

the RESTORE report

Greetings from Southeast Texas! As time change approaches, the weather warms, and Spring is in the air, I wanted to let everyone know the details of what life has looked like for us over the winter. Our Hurricane Harvey response has been keeping us about as busy as we can be, and we have seen God bless both the efforts of those of us serving here in Southeast Texas and the prayer and financial support of our RMI family around the country.

To date we have worked in the homes of seven different families affected by flooding here in the Beaumont area of Texas. These projects have ranged from full reconstruction and remodel to assisting families who were repairing their own homes by taking over one or two aspects that they were unable to complete on their own such as sheetrock finishing, electrical, plumbing, etc. It is difficult to communicate in a letter how many people's homes were flooded here. Depending on who you talk to, this area received nearly 5 feet of rain over 3 or 4 days of a stalled Hurricane Harvey. Homes were flooded that were nowhere near a body of water, and in many instances, the sea walls and protection levees that ordinarily protect the coastal communities here from tropical storms actually served to trap water inside the cities as the rainfall collected and tried to drain itself into the ocean and rivers.



Early in January, we changed our focus from repairing homes to what is more of our usual response to a natural disaster. Vidor, TX, is a town of about 15,000 people just across the Sabine River from Beaumont. Over half the people in this town were flooded from Harvey. Our phone calls after the storm to our friends and contacts here directed us to Victory Bible Baptist Church in Vidor. After visiting the facilities and meeting the pastor, we prayerfully decided that this would be the major project RMI would involve itself in for our Harvey response. For the last 2 months, we have worked almost exclusively on this project and we are nearing completion on the auditorium, Sunday school rooms, kitchen and fellowship hall, nurseries, bathrooms, and offices. We have worked side by side almost every day with Pastor Green and several members. I believe of all the projects Restore has done over the last 12 years, this one has had the most personal involvement by the pastor and members on a daily basis. We have become friends and co-workers, and as of this Sunday, "associate members".

Upon completion of the buildings we have been working on, the next step is to begin working on the parsonage/missions home here on the property, as well as the gymnasium. The gymnasium is a simple steel building and repair will be simple and inexpensive to complete. The house, however, will be about a \$25,000 project. We have already gutted, dried, re-insulated, and re-sheet rocked the house, and 2 of the churches that support RMI have joined together to bring 10 or 15 men on a construction missions trip to work on the home in mid-April. Temple Baptist, Fort Worth and Calvary Baptist, Grand Prarie, have been monthly financial supporters for years and we are looking forward to working together next month on this project.



Some of the monies needed to complete the house are in hand, but we need to raise the rest very quickly. No matter how much we have raised, or how many projects we have done, it always seems that there are always more needs and opportunities to serve than there is time, energy, or funds.

Our supporters have been generous in their Harvey response, and God has taken that generosity and stretched it to do amazing things here in Southeast Texas. I need to raise \$10,000 to \$12,000 in the next 30 days to complete the Victory home. I realize Hurricane Harvey was a long time ago, but I believe if we all reach out one more time to show our love and concern, God will provide this need this month.

Finally, I want to convey my gratitude to those of you who support RMI monthly and to those of you who have supported our Harvey response specifically. At last count, only about 25% of the people who have been displaced from their homes have been able to move back in and have their lives return to normal. In some ways, our few homes and single church facility that God has allowed us to impact is such a small part of the massive need here. It is, however, amazing to see God's people from around the country – most who have never, nor will ever meet those affected by Harvey here – come together to show the love of Christ to our brothers and sisters and to those searching for meaning and direction in this troubled world. Thanks for all you do. Talk to you soon.

In His Service,

Greg Rife

Founder and Director of RMI

