

Gustav to Ike

I left Baton Rouge on Saturday and arrived in the southern end of Houston, Texas at 10pm. It was odd to be in such a large city and not see any lights-the whole city was in darkness because of the storm. There are five million people without electricity! We woke up Sunday morning to find that the damage was pretty bad. The biggest needs are electricity, ice, and gas. The wind had ripped the roofing off down to the plywood on many homes. This allowed water to leak into the homes, so many people are dealing with water damage too. We tarped two roofs and helped an older guy remove a tree from his property.

Meanwhile, Gary from Mercy Chefs set up in Beaumont, Texas. I packed up this (Monday) morning and headed out to join him as we had previously arranged. On my way out, I felt the Lord leading me to go back to the neighborhood where we had worked on Sunday to give out some food and water that I had on the truck. I did so relectantly becasue I was low on gas. As I was turning around in a cul-de-sac, I saw a couple in their seventies working in their yard. I offered them some water and discovered that they were trying to cut a tree down by hand. It was a blessing to be able to help them with the chainsaw.

After that, I warily got on the road, watching the gas gauge. All the stations I had seen so far were jammed with lines. Waiting in those lines is a waste of gas, and often, the gas station runs out of gas while you are still waiting for your turn. I started praying. I was also getting hungry for lunch! The light came on just as I passed an exit where the lines didn't seem too long, so I took a chance and got in line. There were only a few people ahead of me and the attendant said there was plenty of gas. The station had just received a shipment of gas and so that is why the line was so short. The station also had a BBQ place-just what I was in the mood for! God is good!

I reached Beaumont about 2pm. We started cooking right away. Gary staged his mobile kitchen near where the Texas Park and Wildlife game warderns were staying. These people there are all first responders/search and rescue teams. They rescued fifty people today. They hadn't had a good meal since the hurricane, so they were very glad to see us. We served 380 meals and will do breakfast and dinner tomorrow.

Thank you for all your prayers. Please continue to hold us up in prayer before the Lord.