

Hurricane Laura Trip Summary

Departed Thursday, September 3 @ 7:30 a.m. (Ten hours)

Returned Monday, September 7 @ 7:30 p.m.

Accommodations and Contact:

Brian Spicer

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort Rep.

former Minister at Maplewood COC in Sulphur, La

1-337-263-3054

Travel Team:

Andrew Noles, Denny Parker, Sam Parker, Haley Parker, Tim Kitts

Brief Summary

Sulphur and Lake Charles are about 30 miles from the coast. They sustained tremendous tree damage and loss of power. The coast lost power, tree damage and storm surge flooding. Power was being restored in many areas and some areas never lost power. Several gas stations were open and so were fast food and Lowes. National guard was stationed strategically in all areas.

Team Jenks, Will from Spring Hill COC in TN and Dennis from CCDRE out of Mo. All worked together primarily on Chris and Bailey's home and Brian Spicer's home. The other volunteers either served as cooks, handled the distribution center or sat in the church dining hall and chatted all day.

Friday, September 4 the temperature was a true 104. It nearly wiped us out.

We gave the congregation \$1000 cash and Chris and Bailey would only accept \$200. The remainder of the \$2000 was for expenses. We returned \$570 to the church. All items for the trip were generally purchased with the church credit card from Wal Mart, Lowes and Home Depot. I will be returning items not used. Also, those items purchased and utilized will be stored for future trips.

Lord's Work

Between work sessions Tim walked the streets knocking on doors and sharing with people and inviting them to Sunday morning worship at Maplewood COC.

Several sojourners from various parts of the country gravitated to our group and joined us in work, travel and sharing. Cookie is a paramedic from Sulphur who immediately took to Sam. We all were able to share the gospel with her and she came to worship service and joined us in labor clearing debris.

Gerard came to eat with us and we were able to share the gospel with him. He came because we cleared trees from his yard.

The big connection was with Brian's neighbors, Kris and Bailey. They had a son born during the hurricane. They received photos from Brian of the devastation to their first home. They had saved money to fix up the babies' room and the yard, the roof and the rooms were all damaged by the storm.

We cleared the yard, patched and tarped the roof, tore out dry wall and cleaned the house. They would only accept \$200 in assistance, although we know they needed more. The door was truly open to Brian to share with them the gospel beyond what we did. Kris kept asking, "Why are you doing this for us?" We were consistent with our answer, "Because of the love of Christ." He told me he definitely wanted to study the Word of the Lord and he was never so moved in his while life. He just kept breaking down. I forwarded a text from his wife to Daniel and he can share it at your request.

Work to be done

Yes, there will be months of work at the church property, the neighborhood surrounding the church and in Brian's neighborhood. Chain sawing, cleaning of homes, dry wall removal, debris removal from yards, bobcat and tractor work. More trips are definitely warranted and Brian requested we return.

DRT

They have food, shower trailers, toilet trailers on hand at Boulevard COC 9 miles from Maplewood COC. We used daily.

Maplewood COC

They had food ready for breakfast, lunch and dinner. No current full-time preacher. Various men provide the message each Sunday. The youth room can sleep up to 20 and has generator supported AC.