Camera one has the anchor two-shot. The microphone checks are good. "30 seconds!" The show opens just as expected. Scripts in hand, the anchors look confident and ready. The studio crew relays director cues from the control room with precision and authority. "Open is up. Stand by.

Such a scene unfolds in hundreds of commercial television stations every day. But this is also happening on the campus of Union University.

The 30-minute news program airs at noon each weekday during the academic year on EPlusTV 6 in Jackson. The channel, which scores of people were identified who came to water damage that destroyed most of the existing equipment.

Given the industry’s move to digital, high-definition television, it was prudent to replace the damaged analog, standard-definition cameras and equipment with the latest technology. The move is thought to make Union University the only fully high-definition collegiate broadcast facility in Tennessee, and the only one of its kind in the Southeast.

Juliana Robbins and Matthew Kuchem anchored the first Jackson 24/7 broadcast in late October. President David S. Dockery was the first guest interviewed on the new set. Prior to launching the program, students rehearsed their roles as anchors, studio crew and control room leaders.

Union marks first anniversary of the Feb. 5 tornado

A remarkable recovery from tornado damage left the Union University community thankful – both for God’s providence and for those who helped the university in many different ways during the past year. A special service at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson was designed for both expressions of thanksgiving.

The event, titled "Remembering February 5: An Evening of Thanksgiving," included a moment of silence at 7:02 p.m., the precise time the tornado touched down on campus one year earlier.

"It was one of the darkest nights in Union history, but there have been so many good days since," said Union University President President David S. Dockery. "We’ve learned that God can take actions that seem so bad to us and use them for redemptive good.

The event featured a dinner and a worship service with a 250-voice community choir, 10-piece orchestra, Scripture readings and a new video chronicling Union’s progress in the past 12 months.

About 1,700 attended the service, in which scores of people were identified who helped with Union’s recovery and rebuilding efforts. "From the bottom of our hearts, we want you to know of our deep, deep gratitude,” Dockery said.

But the renewal and restoration hasn’t just taken place to the physical campus, Dockery said. It has taken place in the lives of Union students, faculty, staff and trustees as well.

"One of the big things for me has been understanding what God’s presence really looks like in my life,” said Courtney Bragg, a junior from Birmingham, Ala. "There are times, I think, in everybody’s life when we don’t necessarily understand what God’s doing in the circumstances. We don’t understand how he’s working or where he is. But we know that he’s there.”

For Kevin Furniss, a senior from Bartlett, Tenn., the last year has given him a renewed appreciation for life. Furniss was trapped for three hours in a collapsed building after the tornado strike and at a renewed appreciation for life. Furniss was trapped for three hours in a collapsed building after the tornado strike and at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson just a few miles away.

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