

Hurricane Gustav 5

We are still in Baton Rouge, but have moved across the street to Streams of Life Church, where there is electricity, air conditioning, and hot water. We have connected with a ministry that I have been trying to "find" for the last couple of days. I had contacted Charles Atkins of D.I.R.T. Ministries before I left Florida. He was not able to join us, but he gave me the name of a guy from Operation Compassion and suggested I meet up with him. It turns out that the whole time I was trying to find him, he was right across the street! Making this connection is a huge blessing. The church has plenty of warehouse space, Operation Outreach has sent trucks of supplies, and Bridge of Hope has set up a distribution center out of the church. The distribution center will be a means of finding out and meeting the needs of the residents here. Brady is going to plug right in and cook using the supplies from the center. He will be providing hot meals for volunteers and the community through the weekend.

We spent today in various activities- assessing damage and needs, clearing trees and debris on the church property, and doing some chainsaw and debris removal work. Matt went to get gas, which took about three hours (partly because when it was time to pay, the power was shut off in order to switch from generator power to street power). Tomorrow we will team up with people from Streams of Life Church and send out chainsaw and debris removal crews.

We met up with a group from Calvary Chapel Biloxi today. They brought in food and supplies. They are delivering these items to the different areas that have been affected by the storm. CCBiloxi brought hamburgers and buns, which is exactly what we need for the outreach we are having tomorrow night in Pastor Mitch's (CC Baton Rouge) neighborhood. We hope to meet with residents to assess needs and of course share the love of Jesus. Pray for opportunities.

June and Sandy arrived yesterday (Wed) and went to St. Bernard's Parish with Gary LeBlanc. They started working at 5a.m. and did not stop until 9 p.m. They served about 1900 meals. Gary said they did a great job and seemed to really enjoy it. The area they are in does not have a lot of damage, but because St. Bernard's receives power from areas that have been hit hard, the power is out and there is no estimate of when it will be back on. In Baton Rouge, authorities are saying three to four weeks before the majority of power is restored.

Continue to pray that the Lord would lead us to divine appointments. Pray that our team would have a spirit of unity and brotherly love. Lord bless!

Curt

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