

A man wearing a yellow t-shirt, a black bandana with a paisley pattern, and a teal N95 respirator mask is holding a large wooden sign. He is also wearing blue work gloves. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

TBM TODAY

STORIES OF TEXANS ON MISSION

TBM FLOOD RECOVERY TEAMS:

First responders
meet needs in Texas
and Kentucky | **pg. 4**



Builders teams partner with Baptist convention in Paraguay

In an exciting new venture for TBM Builders, six volunteers embarked July 16 on a unique two-week construction project and ministry opportunity in Paraguay.

Itacuribí, a town about 55 miles from Paraguay's capital Ascunción, is home to a conference center owned by the Baptist Evangelical Convention of Paraguay where churches can host camps and retreats.

Most recently, the center welcomed 11 pastors to its campus for an intensive 13-week theological training program. Upon completion, students earn a degree and are well-equipped for pastoral leadership in their hometowns.



Many students travel from afar and need lodging to stay each night of the week. The Paraguay convention asked TBM Builders to help with construction of a new six-bedroom, six-bathroom dormitory for incoming students.

Due to climate differences, the building process in Paraguay looks much different than it does in the United States, said Camp Builders Coordinator Larry Quinn. "Buildings in Paraguay are mostly brick and cement. Very little wood is used because the climate is so humid; the wood does not last very long," Quinn explained.

Like most TBM projects, the construction work was only part of the team's mission.

"We had dual goals for this trip," Quinn said. "First to

be workers for Christ and secondly to model the spirit of Christ by encouraging the students at the pastor/leader school and others around us as we worked."

As a fluent Spanish speaker, retired plumber and current pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in San Diego, Texas, Sonny Garza communicated well with the students, most of whom were younger than him and just beginning their ministries.

"I was telling them the mistakes that I have made in 25 years of ministry so that they wouldn't have to make them," Garza explained. "I feel that in talking and sharing work together that we all became closer, and they were encouraged."

Longtime Camp Builders volunteer Jim Nance said while the team sought to encourage the pastors and model servant-heartedness, he was inspired by their enthusiasm for ministry.

"It was so encouraging to see them and the excitement they have for the Lord and doing his work," he said. "It was just great talking to them and seeing the joy that was in them and how they're dedicated to go wherever the Lord leads." **TBM**



TBM expanding global water ministry

TBM is expanding its efforts to bring clean and safe water to communities around the world. Mitch Chapman, added to the staff this year, will lead this more robust effort.

“Clean water is essential to health and development, and TBM is focusing on increasing its efforts to bring both physical and spiritual water to more and more people,” said Mickey Lenamon, TBM executive director / CEO. “This is a big undertaking, but we believe God has called us to this effort and that our supporters will make it possible.”

Chapman brings years of experience in operational management and church service to his new role leading TBM Water. He has served several churches in pastoral roles, mostly in the Ennis area, where he and his wife, Brandy, live.



Besides previously owning an industrial safety company, Chapman spent seven years as operations manager for an oilfield services firm. In that latter work, he did much that will transfer to his TBM Water efforts – strategic planning, managing funds, doing cost analyses, leading workers and expanding operations.

“TBM Water’s goal is to create a system by which we can change people’s lives for generations,” Chapman said. “We aim to make a physical and spiritual impact in communities around the world.”

Chapman and TBM leadership are now in the process of determining the most effective locations in which to focus their efforts. He said TBM Water will use four main areas of ministry – water wells, health and hygiene, skills for financial independence and water filtration with opportunities for people of all skill levels to serve. **TBM**

Where God calls, He leads



Fifty-five years ago, Hurricane Beulah devastated the Rio Grande Valley. Large areas were flooded. People lost their homes and everything they owned almost overnight.

TBM dispatched Bob Dixon to the area to help however he could. God provided him some Buddy Burners, glorified camping candles. And God worked through Bob to provide meals for hundreds as well as prayer and encouragement for many more.

That first deployment was a step of faith. The early TBM leaders would tell you they didn’t know how it would go or how it would work out. They simply felt called to respond to the need.

Those acts of service formed the foundation of what would eventually become a nationwide network of partners that would comprise the third largest disaster relief network in the nation. The Texans designed new equipment for the work. These developments began as a dream and sketch on a napkin. They also created different types of disaster relief ministries: feeding, chainsaw, shower/laundry and more. Those pioneers trained church leaders in nearly every other state in disaster relief principles.

That desire to faithfully follow God’s call wherever it may be still permeates TBM ministry today.

In the past few weeks, our Kentucky partners requested a laundry unit after significant flooding there. By the time the first TBM volunteers arrived, local leaders discovered the need was far greater. TBM deployed shower, flood recovery, feeding, incident management and chaplain teams to the area. God honored TBM’s willingness to respond to His call by opening up hundreds of ministry opportunities.

Fifty-five years have passed. But God is still leading. He is still transforming lives. Thank you for responding to God’s call to serve. Together, we serve in the name of Christ.

Mickey B. Lenamon
TBM Executive Director/CEO



TBM FLOOD RECOVERY TEAMS:

First responders meet needs in Texas and Kentucky

Close to home and many miles away, TBM Disaster Relief once again came to the aid of flood victims in the summer of 2022. First, the rains came to eastern Kentucky, and then a storm sent waters rising into homes in the Dallas area. As always, the clean up takes longer, and TBM volunteers came alongside the flood victims to help restore their homes and their lives.

'God's vehicles': Texas Baptist Men respond to Dallas flooding

Words sometimes surprise. "God's vehicles. That's God coming right there," said a man in the Dallas suburb of Balch Springs when he saw trucks from TBM. "I see those vehicles; I see God coming to help us."

TBM flood recovery team leader Art Brandenburg related that encounter from Aug. 26 when the team arrived after a deluge of flood hit the community.

The man who saw God coming in the TBM vehicles worked with his siblings to clear damage from the home of their father, a senior citizen with medical issues.

"I met with his adult children. So we've been visiting with them and finding out what their needs are and trying to help them out where we can," Brandenburg told Baptist Press. "We're here because we feel like God called us to be





TBM volunteers begin each day with prayer, and God gives them the strength to serve. He carries them through long, hot days of hard work.

here. We get up in the morning, we don't know where we're going. We just go where God sends us."

Brandenburg led the flood recovery team of 15 men in the first response to the flooding from the 1,000-year rainfall that befell Dallas/Fort Worth Aug. 21-22, dumping 9 inches of rain in a 24-hour period.

TBM deployed additional flood recovery teams in the heavily populated area of North Texas inundated with water, TBM Director Relief Director David Wells said.

TBM responded on the heels of DR volunteers from Texas helping address more extensive flooding in Kentucky and Missouri over several days in late July and into August.

About 200 homes flooded in the Dallas/Fort Worth area with one death, according to news reports. In eastern Kentucky, the death toll is at 39; with two deaths in St. Louis, Mo.

More than 120 TBM volunteers deployed to the Dallas area flood and worked to clean 69 structures during the 15-day effort. In addition to physical work, TBM chaplains

joined the effort, and all volunteers distributed 82 Bibles and recorded 21 professions of faith.

Many of the TBM volunteers worked in both Kentucky and Dallas, but they were still "excited to come in," Wells said.

TBM's response to the Dallas flooding began Aug. 24 with assessment and distribution of free boxes and packing materials through two TBM box unit trailers. Flood recovery units then began removing damaged flooring, drywall and appliances, and treating the cleaned areas to prevent the growth of mold, all at no cost to the homeowners.

Wells, who retired from the pastorate of Sandy Baptist Church in Hillsboro, Mo., before serving with TBM, said he has seen God work through disaster relief ministry for decades. "I've seen through the years that DR is really the hands and feet of Jesus," Wells told Baptist Press. He has seen the impact in the changed lives of both volunteers and the people they serve. "Through that, it changed my life in that of helping others, and being those hands and feet of the Lord."

Down and dirty

Whether serving in Dallas (top) or in Kentucky (bottom right), TBM volunteers weren't afraid to get dirty to help people in need. They worked in mud-filled basements and water-soaked living rooms to help people recover from floods.



Replacing the hurt with hope: TBM volunteers pull long hours to meet needs after Kentucky floods

Chelsea has two children and another set to arrive any day now. That's enough to keep anyone busy. Then several feet of mud and river water poured into her home.

Neighbors rallied around her to help, but the task was simply too large to tackle. "We prayed for someone to help."

Then a group of Texans in yellow shirts arrived. In one long, grueling, mud-soaked day, the TBM flood recovery team removed all the drenched sheetrock, flooring and furniture from Chelsea's home to make it ready to rebuild.

"God answered the prayer of a neighbor," said Jerry Hall, who led the team that worked on Chelsea's house. "We came in and did the house today. We're praying everything will be OK moving forward."

At least 37 people died in widespread flooding across Eastern Kentucky in August, and many people have lost everything they owned. The economically challenged region also has one of the lowest rates of flood insurance in the nation, compounding difficulties as homeowners try to claw out of the predicament.

"When a disaster hits, people are in positions they can't get out of on their own," said David Wells, TBM Disaster Relief director. "TBM volunteers come alongside families like Chelsea's to accelerate the recovery process. Christ



calls us to help the hurting, and that's exactly what we're doing in Kentucky."

TBM flood recovery teams saved thousands of dollars for every family they served. They also lifted spirits as they went house to house. Volunteers talked to people, empowering them to mentally, emotionally and spiritually unpack the trauma they've experienced.

One woman shared that she woke up to several feet of water in her house. She, her husband and son swam down the street to safety. Another woman tried desperately to save her horse but was unable to do so.

When the opportunity arose, TBM volunteers offered to pray with people. They distributed 70 Bibles and shared about God's love.

"People are in shock," Wells said. "They've lost everything and are struggling with what to do next. TBM volunteers are providing the help they need to replace the hurt with hope."

Sometimes that meant cleaning out a flooded home. Other times, it was as simple as doing a load of laundry for someone who can't because their wash machine no

longer works. A TBM laundry unit ran 4 a.m.-11 p.m. each day as volunteers washed, dried and folded loads of clothes and blankets for free that came in drenched with water and covered in mud.

Some people brought trash bags full of items to be washed. Others brought several bags. One family brought an entire truck bed of clothes.

"They show up in disbelief," said Sid Riley, a TBM volunteer on the laundry team. "They want to know how much it costs. They can't believe it's free. ... They're very grateful."

TBM flood recovery, shower, laundry, feeding and chaplain teams served for weeks in Eastern Kentucky.

"When there's a need, TBM volunteers seek to meet it," Wells said. They stepped up again in Kentucky, "transforming lives in the name of Christ." **TBM**

BELOW: In the Jackson, Ky., area, downpours of rain filled homes with up to four feet of water in many places. Homes that had never flooded were overwhelmed by water. TBM volunteers helped homeowners put their lives back together.



A group of Texans in yellow shirts arrived. In one long, grueling, mud-soaked day, the TBM flood recovery team removed all the drenched sheetrock, flooring and furniture from Chelsea's home to make it ready to rebuild.



Yellow

is the color of service

TBM volunteers often wear yellow for very practical reasons. It's bright, which makes the volunteers easy to spot by people in need. It catches attention, which promotes safety in challenging situations. It sends a message, Jesus followers are on the scene.

In the midst of this sea of yellow, you're there, too. Your prayer and financial support make it possible for TBM volunteers to transform lives. Some people can give what the world would say is a large amount. Others faithfully give smaller amounts that are equally important.

All gifts propel service in the name of Christ.

TBM Disaster Relief this year has made a difference

49,589
hours served

3,100+ Number of people ministered to

2,394
loads of laundry washed, dried and folded for free

39
led to Christ

TEXANS ON MISSION





TBM came quickly to aid Uvalde & came back to help some more

Violence interrupted an otherwise ordinary spring day in a Uvalde elementary school, and the crisis lasted a chaotic 74 minutes. As parents of the students waited for details, TBM chaplains waited with them. Then the crushing news came.

The unimaginable became suddenly real, with 19 children and two teachers dying at the gunman's hands. Trauma, however, continues long after a shocking event. TBM has been there in the weeks since the tragedy, as well.

Shortly after the shootings, TBM Chaplain Sonny Garza said, "The city is in shock, in mourning." Garza was one of four TBM chaplains ministering in Uvalde while the tragedy unfolded. They worked alongside law enforcement and churches, to help people work through their initial emotions, as well as offering to pray with them.

Less than two months later, 130 miles to the north, electric candles illuminated a gathering at Camp Menard. Parents, grandparents and children came together for a solemn time, with a candle representing each person who had been killed. They shared words of remembrance and hope, often between tears.

The scene occurred during Camp Menard's Family Camp. Made possible by TBM and Buckner International, specially-trained counselors worked with the Uvalde families to help them work through what they experienced and gave parents and grandparents tools to help children.

"I know it helped," said Josh Hernandez, who works at the camp. "For those who came, it was a very good thing."

The camp provided an opportunity for the families to step away from Uvalde for a few days for a time of respite, including some time for fun and happiness. Each day at home, residents are reminded in a million different ways of

the events surrounding the shooting. Children and parents are struggling with how to talk about their experiences. Children continue to have nightmares. Some of the students talked about the shooting for the first time during the camp.

"We hope that while they were here for the week that they were able to relax, take a breath and let go," Hernandez said.



Uvalde families have come to Camp Menard for years, making it a safe and comfortable refuge. In the wake of the shooting, they brought their friends. Many of the boys returned for Royal Ambassador camp a few weeks later, where counselors again were available.

"What happened in Uvalde is heartbreaking," said John-Travis Smith, TBM associate executive director. "Children still are struggling with what they went through, and we know God cares deeply about them. TBM wants to give families the resources and tools they need to work through the trauma. These summer camps are safe places for people to begin to do that." **TBM**

College students, experienced volunteers work together in Peru

Young and old Texans brought joy, hope and relief to residents of Collique, Peru, as 15 TBM volunteers became the first foreigners to visit the mountainous town in over two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The volunteers traveled to Peru in June and partnered with Operacion San Andres, an organization that focuses its ministry in Collique, an impoverished community of over 100,000 residents north of Lima, the capital.

The pandemic made a steady income and adequate food supply nearly unattainable for many people in Collique, explained TBM Ministry Advancement Coordinator Sabrina Pinales. In response, OSA opened 60 soup kitchens in the region, and the TBM volunteers delivered chicken to add protein.

“Seeing people literally running to get chicken when it’s so readily available for us at home was really cool,” said student volunteer Alex Stevenson. “After delivering the chicken, we always prayed over the people, and you could see how much they were touched by it. With everything we did, we explained we did it for the love of God.”

High on the mountainside, the team also built two houses for families. With foundations already in place, the volunteers framed and finished the homes.

One woman was so excited about her new home that she swept it daily after the team retired for the night and began painting and decorating as soon as she possibly could. “Obviously we knew having a home would be good for someone,” Stevenson said, “but you could just see how excited she was, and that was really neat.”

Stevenson, a junior construction science major at Texas A&M University, and four other college students volunteered

as summer missionaries through Go Now Missions, a ministry of Texas Baptists.

“So many generations were represented – retired, young professionals, college students,” Pinales said. “To see everybody come together for the same purpose and use their gifts was extraordinary.”

Jim and Mako Kneale were among the experienced TBM volunteers. “This was the most diverse mission trip I’ve ever been on,” said Jim. “There was something for everyone to do. Everybody was able to participate in some way on every project. I thought that was really important.”

Volunteers interacted with children participating in the OSA Educational Enrichment and Nutrition program, which provides supplemental educational support for children ages 6 to 11. “The kids are the future of Collique,” said Go Now missionary Logan Baker. “(OSA) knows that’s who they need to be pouring into.”

Volunteers returned home confident God’s love was shown through their actions and service.

“Showing the love of Christ doesn’t always have to be verbally sharing the Gospel,” Baker said. “There are lots of other avenues – such as physical labor – that plant seeds for salvation down the road.” **TBM**



TBM: Built by Volunteers such as Rick & Dianne Crouch

“Our first date was a mud out,” said Dianne Crouch. She met Rick in Weslaco through her work with TBM and his with New Mexico Disaster Relief. The mud out “date” occurred later in Groves after 2017’s Hurricane Harvey; one month later they were married.

Dianne had been a TBM volunteer since 2011, three years after becoming a widow. She began by volunteering on a flood recovery team and then switched to the Incident Management Team doing administration.

“I love the opportunity to be able to serve the volunteers that the Lord sends to go out and to be His hands and feet,” she said. “We are one big family!”

Rick lived in Albuquerque, N.M., and started working with the New Mexico team in 2014. He worked with flood and fire recovery, as well as chainsaw and feeding teams. He was their team chaplain most of the time.

“Since Rick and I lived in two different states, conventional dating wasn’t an option so I received permission from the New Mexico Blue Cap to work with their team in Groves for a week doing mud out,” Dianne said. “I arrived on Sunday morning and met Rick at the church they were attending that morning. ... Then we spent the rest of the week serving the Lord together doing mud out. It was an awesome time!”

One month later, Rick arranged for Dianne to stay with some friends in Albuquerque and she “drove up so we could spend some time getting to know each other.” They married on Nov. 28, before Dianne returned to Texas.

Rick said he volunteers because the “love of Jesus Christ has so deeply transformed me that I am compelled to go out and share that love with others.” He has “learned that it takes no special talents or



skills to be a volunteer, only a desire to serve, getting out of your comfort zone in order to help someone experiencing disaster in their life.”

The Crouches now live in Aransas County and attend Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Portland.

“To share Christ is the greatest moment in my life while working in disaster relief, to share what Jesus has done for me, your story is powerful,” Rick said. **TBM**

