



Reuters/CNS

A woman feeds her injured child outside a Red Cross hospital in Bhuj.

Quake survivors still being found

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Relief supplies are reaching earthquake survivors in western India, and materials for shelter are among their most critical needs, said a Catholic Relief Services worker.

In a Feb. 5 telephone interview from Bhuj, one of the most seriously affected areas, David Snyder of Catholic Relief Services said CRS staff have been delivering supplies to the surrounding villages.

"Our supply line is kind of kicking into high gear now," he said. The aid "mobilized in the U.S. and around the world is really starting to get here and have the impact getting out to people."

In the village of Nalappa, CRS distributed buckets, soap, three heavy wool blankets per family, tarps and jerrycans.

"We have three villages to go to tomorrow, and that number is likely to go up ex-

ponentially every day," he said.

The main needs are for shelter, he said, including tents, tarps and blankets, especially because of low temperatures.

"People are still able to recover food and still grow crops. ... Water is more critical," he added.

Coadjutor Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz of Anchorage, Alaska, a CRS board member, was to arrive in Bhuj Feb. 6 to visit the area, said Snyder.

U.S. seismologists measured the Jan. 26 quake, centered in India's western Gujarat state and also felt in neighboring Pakistan, at magnitude 7.9, the strongest to strike India in 50 years. Indian officials feared the death toll could rise to 30,000 people.

Seismologists recorded more than 50 aftershocks in 36 hours.

But more than a week after the quake,

people were being found alive.

On Feb. 5, a middle-aged brother and sister were pulled from the ground floor of their collapsed apartment building in Bhuj where they had been trapped in their kitchen and had enough food and water to survive, reported Reuters, the British news agency.

Sean Callahan, Catholic Relief Services' regional director for South Asia, said trauma counseling and long-term reconstruction assistance will be needed.

In a Feb. 1 telephone interview from CRS headquarters in Baltimore, Callahan said, "There are a lot of people that have been really affected by trauma of loss of all family," as well as "parents who have heard ... their children go silent or crying underneath (the rubble), and they couldn't help them."



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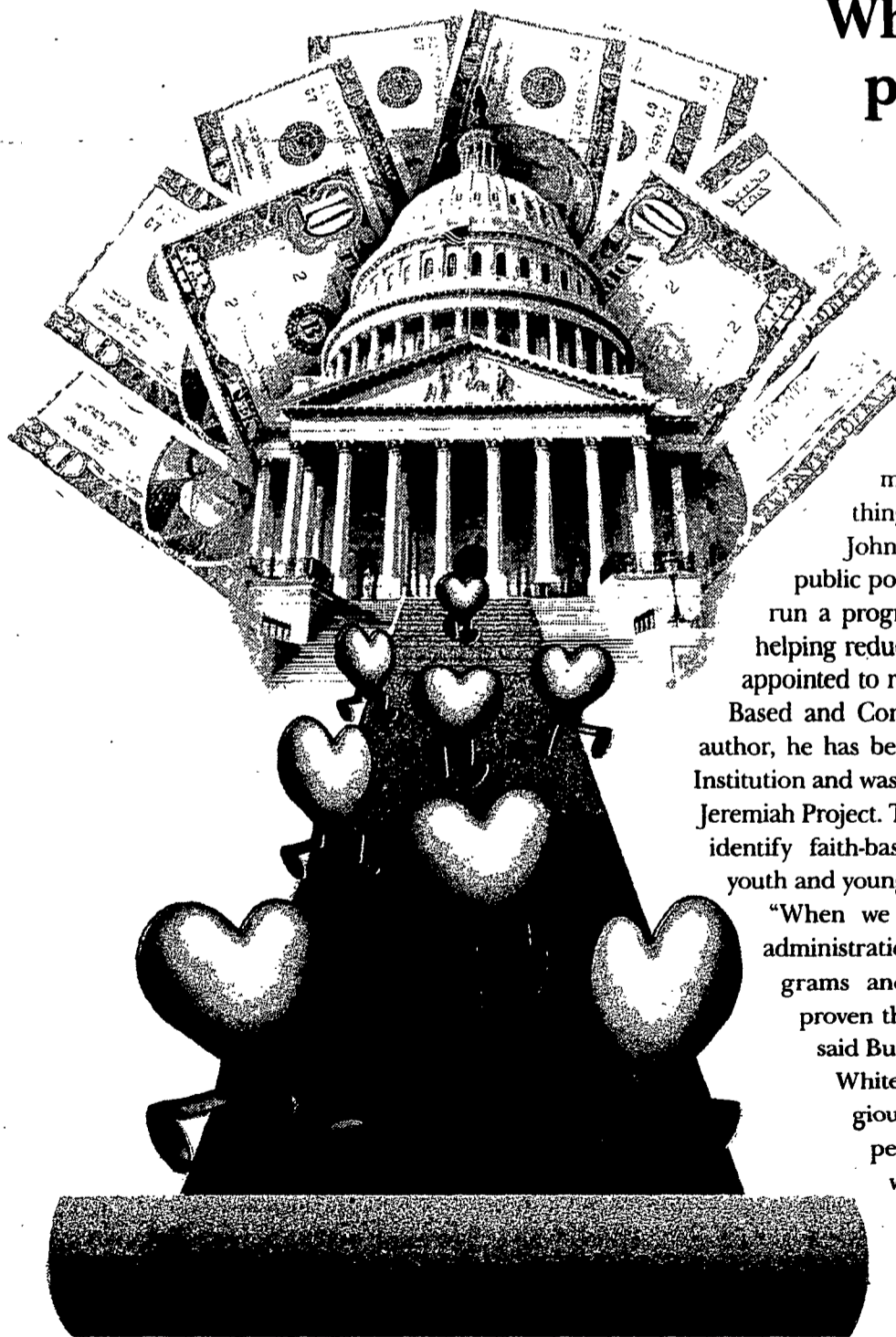
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Faith-based office announced



Linda Jeanne Rivers

White House taps people who lead 'with hearts'

The White House and five federal agencies will each have an office dedicated to helping faith-based and community organizations work with the government to provide social services under a plan announced Jan. 29 by President Bush. Since the announcement the program has drawn everything from high praise to condemnation. John DiIulio, a University of Pennsylvania public policy professor who helped create and run a program in Boston that is credited with helping reduce youth homicide in the 1990s, was appointed to run the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. A Catholic and author, he has been a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and was director of the Manhattan Institute's Jeremiah Project. That program was founded in 1998 to identify faith-based programs that help inner-city youth and young adults.

"When we see social needs in America, my administration will look first to faith-based programs and community groups which have proven their power to save and change lives," said Bush in announcing the program at the White House. "We will not fund the religious activities of any group, but when people of faith provide social services, we will not discriminate against them."

As outlined in his executive order, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives would establish policies, priorities and objectives for the federal government to "enlist, enable,

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