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# DAY OF TERROR

## Tragedy brings Mississippians to their knees

# Crowds pray for unity, peace, guidance

■ "Getting angry not going to accomplish anything," priest says

By Charlotte Graham  
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

Emotions were high Tuesday as Mississippi's religious community and others gathered at churches, chapels, synagogues and in schools to pray for a nation rocked by terrorism.

Prayer vigils were held at Mississippi College, G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center and St. Andrew's Cathedral. They continued through the evening at places including St. Jude Catholic Church in Pearl, where Father Martin Reane offered a Mass of Peace.

"It's important for us to pray for the president and the rulers of our country, and that justice will be done, but war avoided," Reane said. "Getting angry is probably not going to accomplish anything. We pray that there will be peace, and that those people who are most responsible for sorting out this tragedy will be cool."

Dozens gathered earlier in the VA Medical Center's chapel. Terrorist attacks like this are what bring America back to her knees and looking up to the heavenly father and asking him for strength," said the Rev. Mari D. Reynolds, chief of chaplain services. "It also serves as a reminder that we are one nation under God."

Fighting back tears, Sissie Stokes, the medical center's quality manager of diagnostic services, said, "You just can't believe a thing like this would happen here. Right now I think it's time to forget about our internal strife ... and come



Mississippians crowd into St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Jackson Tuesday for a special noon service following terrorist attacks against the United States in New York and at the Pentagon.

together in unity as we look to our heavenly father for guidance."

As much as he prays for unity, Imam Muhammad Harisuddin, spiritual leader of Jackson Masjid Muhammad, fears many Americans will blame the Muslim community for the acts of terrorism.

"I'm in tears at this point," he said, his voice cracking. "There are going to be many families and innocent people affected by this — not just for this moment, but for years to come. Individuals who would do something like this are sad, foolish, violent folks."

Later Tuesday, Rabbi Jim Eigel of Jackson's Beth Israel Congregation was still in shock. He believes

the terrorist attack was a "well-orchestrated plan."

The Rev. Debraan Weary, executive director of Mission Mississippi, says prayer should continue. "I see this as a wake-up call for ministers, pastors and churches to get back to the business of calling people together and only to pray for each other but for our country," he said.

United Methodist Bishop Kenneth Carter called for people to pray for healing and for perseverance for those involved in rescuing and treating the injured.

At noon Tuesday, Episcopal Bishop A.C. Marble stood solemnly before about 250 people gathered

for prayer at St. Andrew's Cathedral in downtown Jackson. "I call us to prayer for our nation and the victims and families of these atrocities, for our president, George Bush, and the Congress and leadership of these United States of America," he said.

In the nation's capital for a conference of bishops at the Catholic University of America, Bishop William Hook of the Catholic Diocese of Jackson took part in a noon mass at the adjacent National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The attacks were carried out by people filled with hate, Hook said. "It's indescribable," he said.

## Muslims dread backlash, discourage finger pointing

■ "There's a sense of fear, of panic," member of Islamic group says

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gahri Khanan, a Muslim leader, said he has been here before, sitting in his home watching TV images of a building turned to dust — the federal building in Oklahoma City.

On Tuesday, after terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, he recalled the assaults on that 1995 bombing by Army veteran Timothy McVeigh.

"Please do not start speculating and pointing the finger at us," said Khanan, a New York leader of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Muslims nationwide shut down their mosques and schools as Americans awaited word about who was responsible for the destruction. After the Oklahoma City bombing, more than 200 Arab- and Muslim-Americans were victimized, the council reported.

"We're suggesting that Muslims who are visually recognized as Muslims, keep a low profile," said Ibrahim Hooper, the council's spokesman. "Don't go out in public areas."

Hooper said a few callers to his office made threats. Several Muslims wearing traditional religious clothing reported being harassed in the Washington area and there

was a report of an assault on a Muslim taxi driver in Manassas, Va., he said.

Security was tightened at mosques and schools across Florida. Two sheriff's deputies stopped cars a block from a private Islamic school in Tampa to protect nearly 300 children there.

"We pray that Muslims are not behind it," said Nabih Al-Arian, a teacher at the school. "The kids got so scared."

The Islamic Association of Raleigh, N.C., and other groups representing Muslim and Arab-Americans in that city shut down a mosque and closed an Islamic school after receiving anonymous threats, said Wael Maari, an association member. Several women who wear traditional dress were spat on, said Maari's sister, Rania.

"There's a sense of fear, of panic," Wael Maari said.

Clergy from other denominations joined Muslims in condemning the destruction. After the Oklahoma City bombing, more than 200 Arab- and Muslim-Americans were victimized, the council reported.

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## Hospitals inundated with victims

■ Nursing homes, psychiatric and mobile facilities also used

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Victims of the World Trade Center attacks streamed into hospitals, nursing homes and triage centers Tuesday as thousands of blood donors lined up across the country.

Amid the confusion, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said at least 600 people had been taken to hospitals by mid-afternoon, and some 1,500 "walking wounded" were taken across New York Harbor to New Jersey's Liberty State Park, near the Statue of Liberty.

A mobile hospital set at Liberty State Park expected as many as 5,000 casualties, said New Jersey Hospital Association spokesman Ron Czajkowski. "Every hospital in the state is in disaster readiness mode," he said.

Officials at the Manhattan trauma centers closest to the Trade Center — St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital Center — said they had received only people who were injured outside the twin towers and that the number would likely rise dramatically once rescue workers started digging into the rubble.

One man with burns was taken to New Jersey's Jersey City Medical Center by Steve Newman. He was on Manhattan's West Side Highway, riding a livery cab to work, when he saw the man blown out of the lobby of one of the Trade Center towers.

"I took him and said 'We've got to get him to a hospital,' and the only way to the hospital was across that river," Newman said. He got the man onto a water taxi.

Other victims were sent for treatment in New York state psychiatric hospitals. Empty beds in nursing homes also were used.

The state Health Department lined up emergency supplies of tetanus vaccine from Pennsylvania. North of the city in Connecticut, Stamford Hospital was on high alert and preparing to receive patients by helicopter.

The Navy sent ships to New York and Washington that included surgical teams and limited hospital bed capacity.

The federal Health and Human Services Department activated a national medical emergency system that could dispatch roughly 7,000 volunteer doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical staff.

## Blood services receive nearly 400 units

■ Mississippians donate at New York Blood Center's request

By Sherri Williams  
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

Mississippians rolled up their sleeves in droves Tuesday, giving what they could to aid fellow Americans in blood.

Mississippi Blood Services and United Blood Services of Mississippi together collected nearly 400 units of blood by Tuesday evening, said MBS spokeswoman Dani Edmondson. Typically, about 30 units are collected daily by Mississippi Blood Services.

The main branch of MBS at 1995 Lakeland Drive had to take appointments for donations and remote donate to UBS and St. Dominic's Health Services Inc. to handle the overflow of those wanting to donate.

"People are putting aside the fear of needles. Employers are allowing people to leave work and donate and stay on the clock to donate today," Edmondson said.

"This is such a tragic situation and you feel so helpless and in shock, and you want to do something and help people in this tragedy," he said.

David Goff, associate executive director of United Blood Services of Mississippi in Flowood, said he received calls from people in cities including Florence, Natchez and Grenada expressing the desire to donate blood to those hurt in the bombings.

Goff said for the remainder of the week his center will most likely have extended hours and stay open until 8 p.m. to accommodate those who want to donate blood. Edmondson said MBS will also likely have extended hours through Saturday.

As an employee with the Salvation Army in Little Rock during the Oklahoma City bombing, Goff said blood donation centers "collected record numbers of donors," he said. "It goes to show you how Americans come together in a national tragedy. Unfortunately we have been trying to fill people all along that we need to do this so we won't find ourselves in crisis."

"I know there is not going to be enough New Yorkers to donate blood," Edmondson said. "They have tended with the loss of loved ones and jobs ... we can deal with donating blood."

To donate blood call Mississippi Blood Services at (801) 981-2232 or call United Blood Services of Mississippi at (801) 939-3336.



Donors line the walls of Mississippi Blood Services in Flowood Tuesday morning to give blood in response to the terrorist attacks in New York and at the Pentagon.

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Teresa Ayers of Jackson donates blood during a visit to Mississippi Blood Services in Flowood on Tuesday morning. Donations were running high as people responded to the crisis caused by the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

## Mississippi families desperate for info

■ Red Cross chapter fielding questions about relatives in target areas

The Clarion-Ledger

The Central Mississippi chapter of the American Red Cross received calls all day Tuesday from people looking for information about their loved ones, said Red Cross spokeswoman Lisa Roselli.

"Some have children, sons and daughters working at the World Trade Center," she said. "They have been desperate to find out anything they can about their loved ones."

"What we've done and other chapters around the country are doing, is taking basic information about their family members and filling out what we call Red Cross Family Well Being Inquiry."

The inquiry is for immediate family members only, which includes partners, legal guardians and grandparents, Roselli said.

"We're doing everything we can to link family members, but people should be advised this will take time to complete (so) the family member should try to make contact on their own," she said.

If a family member makes contact with a relative, they are asked to contact the chapter.

Each chapter across the nation is being asked to evaluate their volunteers so that those with the most experience can be prepared for deployment if they are called.

"Guidelines are in place to get the most experienced volunteers who can cope with this," Roselli said.

### TO HELP

■ Donations may be sent to the American Red Cross, 878 Riverside Drive, Jackson, MS 39202. Also, donations can be made by calling 1-800-HELPCROW.

■ To donate to the Salvation Army, call 1-800-SALARMY.

■ Medical personnel who wish to donate their services should contact their local American Red Cross office.

■ The Federal Emergency Management Agency does accept donations but coordinates volunteer agencies at disaster sites.