

TBM
TODAY

STORIES OF TEXANS ON MISSION

“I DON’T WANT
ANY MORE CHILDREN
TO DIE.” | **PAGE 8**

UGANDA: A WIDE
OPEN DOOR FOR THE

GOSPEL

Specially trained TBM disaster relief volunteers provide thousands of meals in rocket-ravaged Israel

Specialized TBM feeding teams are providing thousands of meals to rocket-ravaged neighborhoods while doctors TBM helped send are providing medical attention in the midst of a war between Israel and Hamas.

The teams deployed shortly after Hamas launched thousands of rockets into Southern Israel Oct. 7, and its fighters attacked villages in the area. TBM volunteers left Texas the next day and began preparing meals Oct. 10.

“We have trained in Israel for years to deploy like this,” said John-Travis Smith, TBM associate executive director who coordinates Israel relief. “People are hurting. They’re scared. In the middle of all that’s happening, TBM is delivering help, hope and healing.”

TBM volunteers are working alongside longtime partner EVP to cook meals and prepare them for delivery.

“The meals are being distributed by EVP volunteers, who are going into hot spots where there are displaced people,” said Gary Finley, who leads TBM volunteers in Israel. “Those are areas where homes have been

damaged or destroyed and are prone to missile attacks. No TBM volunteers are placed in harm’s way.”

Finley described the situation as “very fluid,” and he said the team is prepared to move to another location where they can serve displaced citizens, particularly if the violence escalates.

“We’re playing it by ear,” he said. “Pray for whatever God has in store. . . . Pray for patience, because we don’t know from one day to the next what that day will bring.”

The volunteers are putting their faith in action, said TBM Executive Director/CEO Mickey Lenamon.

“Christ calls each of us to help the hurting,” he said. “A lot of people are hurting in Israel and surrounding areas. God cares deeply about them and is sending us to minister in His name. In very difficult times, TBM volunteers are shining the light of Christ brightly.” **TBM**

This is a developing story. Read more about the TBM response in Israel at tbmtx.org/israel-news.



TBM SENDS DISASTER RELIEF TEAMS TO MAUI

In Lahaina on the island of Maui, there were no structures standing. What was once a beautiful, thriving city is now mostly rubble, rock and ash as the result of August wildfires that engulfed more than 2,000 acres of land and killed 97 people.

A team of 13 TBM volunteers arrived in Maui Oct. 7 to help with recovery as zones of the island reopened so homeowners could see their homes for the first time. Some returning residents were shocked to see their homes and neighborhoods so utterly changed.

TBM volunteers gave returning residents space and time to process their emotions and possibly find closure. When the homeowner was ready, the volunteers came alongside and helped them sift through the ash to find possessions.

The experience was “quite emotional,” said Curt Neal, TBM team leader. “It was not just possessions. They’ve lost neighbors. It’s going to take some time to reflect on what their loss has been, and we were there for them. We provided emotional support and was there to do whatever they wanted.”

Disasters like this require both an immediate response and an extended commitment. TBM quickly sent more than \$100,000 in aid to help Maui Christians help their neighbors after the fires, and deployed volunteers on site.

Pastor Rocky Komatsu of Waiehu Community Church said, “We are going to need years of support for rebuilding.” **TBM**

Read more about the TBM response to the Maui fires at tbmtx.org/maui.



With God, nothing is impossible



In 1870, life was changing quickly. Alexander Graham Bell would soon patent the telephone. The phonograph and light bulb would soon follow. People moved to cities in droves. Industrialization was in full swing.

In response, a group of church leaders gathered to discuss how to minister in this new environment. One presenter forecasted that these changes were just the beginning. Soon, he declared, man would fly.

Bishop Wright could take this ridiculousness no more. He stood to set the group straight. “Heresy!” he shouted. “Men will never fly because flight is reserved for angels.” He walked out, taking his two young sons, Orville and Wilbur, with him – the same Wright brothers who, within three decades, would be the first men to fly.

How quickly things happen. With God, nothing is impossible.

In 2018, TBM began a partnership to provide mass feeding after crises in Israel. The country was and still is overdue for a monumental earthquake, and it had no infrastructure or knowledge for feeding thousands of people at a time.

The initial conversation spurred multiple training sessions in Texas and in Israel. In fact, we’ve had monthly training trips to Israel for the past two years. We learned from each other and built facilities and mobile kitchens. We became family.

As I write this, the family has come together to meet needs in the midst of war. Trained TBM food preparation volunteers are helping their brothers and sisters in Israel who have been impacted by Hamas rockets. By providing a meal, TBM volunteers are delivering nutrition and reminders to people that they are loved.

God has provided this opportunity to share His love. Thank you for praying us through this open door.

Mickey B. Lenamon
TBM Executive Director/CEO

TBM VOLUNTEERS COME TO FLORIDA WOMAN'S RESCUE

Emma Jean Jordan huddled in the bathtub of her mobile home as a tornado spawned by Hurricane Idalia swept over her roof in Wellborn, Florida.

"I came back to the bathroom and stayed there because it literally felt like my whole house vibrated up when I heard the choo-choo sound" of the tornado, she said. "I called out to the Lord and trusted Him."

When the storm cleared, Jordan emerged from her shelter to find a tree piercing the roof of her guest bedroom and water pouring in the hole.

"I realize it could have taken my whole house," she said. "It could have taken the room I was hiding in. I was grateful because I knew other people had it worse. I said, 'Thank you, Lord, that I survived this.'"

Like many area residents, Jordan didn't carry home insurance or have funds to pay for tree-clearing or roof repair services. With no means to pay for removal of the tree from her home or to repair her roof, she relied on the only resource she had: "I prayed."

The answer came a few days later in the form of TBM's Collin County Chainsaw Unit, an experienced team of chainsaw and skid-steer operators.

"These folks were an answer to prayer," she said, pointing

to the team of 13 pulling the tree free of her home in pieces and providing a temporary cover on her roof. "I saw a phone number (on a sign) ... near First Baptist Church offering to help. Something told me to call it.

"They are the difference of me not dying of black mold (from further water damage). I can't afford to pay, so this means a lot to me." **TBM**

Read about the full TBM response to Hurricane Idalia at tbmtx.org/idalia.



Volunteers send message that God doesn't forget those in need



Thank you notes are often brief but contain a great deal of heart. Such was a note TBM received from Ann*: "Thank you for reminding me that God didn't forget about me."

TBM received the note from Ann, whom the team met during a TBM service project at Haven of Love in DeSoto. "I could barely hold back the tears as I read her message," said Sabrina Pinales, director of missions and discipleship.

Short-term service projects are emerging as a popular ministry of TBM. It joins two emphases: Missions and Rebuild.

In the draining heat of this past summer, TBM organized volunteers to work on varied service projects in the Dallas area – replacing a fence at a residential facility for women in crisis, repairing a wind-damaged home and removing

water-damaged materials from another home.

Ann is a resident at the women's facility. The TBM project involved removing an old fence and then clearing the property and installing a new fence.

"Ann had just arrived the day before and was so excited to be the first resident at Haven of Love," Pinales said. "Ann loves the Lord and has made a decision to follow Him and make positive changes in her life." **TBM**

***Ann" is a pseudonym to protect the resident's identity.*

To read more online about this service project, visit tbmtx.org/service.

‘God sent for y’all to come’

TBM response to a Bastrop well crisis called an answer to prayer



Early in the morning of Aug. 20, a light turned on in one of the single-room shelters at In The Streets-Hands Up High Ministry, a multi-service ministry based in a three-acre compound near Bastrop. ITS-HUH serves as a soup kitchen, a church and a family homeless shelter housing more than 30 people.

Resident Julie White discovered the situation when she rolled out of bed in a room she shares with her daughter. “I went to get ready for church. . . . I turned on the faucet and . . . nothing. It was dry.”

Due to the harsh summer drought and the drilling of two neighboring wells, the water table for the ministry’s on-site well had dipped below its depth. They were out of water.

The next day, Roland Nava, ministry founder and pastor, called residents together with what White called “devastating” news. County officials had decided that without water, the ministry could not operate its soup kitchen or residential services for at least two weeks until the well could be drilled another 140-180 feet deeper.

“I work in the soup kitchen,” White said, “and we were not going to be able to be open. That’s 175 meals we serve a day that people weren’t going to get.”

When residents heard the news, “We cried. We were devastated. We cried so bad, and then we prayed even harder,” she said.

Answered prayer

Nava said the group’s prayers were answered after Nava called Bob Andrews, director of TBM’s Austin Baptist Association Disaster Relief Team, for help. “I talked to him and when I told him the story he goes, ‘Okay, let’s do something.’ Next thing I know, (ABA Disaster Relief co-director) Richard Bennett comes out and surveys everything, and he comes back the next day with (a water



tank) and the laundry and shower unit. Next thing you know, the people are taking showers and washing clothes.”

To restart the soup kitchen, the tank water also would need purification. TBM Water Impact leaders Mitch Chapman and Phil Elery hooked up a TBM water purification station.

“This is part of our ministry,” Bennett responded, noting even small-scale disasters have a wide-ranging impact. “If there’s a need, we’re going to serve it whether it’s a flood or someone loses their well and they need some place to take showers and do laundry.”

Nava said the TBM response “means a whole lot because, if we couldn’t get that going, I would have to tell the people who were homeless already that we will not be able to house them. We sat here and we cried because it hurt my heart to have to tell these people that they had to leave when they had nowhere to go.”

While Bennett folded towels in the laundry area, White entered to do a load of clothing and gave him a big hug.

“Y’all (TBM volunteers) have been our angels,” she told him. “You were heaven-sent. God sent for y’all to come.” **TBM**

THIS IS HOW WE SHARE GOD'S LOVE TOGETHER.

Some TBM volunteers prepare thousands of meals a day. Some drill water wells. Others spend long days cutting down trees with chainsaws. Still others yet run mobile shower and laundry units. It seems no matter what the need is after a disaster or crisis, TBM volunteers are ready to meet it.

No matter what they're doing, they do so with the same mission in mind: Share God's love. That's what truly transforms lives now and into eternity.

"When we arrive on a scene, we have lots of tools and equipment ready to use," said TBM Executive Director/CEO Mickey Lenamon. "But the most powerful resource, the one that has the most impact, is God's unfailing love. As TBM volunteers share about it, as they pray with people, as they walk alongside the hurting, God's love brings comfort, strength and healing."



By giving to the mission of TBM, you are an active part of a volunteer movement that brings God's help, hope and healing to people experiencing crisis.

Respond to their need. Hear their cry. Answer God's call.

HELP.



TBM teams meet needs and help residents overcome obstacles to recovery after a disaster or get access to clean drinking water.

HOPE.



Volunteers bring hope to people living through the most difficult days of their lives, helping them see brighter days ahead.

HEALING.



By sharing God's love and praying with people, TBM volunteers help people heal now and into eternity as they embrace a relationship with God.

UGANDA: A WIDE OPEN

SOMETIMES IN LIFE, GOD OPENS DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY. IN UGANDA, HE'S BLOWN THE DOOR CLEAR OFF ITS HINGES AS HE SEEKS TO TRANSFORM THOUSANDS OF LIVES THROUGH TBM WATER IMPACT.

Utilizing a unique, community-led approach to water ministry, TBM is starting more Bible studies and drilling sustainable water wells faster than it ever has before as it systematically seeks to provide clean water to more than 33,000 people in two Northern Uganda counties in the Omoro district.

Already this year, TBM has drilled more than 30 wells, each of which has a Bible study connected to it. More than 500 people have come to faith in Christ and been baptized as Ugandans share the Gospel with their friends and neighbors.

"We use water as an access route for the Gospel," said Sam Ojok, who leads the effort in Uganda. "Water is just the beginning. I see people come to Christ. But not just come to Christ, but get baptized. And they commit to a weekly Bible study. This is transforming the community and making Christ known."

The ministry attacks a significant need in remote Ugandan villages where stomach illnesses are common, if not constant. In many cases, the diseases are fatal, particularly among



DOOR FOR THE GOSPEL



Sam Ojok

young children.

“I’ve seen many, many children die of common, preventable diseases,” Ojok said. “This week alone, our program was interrupted by three different deaths. This can be prevented. Our programs can prevent it. I don’t want any more children to die. If we can do something to reduce these incidences, that is what we need to do.”

“This is our opportunity for real impact. If we’re really concerned and we really want to help people.”

Impact requires significant investments of time into each village. The effort begins with starting a Bible study, which brings the community together. Members study God’s Word and are transformed by it. The Bible



IMPACT: UGANDA

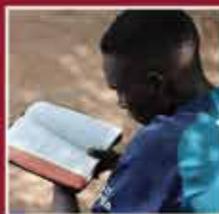
In response to God's call, TBM Water Impact is seeking to provide more than 33,000 people in three entire counties in Northern Uganda with access to clean water. That means drilling and installing wells to serve 200 people within 1.5 kilometers of their homes by the end of 2025.

Here's a glimpse of the Uganda 2025 initiative:



33,600
people live in the focus regions

160
new wells



160
new Bible
studies

32 new churches and
thousands of new
followers of Christ

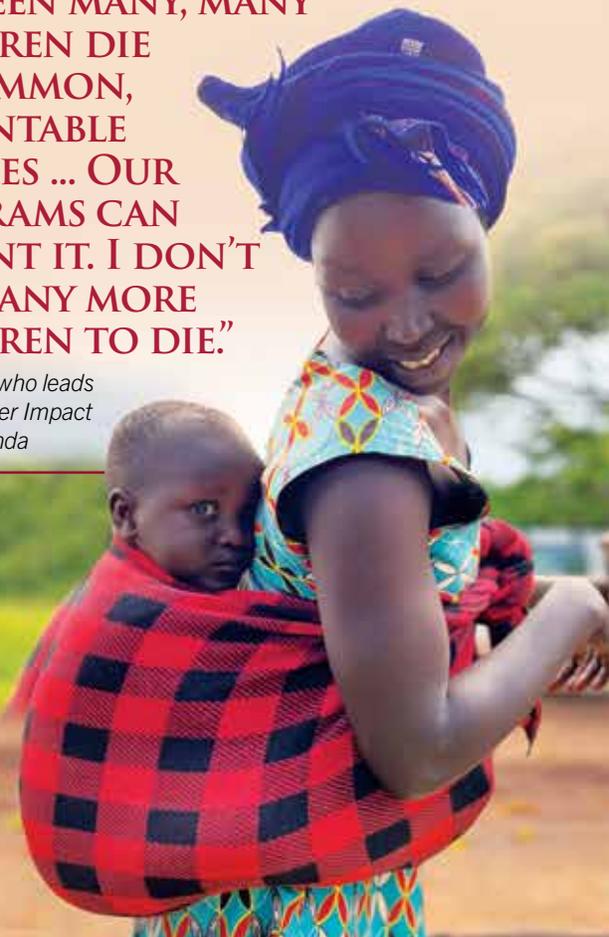


study becomes the backbone of the village and the catalyst for improving life for all.

After months of Bible study, TBM helps the community learn basic hygiene lessons. As a result, latrines are constructed in villages where open defecation had been practiced, and hand-washing stations are set up in front of all homes.

“I’VE SEEN MANY, MANY CHILDREN DIE OF COMMON, PREVENTABLE DISEASES ... OUR PROGRAMS CAN PREVENT IT. I DON’T WANT ANY MORE CHILDREN TO DIE.”

— Sam Ojok, who leads the TBM Water Impact effort in Uganda





Everything begins with the Bible



Using a unique, community-led approach, TBM is seeking to transform life at every level of Ugandan villages. Here's how we're doing that together:

The Beginning

A Ugandan TBM representative arrives at a village. He identifies the "person of peace" in the village, who typically is a respected resident with some influence. Together, they start a Bible study that unites the community and shares the Gospel.

3 months later

With a strong Bible study, TBM shares basic hygiene principles. As a result, the village forms a water committee to build the infrastructure for supporting a water well. They build latrines and hand-washing stations at homes.

3 months later

TBM drills a water well. At the dedication, a Ugandan leader shares the Gospel with the community.

For up to 18 months

TBM leaders walk alongside village leaders to ensure the well is working properly, and trains one technician for every 10 wells. TBM introduces microfinance into a village, which creates a small local group similar to a savings and loan. With this tool, the community can help its residents start businesses.

5 years later

The TBM well is working well. The village is united. Economic development is in full swing. Because of the 90% success rate, neighboring villages have seen the changes and are pursuing their own wells and Bible studies. The region is being transformed by the Gospel. **TBM**

Then, TBM drills a well that is supported by the entire community. Residents donate money for ongoing maintenance of the well, allowing it to serve for generations into the future.

TBM Water Impact Director Mitch Chapman has spent at least two weeks a month in Uganda since July guiding the effort. He has preached in Bible studies, prayed with people in villages and celebrated baptisms during church services. God is working in a powerful way.

"This is a door God has opened wider than any other I've ever seen in more than 20 years of ministry," he said. "God is meeting physical needs, radically changing lives spiritually and transforming entire communities. It's incredible. I'm honored God has chosen TBM as His instrument to use at this time." **TBM**



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Nancy Ellard uses retirement to kick into a higher gear with disaster relief

Nancy Ellard is energy. She talks fast, using her hands and every muscle in her face to convey what she's thinking. She laughs easily. She works, moving from one task to the next. Always on the move.

Ellard retired last year and became a TBM Disaster Relief volunteer. In June, she helped clean a family's fire-devastated home in Grand Prairie, then headed to Perryton a week later after the tornado there, and in July she went to Corsicana with the TBM Ellis County chainsaw team and participated as a victim in a "mass casualty" police training exercise.

In August, she went to New Hampshire with teams from Collin County and the Amarillo area to assist with the aftermath of the extreme flooding. She then helped remove and replace a fence for a women's ministry.

Asked to describe herself, she responded: "I am bold for the Lord – I love people, if they'll put up with me – I'm a motormouth – I don't like to sit still. I like to go." And TBM "gave me an opportunity to do that and do that while I tell others about Jesus."

Early this year, someone at her church, First Red Oak Baptist, encouraged people to go to a TBM disaster relief training event. Told that the initials stand for Texas Baptist Men, she asked if women could be involved. Ellard was told that yes, 43

percent of volunteers are women, so she signed up.

"I didn't yet know what it was all about, but all my life I had wanted to be a missionary, but the Lord told me, 'Nancy, you need to quit praying to be used and start praying to become usable,' which hurt my feelings, but He was right." **TBM**

