

September 3, 2017
Recovery and Patience

After natural disasters it is common for people to want to help the who have lived through the situation. This has been true here in Texas in the case of the tornado back in 2015, and it is true now in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The flooding has impacted many lives, now many others want to help. This is a good thing and help we should, but now is the time for patience. Here is a notice from the Texas District LC—MS President's Office:

The situation in Houston and along the Gulf Coast is severe but we are strong because we have hope in the LORD who promises His steady presence. "...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." **Isaiah 40:31**

The relief effort will take months if not years. We know this will be a long-term recovery for Texas and there will be many opportunities to help.

The National Guard is still making rescues and reports say that parts of Houston may remain flooded until Saturday. Volunteers are being asked to wait until flood waters recede-the time to serve will come soon. Many volunteers will be needed for months and into the future.

Right now our congregations in the affected areas, even though trying to recover themselves, are helping others in need:

"Well, we have had more people evacuated, but on the bright side, 4 people were able to get back into their homes and they were not compromised so we thank Jesus for that! We still have approximately 26 families thus far affected.

I made it to Christ Memorial and the immediate neighborhood Nottingham Forest today. The neighborhood is devastated. Approximately 650 homes are estimated to have water in them, and many of them will have water in them for up to 3 weeks while the reservoirs drain. This could potentially compromise the structures of the home so much so that they need to be completely rebuilt... Please pray for peace and strength for those in our community. Recovery will be a marathon and not a sprint.

We are opening up Christ Memorial tomorrow once again as a place of respite for those who are still in the community. I held a prayer service in my neighborhood today and we had over 40 people that showed up to meet, grieve, encourage one another, hear about the mercy of Jesus, and pray. People in other areas of town like Richmond, Missouri City are getting

Roots

back to their homes to survey damage. As a result, the recovery process begins, yet the waiting process for the water to recede in the Memorial area continues...Many however from Christ

Memorial will not even get to their homes for another 10-15 days, or possibly even longer." - Pastor Danny Anderson, Christ Memorial, Houston

What we currently know about Area D (Houston):

- Our Shepherd, Crosby, received significant water and may be completely lost
- 5 congregations have damage
- 9 pastors and 16 church workers have flooded homes
- 574 church members from the area have flooded properties
- Lutheran South Academy and Pilgrim Houston were hit hard by flooding, and many staff affected

These are preliminary numbers and they will go up. Area C is still being assessed and reports of damage are coming in. District staff is visiting the area this week.

Donations and offers of support have been coming in from across the nation. Your generosity will have a deep and direct effect on the lives of our brothers and sisters affected by Hurricane Harvey-thank you.

Again, this is still a time of rescue, but response and recovery is right around the corner. We are continuing to collect updates on congregations and schools, and a disaster relief plan to provide funds, supplies and volunteers is being developed. Regular updates on the relief effort can be found on the [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

As the letter indicates we are still in the rescue stages of this disaster and it would do no good for any of us who are not trained to respond only to need rescued ourselves. For now we pray, we donate as we are able and we wait until we can get our hands dirty for these people. This is a hard thing, but we also wait on the Lord (Isaiah 40: 31) and in waiting on Him we will rise on Eagles' wings. For the sake of those impacted by Harvey we will wait, so that we may lift them up with the same mercy and love from Christ.

Pastor Carl O. Johnson

