Hurricane Harvey 8/29/17 to 9/8/17
There were 10 of us who left Tuesday afternoon heading towards New Braunfels. Spent the night there at Bobbie Thele's house and continued on towards Katy the next morning. Wednesday at noon we arrive at Kingsland BC and no electricity, no food, no facilities, and no Red Cross. By 6:00 the feeding unit from Alvin comes in. There are workers from the church helping everyone set up, electricity is in, shower/laundry unit is being set up and things are starting to come together. Trucks with food start arriving, Red Cross is delivering cambros by the 100's, and porta potties are set up. Time to start washing.

It takes a lot to get everything ready and everyone pitching in where ever the need arises. Our first meal should be cooked and ready to go out on Thursday. At this point our crew has grown to 12.

A mountain of goods and it has to be taken off the trucks, inventoried, made accessible, like items placed together and some restacked back on the trucks. There were times when things have gotten lost.

Still moving crates of food around by the light of the setting sun. It took 4 of our team from dawn to dusk to handle the amount of food and supplies everyday.

Food transferred to the cooks by forklift. Food preparation, the actual cooking, transfer the food to the Cambros and then placed out for Red Cross to pick up and deliver.

Each step took coordination, team effort, and a willingness to stay with the job. On a day to day operation we served as little as 4,000 meals to start off with to as much as 10,000 meals. The first team was there for 11 days and we believe God was moving because we could see his fingerprints on everything that was happening.

Most of these Cambros will be filled with food, delivered and served to the neighborhoods trying to get out from under the flood waters, returned for washing and the cycle repeated again. We were doing a service but we noticed something else.

The church members came out to help, most of them were effected by the hurricane but they came. The youth came most days at 2:00 to wash the noon Cambros, others came at 7:00 to wash the evening Cambros. There were many times we had 25 people running two wash lines working their way through the mountain of dirty Cambros. Young families with children 3 and 6; Dad, Mom, and children washing Cambros. Did anyone really notice?

Yes, in a big way. Not only did the church seem to be growing together but became more active. Stories from others say a lot of people have noticed this church and have said “this is the kind of church I want to be a part of”. There are a lot of stories to tell and you can see God’s hand in them.

I am excited to hear the stories that team 2 has, what they have seen and experienced.

The cooking team started working at 6:00 in the morning. Setting up the kitchen, wash station, pulling out the equipment, and finding the food items for todays meals. The morning starts with clear skies and a heavy dew on everything.

After the first week the Alvin cooking team leaves. A new team is expected to come in and take their place soon. Our replacements will be coming in by the end of the week, we are all very tired. We also feel blessed, the evening meal and time that we share what has happened in the day has special meaning.

The area is expecting a 30% chance of rain today. I wonder what that means for this area?

The day progresses without any major problems. After the last meals are sent out and the kitchen area is cleaned, items put up and secure; then it is time to sit and reflect on the day and give thanks.

This is a special time as the evening cools and all is quiet.

I still don't know what 30% chance of rain means. Maybe it just means passing clouds.

Wrong, it seams that 30% chance of rain means about 1 1/2 inches of rain in a couple of hours.

These guys are finishing making a special desert for the evening meal and it is raining cats and dogs.

A good meal, share and prayer time, shower and get ready for bed.

God has blessed us this day.

The second team has arrived, but they break down just a few feet from the curb. That bus is not going anywhere, it needs to be hauled to a mechanic to be fixed. But God got them here safe and sound and tomorrow we leave for home after being away for 11 days. Some of the second teams stories will be told in the next newsletter.

NBC news from Boston was in our area and did a little story on what TBM and others were doing in Houston. Just click on the link below or copy and paste the address to your web browser; it will bring up TBM facebook site and the video will be right on top, click it to start the video. Yes you have to watch a commercial first.

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