

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

# Local pastor helping those in need

By MELECIO FRANCO

mfranco@hcnonline.com

Pastor Jeff Day of Kenefick Southern Baptist Church helps local residents not only inside the church but also in the surrounding communities through volunteering, visitation and sometimes with welding and carpentry.

"When you go into the ministry, you discover that pastoring a church is bigger than your own flock," said Day. "I believe that pastors should help anyone in need."

Day said that he was called into the ministry at the age of 30.

"I couldn't figure out how God could use me because I was a carpenter, but of course Jesus was a carpenter," he said.

He and his wife Cathy sold their dream home that they had built to go into the life that God had called them to do. Day began attending East Texas Baptist University and after graduating, became pastor for a church in Marshall, Texas, which lasted for 10 years.



Photo by MELECIO FRANCO/Dayton News

**Pastor Jeff Day explained that he spends very little time at his desk and instead relies on his Blackberry to communicate. Day has been the pastor of Kenefick Southern Baptist Church for the past 10 years. He is also the president of the Pregnancy Care Center in Dayton and the chairman of the Liberty County Long-Term Recovery Committee where he uses his previous experience as a carpenter and electrician to assist residents recovering from Hurricane Ike.**

He later moved to Kenefick where he has been pastor for the last 10 years. Before he took over the church, he was interviewed by the church officials who asked him some tough questions.

"The last question in the interview was if I owned a truck,"

said Day. "It wasn't required, but it was plus."

At the time, he owned a small Nissan truck, which helped him qualify for the job. He now owns a full-sized Dodge diesel 4 x 4 truck.

"Part of my ministry can be from hospital visits and praying

**"It doesn't matter what your past is, background, health or race. Jesus gave his life for all of us and every life is important."**

Jeff Day, pastor of Kenefick Southern Baptist Church

for people to running a chainsaw to cut up hurricane debris or welding to help," said Day.

In addition to being a pastor, he also leads two community organizations. Day is the chairman of the Liberty County Long-Term Recovery Committee, which helps residents recover from disasters such as Hurricane Ike.

Though he is chairman, he joked that he is also the chief carpenter of the organization.

"I was a construction worker for 12 years before I went into the ministry," said Day.

He explained that this experience has truly helped him in var-

ious construction projects helping people rebuild their homes around the area.

Day said that he started helping with hurricane recovery after Hurricane Rita.

"There have been some families that have not recovered from Rita," said Day. "There are still quite a few families in need."

He explained that many of the individuals did not receive FEMA money and did not have insurance. The committee will soon be responsible for determining eligibility among residents to receive federal money through the county.

The committee meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Office of Emergency Management in Liberty. Day invites residents to attend to learn how they can help their neighbors.

Day also serves as president of the Pregnancy Care Center in Dayton. The organization started eight years ago and has quickly grown from assisting three clients per week to approximately 100 clients each month. The center

serves Dayton and the surrounding areas.

"This past Tuesday we saw 27 clients," said Day.

The center serves as an alternative to abortion and provides diapers, children's clothing, counseling and encouragement. Clients range from 13 to 40 years old.

"When we saw the need, our church took the lead," said Day about the center. "Now, a number of churches and community organizations are involved. It takes a community."

Day said that the center is always looking for volunteers and supplies to help them in their efforts.

Day offered encouragement to those that are not attending church or following God.

"It doesn't matter what your past is, background, health or race," he said. "Jesus gave his life for all of us and every life is important."

Day welcomes anyone to visit the church, which is located at 3535 FM 1008 in Kenefick. For more information, call 936-258-4558.