

MEDIA RELEASE

**Forward Edge
International**

v 360.574.3343
f 360.574.2118
forwardedge.org
fei@forwardedge.org
15121-A NE 72nd Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98686

Portland-area Katrina volunteers joined by Gulf Coast pastors for debriefing this Sunday

- ***While government aid for the homeless of last summer's storms is reportedly lackluster, work teams organized by a Vancouver-based relief group have been moving Gulf Coast families back under their own roofs, one repaired home and church at a time.***
- ***The meeting will be preceded by a press conference, at which the executive director of Forward Edge International will update members of the media on the progress of FEI's Gulf Coast relief efforts, and announce plans for the immediate future.***

February 10, 2006

Volunteers from Portland-area churches who have recently traveled to the Gulf Coast to rebuild damaged homes and churches will meet this Sunday to debrief their trips and share their experiences with each other and with the media.

Pastors of two Mississippi churches aided by the volunteers will also be in attendance.

The executive director of Forward Edge International, the Vancouver-based relief agency that sponsored and organized these volunteer work teams, will hold a press conference immediately preceding the meeting. Joseph Anfuso will report the steady progress that FEI and its teams have made in the hurricane disaster zones, and announce the organization's Gulf Coast plans for the future.

Pastors Jerry Thompson of New Testament Full Gospel Church (Moss Point, Miss.) and Ben Wood of Worship Center (Pascagoula, Miss.) will join Anfuso in the press conference. All three will be available for questions from the media.

The press conference is at 6 p.m. this Sunday, Feb. 12, in the Worship Center lobby of Cedar Mill Bible Church at 12208 NW Cornell Rd., Portland, OR 97229. Members of the media are invited to stay for the meeting of volunteers (who will be available for interviews), which will immediately follow the press conference at 7 p.m., in the Worship Center itself.

Invited to the meeting are Forward Edge volunteers from the following Portland-area churches:

- Cedar Mill Bible Church (Portland, 503-644-3156)
- City Harvest Church (Vancouver, 360-546-1000)
- Mosaic Church (Portland, 503-287-6789)
- New Beginnings Christian Center (Portland, 503-413-0486)
- New Song Community Church (Portland, 503-493-1402)

To date, about 1,000 volunteers on some 50 work teams from around the country—many from Oregon and southwest Washington—have signed up to serve in the Gulf Coast with Forward Edge.

CONTACT:

Joseph Anfuso
office 360-574-3343
cell 360-907-6376

Verla Stice
office 360-574-3343
cell 503-307-3033

About Forward Edge International

Since 1983 Forward Edge International has mobilized young people and adults to express God's love in practical ways in the U.S. and around the world. FEI organizes and facilitates teams of short-term volunteers (from churches, schools, and campuses) to complete service projects, distribute emergency aid, and—in the words of executive director Joseph Anfuso—"be the hands and feet of Jesus." In its two decades this nonprofit has equipped and sent more than 700 short-term mission teams and 8,000 volunteers to 33 nations.

For information about volunteering with Forward Edge—in the Katrina disaster zone or elsewhere around the continent and the world—contact FEI at the numbers below.

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