

Hispanic Texas Baptists provide labor of love for Louisiana

September 7, 2016

BATON ROUGE—Fifty-six Hispanic Texas Baptists from 10 churches and the Baptist University of the Américas devoted Labor Day weekend to a labor of love, helping their *hermanos y hermanas*—brothers and sisters—in a flood-ravaged area of Baton Rouge.

Meanwhile, about 100 miles to the west, Texas Baptist Men volunteers continued to provide disaster relief in Jefferson Davis and Arcadia parishes.

Hispanic Baptist Convention and CBF of Texas coordinate trip



Volunteers from 10 churches and Baptist University of the Americas worked in the Baton Rouge area over Labor Day weekend. (Photos courtesy of Jesse Rincones) The Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas Hispanic ministries coordinated the Sept. 2-5 disaster relief effort, working with Istrouma Baptist Church and Istrouma En Español in Baton Rouge.

"The Hispanic work at Istrouma just began this February," noted Jesse Rincones, executive director of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas.

Pastor Guillermo Mangieri started the mission after serving with the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board.

In addition to 11 BUA students, the holiday weekend mission trip drew volunteers from Iglesia Bautista in Somerset, First Baptist Church in San Isidro, Calvary Baptist Church en Español in McAllen, Oasis Baptist Church in San Angelo, Alliance Church in Lubbock, Iglesia Bautista Redencion in Houston, Mighty Fortress Church in San Antonio, Mission Emmanuel in Caldwell and First Baptist Church in Caldwell.

Buckner International provided more than 3,500 items worth nearly \$50,000 to Baton Rouge and offered volunteer assistance. The Children's Hunger Fund of San Antonio supplied food, water and toiletries. The Mexican Baptist Association of San Antonio also helped promote the event and encourage participation.



Hispanic Texas Baptist volunteers worked in a predominantly Hispanic mobile home community, cleaning, tearing out damaged walls and floor covering, removing debris and sanitizing surfaces in the homes of 37 families and individuals. Volunteers worked in a predominantly Hispanic mobile home community, cleaning, tearing out damaged walls and floor covering, removing debris and sanitizing surfaces in the homes of 37 families and individuals.

The Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas gave \$3,000 and the Texas Hunger Offering supplied \$2,000 to Istrouma Baptist En Español to help the congregation provide food and other relief through Hispanic Baptist churches in the flood-affected area. Hispanic Texas Baptists also gave a love offering to four Hispanic Baptist pastors directly affected by the flooding in Louisiana.

Texas Baptist Men continue work in Jennings

In addition to the Hispanic Baptist effort, TBM continued ongoing disaster relief in the area around Jennings, La.

Through Labor Day, TBM workers donated 872 volunteer days to the disaster relief mission, made more than 800 ministry contacts and completed more than 100 job requests.

In addition to working with Southern Baptist disaster relief crews, TBM workers provided leadership for four non-Baptist volunteer groups who worked in the area over the Labor Day weekend.

TBM volunteers have prepared about 2,800 meals, completed 78 flood clean-up jobs and 66 mold-remediation jobs, washed 181 loads of laundry and distributed more than 4,000 boxes for residents to reclaim and store their belongings.

In the process, TBM volunteer chaplains and others presented the gospel message at least three dozen times, distributed 127 Bibles and 36 evangelistic tracts, and recorded at least two professions of faith in Christ.

To contribute to TBM disaster relief, click [here](#) or send a check designated “disaster relief” to Texas Baptist Men, 5351 Catron, Dallas 75227.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas disaster recovery program will respond to long-term needs in the region. For more information, contact

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