cabinet-makers, electricians, plumbers, furniture makers, fire-fighters, machine shop owners, executives, the retired, the faithful, home-makers and

students each volunteered with us.

Yes it was hot and humid, often a ‘three-shirt day’. But the rewards of serving our God, and the needy who believe in Him, are guaranteed to bring a smile to your face. And, when it’s all said and done, a tear to your cheek. Come join our family. Email us at [‘info@community-of-faithministries.com’](mailto:info@community-of-faithministries.com).

## Pictures From The Barbazon Build In Waveland, MS



A dresser goes up the stairs of the new house into a bedroom.



Allen Schramm working on drywall and closets in the new house.



The new kitchen, complete with appliances, flooring, cabinets and dishes. Home cooking southern style was on the menu.



**Communities of Faith Ministries, Inc.**  
**An inter-faith coalition**  
**IRS Registered non profit, 501 c 3**  
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**CHIP RUMIS-CHAIRMAN**  
**STEVE ARNOLD-TREASURER**  
**KARL HIGGINS-SECRETARY**



**Volunteers socialize at the 'Thank you BBQ' in Mississippi after a job well done for the Barbazon's new home.**

Communities of Faith Ministries, Inc. Balance Sheet as of 8/31/07

**ASSETS**

Cash on Hand—\$53,983

Other Assets \$ 49,000 estimated value (Trucks, Equipment Trailer, Tools, etc.)

Total Assets—\$102,983

**LIABILITIES**

None

**NET WORTH \$102,983**

Our 2006 IRS Form 990 is available now. You may view the IRS report by visiting our website at [www.community-of-faith-ministries.com](http://www.community-of-faith-ministries.com)

**Letter from Chip Rumis  
 Pastor Bobby Shurden Dies**

Dear Friends,

His voice was like an angel's. And now, he is surely directing their choir.



Brother Bobby Shurden, pastor of Crestview Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, MS passed away unexpectedly of heart failure in May of 2007. He was 55. The loss of Brother Bobby is enormous.

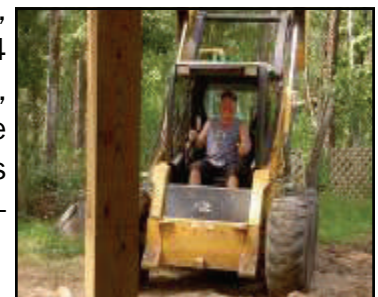
His ministry work included serving the spiritual needs of fire-fighters, law enforcement, orphans in Mexico and his own congregation in Mississippi. Several CFM members and volunteers flew to Hattiesburg for his funeral. It was truly, a celebration of life and faith.

Brother Bobby leaves his wife of 36 years Peggy and his son David, 32, and Rebecca, 34 both of Hattiesburg, MS. Please join me in praying for his family and his ministry.

CFM and I have lost a treasured friend.

From the sadness and shock of Bobby's death, comes the hope and joy in the renewal of life for the Barbazon Family.

The volunteer response to this build was incredible. Skilled trades came from across the country to help. Manufacturers donated materials, supplies and cash. Jean, CJ and I, along with each member of the CFM family, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.





**“I don’t have to shake the spiders out of my clothes anymore.”**

**Alexie Barbazon, age 16, after moving out of the 10 x 12 shack and into her new home.**

## **The Barbazon’s Give Thanks And Help Another Family in the Process**

For more than two years after Katrina, the Barbazon’s teen age daughter Alexie lived in the tar paper shack pictured above. She had to shake her clothes each morning before putting them on in order to get the spiders out who had crawled in overnight, coming through the cracks and holes in the floor. After the volunteers built their new home, many wanted to burn the shack so Alexie could forget the past. Her parents had a better idea. They fixed up the shack with siding, a

new floor and paint left over from building their home. Then they made arrangements to give it to a homeless couple with a two year old baby. It has a new life giving shelter to another Katrina victim. The lessons we learn.....

Not long ago the Barbozan’s sent a letter to CFM offering their thanks. In part, it reads “Thank you for bringing my girl under our new home that we all now share. She doesn’t have to sleep in a shack anymore.

She’s safe now.

Now she loves her room. She says it’s her safe haven. We have meals together as a family. The kids do their homework in their own rooms instead of a camper.

We cannot thank you enough for our new home. We keep it spotless. We know it is a gift of God’s love. Please tell us when your team will be back in the Gulf. We want to help you build the next home for a deserving family. Thank you so much. Love, Bo, Margie, Alexie and Andre Barbozan.”

May God Bless and keep the Barbozan Family.