

Parishoners' faith survives storm

PIEDMONT, Ala. — Thirteen-year-old Marcus Woods fidgeted in his wheelchair and shivered in the predawn chill. He had insisted on attending Easter sunrise service at the church where he lost half his family a week earlier.

"I just wanted to be here," he said softly.

His father, Buddy, and 9-year-old sister, Amy, were among 20 people killed when a tornado leveled the Goshen United Methodist Church during Palm Sunday services last week.

Marcus, who tried to pull his little sister out of the rubble, suffered a badly bruised right knee. His mother is still hospitalized in intensive care; she suffered a crushed pelvis and broken legs.

As much as a celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection, Sunday's half-hour service was an emotional reunion of tears and lengthy hugs.

About 200 people attended, sitting on folding chairs in the parking lot of the ruined church.

The Rev. Kelly Clem greeted parishoners, some for the first time since the tornado. Mrs. Clem's dress was dark red, her lace collar white and her forehead and eyes purple and crimson.

“I feel like we're like a symbol of hope right now.”

— Rev. Clem,
Methodist minister

Battered by whirling bricks, the 34-year-old pastor lost her 4-year-old daughter, Hannah, one of six children killed while waiting to participate in an Easter program.

Friends and relatives took turns hugging her and her 2-year-old girl, Sarah.

"There's no place I'd rather be today," Mrs. Clem said.

"We kind of need each other," added her husband, the Rev. Dale Clem.

Mrs. Clem read from the New Testament Book of Romans and chatted over a microphone with small children. She presented the children with wrapped Easter baskets, among the many donations of money, supplies and children's gifts that have streamed in from around the country.

"Do you know how many people love you?" she asked.

"A lot?" suggested one child. "That's an understatement," Mrs. Clem replied.

The wooden cross behind her pulpit was made last week by a friend she hadn't seen in years, she said, and four new stained glass windows that made a backdrop were sent by a Roman Catholic church. A painting of Jesus, flowers and stacks of cards and letters also have arrived.

"I feel like we're like a symbol of hope right now," Mrs. Clem said afterward. She pledged to rebuild the northeastern Alabama church, the hardest-hit site in the series of tornadoes and storms that killed at least 44 people across the Southeast.

For parishoners, the service was a confrontation with traumatic memories.

Carol Scroggin, the choir director who had just led a hymn when the tornado hit, said the Easter service selections were chosen carefully from congregation members' requests.

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow," was one refrain.

A soloist sang: "We are standing on holy ground. And I know that there are angels all around."

And all sang: "Bind us together, Lord ... Bind us together with love."

Wall Street drop may not be over

NEW YORK — The worst may not be over for the U.S. stock market, pummeled last week by a barrage of economic and political news that investors have increasingly viewed as omens of rising inflation and uncertainty.

Many professionals don't rule out a renewed selling assault Monday when the market reopens from a three-day Easter weekend. But others say the respite gave investors an opportunity to rethink the impulse of dumping stocks. Some forecasters are even expecting stocks to rebound somewhat.

"I think it's hard to know," said Marc Chandler, research director at Ezra Zask Associates, a money management firm in Norfolk, Conn. "We've seen some indiscriminate selling. That's created some buying opportunities."

Sellers overran the market last week, depressing the Dow Jones industrial average by nearly 139 points, or 4 percent, from the week before. The best-known barometer of U.S. stock prices, which now stands at 3,635.96, is off more than 8 percent from its all-time high of 3,978.36 reached Jan. 31.

Broader measurements of stock values also tumbled last week, a possible sign that a 3 1/2-year-old Wall Street rally is undergoing or

has undergone what strategists call a correction, or a pullback to more realistic levels.

A key reason for the drop has been the Federal Reserve's moves to raise short-term interest rates Feb. 4 and March 23, reversing a five-year strategy of keeping rates low to stimulate the economy. The Fed has said interest rates must be raised to thwart inflation, a step that ought to reassure investors.

But the Fed aroused the opposite reaction by creating uncertainty over when interest rates will stop rising. That means strong economic news has been viewed with increased apprehension in the financial markets.

The market's behavior was complicated by the Good Friday holiday, when the Labor Department said job creation surged in March, another possible warning of higher inflation.

Further complicating the picture is the Monday release of another potential market-moving piece of information, a monthly assessment of the manufacturing economy by the National Association of Purchasing Management. If its report shows unexpectedly strong March growth or much higher prices paid by factories for raw materials, the market could fall.

Street fighters protest Israel negotiations

JABALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Occupied Gaza Strip — The gunman from PLO leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction punctuated every sentence with a pistol shot after he seized the microphone.

"We warn our leaders to stop the negotiations with Israel," he yelled at a weekend rally, the largest since the Israel-PLO autonomy accord was signed in September.

Thousands of young men in jeans and battered jackets roared in approval, but the PLO elders sitting in jackets and ties sat motionless.

Tension between street fighters and officially appointed PLO leaders is intensifying, and Gazans expect relations to worsen with the arrival this week of the first PLO police and administrators from outside the occupied lands.

Whether Arafat can control this

internal competition will determine the success of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, and ultimately whether the Palestinians can achieve their own state.

About 50 deportees, including some of Arafat's top advisers, are due by Wednesday to help prepare the takeover from Israel. A vanguard of 300 Palestinian police are expected in the Gaza Strip and Jericho by Thursday, also to lay the groundwork for the arrival of thousands more.

Friday's rally underscored a key problem the Palestine Liberation Organization faces in taking over. While publicly it must make peace with Israel, popular sentiment is clearly on the side of continuing the fight.

Events that have sapped support for peace include the Feb. 25 mosque massacre in Hebron, when a settler

killed 30 Muslim worshippers and the killings last week of six Fatah members by undercover Israeli soldiers.

PLO leaders shrugged off the calls for fighting. "This is the Palestinian street. It deals with feelings and emotions more than actual events," spokesman Sufian Abu Zayda said.

But rank-and-file members of Fatah said the leadership was having difficulty controlling armed fighters in the Fatah Hawks, with gunman taking pot shots at Fatah branch offices both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The street fighters, many in their 20s, were the ones who fought the occupation and built underground organizations. They resent being driven out by PLO appointees who don't question orders from headquarters.

Arafat is expected to announce this week whether he will close Fatah branch offices permanently.

Front-line battles rage on despite Sarajevo ceasefire

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — While thousands jammed Sarajevo cathedral on the city's first peaceful Easter Sunday in two years, fighting continued along Serb-Muslim front lines in other parts of Bosnia.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic ordered an investigation into events in Prijedor in northern Bosnia, where 20 Muslims and Croats were reported killed in ethnic terror.

Earlier some Bosnian Serb officials denied the killings and denounced the U.N. relief agency reporting them as biased.

But the Bosnian Serbs' self-declared interior ministry later confirmed that 16 people were killed between March 29 and April 1, and said it was a "criminal act by so far unidentified perpetrators."

In the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, residents cowered in shelters under heavy Serb bombardment, Bosnian radio reported. The town has been under Serb siege for more than a year.

Bosnian Premier Haris Silajdzic appealed for international help in Gorazde and Prijedor and warned that "the whole peace process is seriously at stake."

He spoke after meeting with U.S. congressman Frank McCloskey, D-Ind., who attended Easter services at a Sarajevo cathedral.

Although Sarajevo is quieter, "It is obvious that this war is still not so close to its end," McCloskey said.

Bosnian radio reported Serbs had launched a heavy tank and infantry attack on Muslim-led government forces around Gorazde and said a new tank battalion had moved in Saturday night.

The shelling of Gorazde resumed in recent days after government troops made inroads against Serb forces in northern Bosnia, where the Serbs are trying to keep control of a narrow land corridor linking their holdings in the east and west of the war-ravaged republic.

Serb forces who hold 70 percent of Bosnia fear that the new federation between Muslims and Croats may turn into a military alliance. They have rejected offers to join the federation, opting instead for union with neighboring Serbia.

The Bosnian Serb military claimed Sunday that a "general Muslim offensive" was continuing on all fronts.

Federal spending per person rose \$200 since last year

WASHINGTON — Uncle Sam spent an average of \$4,599 for every American last year, handing out money for grants and benefits, to buy goods and services and to pay government salaries.

That was up more than \$200 per person from the year before.

Overall, the federal government spent \$1.25 trillion last fiscal year, according to new Census Bureau reports on federal spending. Entitlement programs and grants for Medicaid, family support payments and housing accounted for 60 percent of domestic spending, U.S. Census analyst Robert McArthur said.

Alaska, where military salaries give the economy a big boost, remained the top recipient of federal dollars, receiving \$7,697 per resident in 1993, ac-

ording to the reports.

Nine of the top 10 states, and all of the bottom 10, were unchanged from 1992, which surprised McArthur. He pointed to population migrations to the South and West, decreasing military spending and a more emphasis on social programs.

Second in spending per resident was New Mexico at \$6,929, up one spot from 1992 thanks to Department of Energy procurement in the state.

Virginia, home to major naval facilities as well as federal agencies in the Washington suburbs, climbed from fourth to third, receiving \$6,824 per resident last year.

Rounding out the top 10 were Maryland, Hawaii, North Dakota, Massachusetts, Missouri, Maine and Rhode Island.

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