



# DISASTER NEWS RELEASE

## *Hurricane Ivan Incident Command Escambia County/Pensacola, FL*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Kelly Drawdy  
Cell: (214) 274-0584

September 22, 2004

*Outgoing Salvation Army Disaster Services PIO John Edwards prepared this release.*

**"WE'RE NOT HERE FOR OURSELVES": FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS SUSTAIN, MULTIPLY  
SALVATION ARMY EFFECTIVENESS IN TRIPLE-HURRICANE RECOVERY EFFORT**

(PENSACOLA, FL) - The simmering onion scent was arresting, emanating from across the Bealls Outlet Shopping Center parking lot. For those approaching the busy Hurricane Ivan relief site in Pensacola, frazzled six days without electric power and weary from dragging snapped tree limbs and branches to curbs, the fragrance held no less promise than a four-course meal at a five-star restaurant.

The alluring cuisine of beef tips, barbecued pork, shredded beef, green beans, whole white potatoes, peaches and mixed fruit gave new meaning to the traditional southern "Dinner On The Grounds".

In this case, it was asphalt.

For The Salvation Army, it represents a cherished, like-motivated cavalry of eight crewmembers and a 10,000-meals-per-day, Texas-based Southern Baptist disaster services kitchen that arrived in the nick of time. Such front-line and spiritual strength has allowed the need-strained ministry organization to serve more than 200,000 people in the first full week of Ivan relief that concludes Wednesday night along the Florida Panhandle and Alabama Gulf Coast.

During the first 48 hours after Ivan's vestiges drifted north, The Salvation Army was forced to deploy three of its mobile kitchens to the high-profile Brent Lane Bealls Outlet site, just to obtain and prepare enough food for survivors.

While there were no horses, the Texas reinforcements seemed to wear white hats just the same. Today they're toiling from 5:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Likewise Operation Blessing, humanitarian arm of the Virginia-based Christian Broadcasting Network, has bolstered The Salvation Army for more than a month. In addition to providing critical food and other resources, mission-driven tractor-trailer drivers bring unassuming, vital support.

- more -

"WE'RE NOT HERE FOR OURSELVES": FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS SUSTAIN, MULTIPLY SALVATION ARMY EFFECTIVENESS IN TRIPLE-HURRICANE RECOVERY EFFORT

2-2-2

"Without Operation Blessing, we could not have fed people early on after Hurricane Charley," said Jeff Jellets, who directs Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services for the 15-state Southern Territory. "They are truly integrated into our operation, a synthesis rather than just a partnership. Now they're moving resources out of eastern Florida to our warehouse in Tamp, as well as the Panhandle."

"I believe that The Salvation Army and Baptists are out to serve people and our God," summarized lay member Tim Willis, whose "Blue Hat" title and headwear connote leadership of the "Top of Texas" unit serving in Pensacola. "We're not here for ourselves. When we all get together, we leave our doctrine at home."

Willis and company hail from First Baptist Church in Plains, as far as one can drive before entering New Mexico. For the Southern Baptist men and women, the arduous 33-hour trip symbolizes an iron-solid link in a chain of brothers and sisters desiring to make a difference for hurting people.

"It's a living example of Christ's teachings, exemplifying unity," said Jellets. "It's what Christianity is all about, working alongside your neighbors when people are in trouble. This is a deeper motivation with a deeper purpose than just humanitarian aid."

Helping to proclaim that motivation and acute need, the web-based Christian Emergency Network has served at the Salvation Army's side from the hurricanes' onset. Headed by Mary Marr, the faith-based coalition relates important updated information and perspective to Christian and secular news media, assuring that disaster victims' needs remain within public awareness.

Similarly, a privately funded full-page advertisement in Wednesday's USA Today invited financial support, while affirming "In the eye of the storm is the heart of this Army's battle."

It's a "heart battle" that cannot be fought alone, as the ministry organization projects a minimum \$40 million cost for triple-hurricane relief, recovery and restoration.

Contributions may be directed to [www.1800salarmy.org](http://www.1800salarmy.org), 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769) or any local Salvation Army office, marked "Disaster Relief".

#