

Congregations from bomb-damaged churches join on Palm Sunday

■ **BOMBING:** Patrol cars and mounted sheriff's deputies led the procession of palm bearers

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Hundreds of worshipers whose churches were damaged in the federal building bombing carried palm fronds to a makeshift chapel near the blast site for a Palm Sunday service.

"We are determined that evil will not

triumph over good," said Rev. Nick Harris as worshipers huddled together in the 37-degree chill, waving palm fronds and shouting "Amen!"

The April 19, 1995 bombing damaged several churches in the blocks surrounding the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The First Methodist Church and St. Joseph's Cathedral, which stand immediately east and west of the bomb site, were the worst hit.

The Roman Catholic cathedral was restored, but Harris said he plans to build a new, larger church that will incorporate the parking lot now occupied by the Heartland Chapel.

"That is our commitment to this corner, to this place," Harris said, pointing to the razed bombing site.

The multi-denominational chapel, which has been a magnet for sightseers, is simply a small roof held up by posts.

Benches surround a plain altar that held teddy bears, flowers and small American flags at Sunday's service.

Patrol cars and mounted Oklahoma County Sheriff's deputies led the parade in a nine-block procession from St. Luke's Methodist Church to the chapel.

As the group passed the bombing site, cheerful conversations were muted out of respect for the 169 people killed in the blast.

Mutant gene linked with heart disease, adult diabetes

■ **RESEARCH:** The gene in its altered form appears to inhibit the conversion of certain fats to energy

DALLAS (AP) — Researchers say they have found a gene that for the first time can be directly associated with coronary artery disease and adult diabetes.

The study "opens wider the possibility of genetic testing to assess a person's risk profile more specifically," Dr. Xing Li Wang and his colleagues said.

Their report appears in today's edition of the journal *Circulation*, published by the Dallas-based American Heart Association.

The gene targeted by the research is a mutant or changed form of one that tells the body how to make an enzyme that turns fats in the bloodstream into a source of energy.

In the study of 475 men and women, people carrying the mutant gene were 1.73 times more likely to have coronary arteries blocked by fatty deposits, reported Wang and Drs. D.E.L. Wilcken and R.M. McCredia.

Carriers of the gene also were three times more likely to develop diabetes as adults.

The degree of coexistence of the gene with the two diseases "was far more than that by chance alone," the authors wrote.

However, Wang said further study is needed.

The findings, while "not a breakthrough," do provide a starting point for further exploration of the link between genetics and heart disease and adult-onset diabetes, said Dr. Abhimanyu Garg. He is a professor of internal medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

Garg emphasized that increasing evidence of a genetic link makes it important that carriers of suspect genes control known risk factors such as a high-cholesterol diet, obesity and physical inactivity.

"We can't take an approach, 'Well, it is all in the genes, what can we do?'" Garg said.

The study was conducted in the Cardiovascular Genetics Laboratory of Prince Henry Hospital, Sydney, Australia.

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