

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, PILGRIM FAMILY!



We are so blessed to be part of such a loving, generous congregation. When we loaded the van, an extremely generous donation from Bob and Karen Schumacher, on Sunday, September 17, we were so excited about your generosity and that everything fit - barely - but it was in there. The "Hurricane Harvey" trip to Houston was long but uneventful, which is what you want. As we drove, our contacts in Houston - Sarah Earhart (Mark Tisdale's sister) and Carol's brother Dewey & sister-in-law Sandi - were "feet on the ground" in Houston, making arrangements for the delivery of the cleaning supplies and the van.

Sarah is truly one of "God's angels." She and her husband Cody (parents of seven-month-old Oscar and 4-1/2-year-old daughter Isabella or "Izzy") have worked tirelessly since the hurricane/flooding hit. They personally were fortunate not to have been hit with the floods, but many in their community were not as fortunate. They fixed meals, helped clean, did laundry - and the list goes on. Sarah went to work with her network, starting



with a friend in the Kingwood area that was hit very hard. We were thinking that was where we were headed with supplies, but God had other plans. Kingwood was receiving a large amount of supplies and they were directing calls to the Lakewood area in the Northeast section of Houston. This is an area that was depressed prior to the floods and now many have nothing. Our contact there is Pastor Hank and Dr. Nicolle Byrd. Their church is non-denominational - Church with a Mission International - that works with people in this area of the city. No question that they are dedicated, warm, loving Hands of God.



We had checked into our hotel Tuesday night, knowing we had about four hours to go on Wednesday, when I received a call from Sarah who asked where we were because she had found a distribution center that really needed all the supplies we had. It was the ideal plan for us because it meant only one drop-off that we could drive to directly. She wanted us to meet her by noon because drop-off time was 12:00-1:00. She gave us directions to a parking lot of a small strip mall. I contacted my brother so they could join us and, believe it or not, we pulled in exactly at noon. We followed Sarah because the area we were



going to was still sketchy on cell phone/GPS coverage and not all roads were cleared. Things had improved some since Sarah first talked to her network, but we were very glad we could follow someone who knew the area. Some areas were starting to look "normal," but this area not so much. Piles of debris - peoples' lives - were still in front of many homes. Remember that this was more than three weeks after the hurricane/flooding hit, which shows what a daunting task it is to come back from such a natural disaster. Water knows no boundaries and certainly does not



discriminate; rich and poor alike were affected. Think about losing all your family photos, clothing, furniture, all your material things - definitely something we cannot get our heads around.



We met the Byrds and unloaded the van into a warehouse. After seeing the area and talking with the Byrds, we knew that we had made the decision God desired, and that we also needed to purchase more supplies with the generous cash gifts you donated. On Thursday, we went to Sam's Club for nonperishable food and to WalMart to buy gift cards for more personal items like underwear.

On Friday morning, we took them to Sarah and Cody's to load their truck, together with items they had purchased with the

donations they had received so they could deliver them to the distribution center. We were unable to help with this delivery because this was the time scheduled for us to deliver the van to its new owner,

Juan Ramon Lopez. Our contact for this part was arranged through my brother's friend, Everett Ison, Commander of the VFW post in The Woodlands. Everett is an incredible man who works extremely hard for our vets. We certainly learned what heavy traffic in a large city is like; riding in a simple two-vehicle convoy can be really challenging!



The new owner of the van and his wife Claudia were very grateful. Their home is in a very nice neighborhood in Richmond, TX, also hit very hard with the flooding. Our own Margie Fougeron and husband David live in Richmond (to where they had just moved two weeks earlier); they were mandatorily evacuated but, Praise God, their



home was saved but others in their neighborhood were not so fortunate. It is amazing how one street would be saved and the next destroyed. The Lopez home took on four feet of water and everything in it was destroyed. They still have large piles of debris in their front yard. They had insurance for the structure but not for the contents. They also lost both of their cars. They and their five

children spent the night of the flooding in the attic over their garage, and when daylight came they opened the attic window and saw the kiddy pool down in the garage. They brought down the three youngest children and put them in the kiddy pool and Juan and Claudia and the two older children started walking out, making it a game with the children in the "boat" so they wouldn't be frightened. A neighbor with a boat started picking up people and getting them to





dryer land. As we heard, these types of stories were happening all over the Houston area.

The \$5000 that the congregation approved was donated to the distribution center (after approval by the BOD) for ongoing Hurricane Harvey relief. Please pray for Pastor Hank and Dr. Nicolle as they face at least two more months of serving. Sarah and her husband have been back to the distribution center to help distribute, and the Byrds and Sarah will keep us updated on progress as their time permits.

Please know that all of you were truly GODS' WORK – OUR (PILGRIM'S)

HANDS even if we were just a small sea shell in the VERY large ocean. Let's continue to be these hands moving forward - whether in a national disaster or in our own back yard.

GOD'S BLESSINGS to all of you and again - THANK YOU!

Carol & Dick



God's Hands – the Relief Center at Work