

Hurricane Gustav 6

Hello from Baton Rouge! I finally have email, praise God! A special thanks to my wife, Mary Jo, as I've been giving her the info over the phone and she's been sending you all the updates, she did a great job and stayed up late to make it happen, love you honey!

We've been very busy and truly blessed! Matt left on Friday, so I was left without a helper. Brady and Bubba, from Plano CC, did an awesome job cooking some grub for us and some of the residents, but they needed to take off to prepare for Ike which looks like it's headed to Texas, at least that's what all the reputable computer models show. It was great to be in their company once again and they were missed by many after they left on Saturday morning!

We've been bunking at River of Life Church. They have an awesome ministry of warehousing and distributing goods to needy people, especially during a disaster. They've been more than accomodating to me. There are 2 guys from Operation Outreach/Bridge of Hope who've been working here distributing supplies that they brought along with items sent by God's Pit Crew, Operation Compassion and Feed the Children. It's been a blessing hanging with them.

There are also 6 Chaplains from the Church of God Chaplaincy Ministry and these folks have taken me in as one of theirs! I've worked alongside of them before and they are just awesome folks and really love to serve the Lord. Three of them went with me on Friday night to do the feeding outreach with CC Baton Rouge, then two of them went with me to cut trees and haul debris on Saturday and then four of them went with me on Sunday! They have not only been a huge blessing to me, but a big help. God always provides!

We went to a poorer neighborhood on the other side of town to work on on home that needed a tree cut on Saturday, we ended up working there Sunday as well. One of the ladies who attends CC BR needed a tree cut so we started with her and ended up doing four more homes. It was great having the Chaplains along as I could keep busy and there was always someone to talk to and minister to the people. So many of them are just in tears as you do the work for them! We've been passing out Bibles, tracts, Pastor Carl's teaching CD's with the Salvation message on them, worship CD's from CC Meritt Island, thanks guys and Jesus bracelets to the kids. Sunday morning we had church at Dixie's house, the CC lady, before we started working and she made us a light breakfast. There was one local guy and a neighborhood boy who joined us. I lead Worship and then did a small Bible Study.

We got to go out to dinner last night but they were real short on help and it took forever, but we had fun!

Today I was joined by a young man from Texas who was looking for something to do. We managed to do tree work in three yards and tarped two houses, but he won't be back anymore.

Electricity has come back in a lot of areas. The area I was in today is still without power. A lot of businesses are open including gas and grocery stores. Gas lines are about back to normal, but stores are still lining up and supplies are low, especially as these people get ready for Ike. Gustav was not supposed to hit this area and it's a mess so they aren't taking any chances this time.

It looks as if I'm headed to Houma, LA tomorrow after I find an open laundry mat and get loaded. A group from CC Costa Mesa is pulling in there tonight. The town is slowly getting services back, but needs quite a lot of help and supplies. I'll be taking in some tarps, sticks, nails, etc along with food, water and other supplies that will be provided by the ministry where I'm staying. I'll pack as much as I can into my truck and trailer. It's a 2 1/2 hour ride down. I don't know if I'll stay or come back so I'll probably pack to go and see what the Lord does from there.

There's still a lot of work to be done here, and there will be for some time. If I didn't need to bring supplies down, I'd probably just stay here, but they'll be able to do more if I can get down with some things for them.

When I head back is still up in the air, I've got some work to attend to and then see what else I need to do relief wise. Even if no more storms come this year, there's a lot to do and I know God wants me helping!

Continue to keep the victims of all these storms in your prayers and don't forget those folks in places like Haiti that's been hit by three storms this year and has had much of the area simply washed away.

Pray for us to be open to what God wants us to do and for safety in all we do. Pray for our families who are home without us and that the Lord would meet all of our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus!

If you feel led to help support what we are doing, please go to <http://calvarychapelsarasota.com/306287.ihtml>.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. If I end up in Houma for a while, communication will be down again so I'll relay what I can when I can.