

Baptist group helps Turner family clean up after storm

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From staff reports

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Flowers, arranged in the shape of a cross, honor the memory of Bonnie Turner at the remaining foundation of the home, destroyed last Saturday by an F-3 tornado. (Photo: Lowell Vickers)

The family of Mike and Bonnie Turner were at work Friday cleaning up the area around the couple's Polk County house, which was destroyed by Saturday's tornado.

Bonnie Turner died in the storm, and her husband was injured.

With help from Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief, family members were sorting items found in the wreckage, trying to determine which items could be salvaged and which needed to be thrown out, said Barry Schrader of Dallas, Bonnie Turner's brother.

Sandra Jackson of Lawrenceville is one of the Baptist volunteers. She called the work "serving God in a time of crisis."

Crews used chain saws to prepare felled trees for removal. Earlier in the week, the couple's car was pulled from a pond behind the house. The pond was being drained so the family could see if any other items were there.

The family has set up a tribute to Bonnie Turner's memory. Using the flowers from Thursday's funeral, they constructed a cross that helicopter crews flying overhead can see.

Volunteers are still needed to help families such as the Turners.

Sharon Coffman, Keep Polk Beautiful executive director, is organizing an effort at 10 a.m. Saturday to help victims.

"I have passed out flyers there to the storm victims, and have been trying to contact as many volunteers as I can to meet and help in any way they can," Coffman said.

Volunteers will meet at the Flint Hill Baptist Church in Aragon at 10 to organize based on the victims' worksheets they've prepared, and then the volunteers will be sent out from there, Coffman said.

For more information on how to help, call 678-246-1083. Coffman plans for this to be an ongoing volunteer effort.