

June 6, 2013

Message from Sam Porter:

I cannot thank all of you enough for ALL that you have done to assist in this catastrophic response that we are engaged in to provide relief restoration and ministry to the thousands impacted by the storms the past few days.

Today is day 19 of relief/recovery for our BGCO DR team that all of you are a part of!!

From the first day.. Monday the support staff stepped up to assist in tasking the flood of calls that overwhelmed the system and even my e-mail was a little overwhelmed. I received on Tuesday over 300 e-mails from around the world but some of the assistants helped cull through them for me. I had my number given out to every caller at a local ministry area and I received over 100 calls one day from over 24 different states with questions that I did not need to handle.

So thanks for EVERY THING that all of you have done and will continue to do..

Because we are not done yet!!

Welcome to full blown Disaster Relief ministry.. you all have done well.

Now you know why we call them disasters.. because things happen that individuals cannot take care of or overcome by themselves.. BUT God has called us as Oklahoma Baptist to help them be over comers through our Lord. He will give strength and I am a living testimony of this 19 days in and I feel renewed every day..tired?? Yes at the end of the day I am beat/exhausted but he has given great rest every single night and I know that is the power of prayer.

We normally like to hear “kudos” from our Exec staff....BUT it is my time to say that our Exec. Team and Communication team has been “ON IT!!” since day one”!!!

Dr J has led the charge to put “himself in the offering plate”. I think he

has actually been in every BGCO church along the storm tracks checking on the needs of the families with each pastor and Director of Missions in the storm zone.

By Thursday/Friday of the first week The Executive staff and the finance team had checks cut and in the hands of the pastors to give to every Oklahoma Baptist church member who had damage or complete destruction that we were made aware of.

We also gave a good gift to the churches along the track who turned their places of worship into houses of refuge in various way to make them like “good will stores, neighborhood Wal marts, or an Ace Hardware stores giving out what had been donated from all over the USA.

We have received as of June 5.. \$2,000,000 in relief donations but the best news is that by yesterday the Finance and Exec staff has rolled \$700,000 back into the hands for all those who need it most.. the Oklahoma Baptist church members who have lost their homes and or greatly damaged. Plus...

Dr J and I wanted to show our love and appreciation to first responders. So, Ever policeman, trooper, fireman, county deputy, and Ambulance worker that lost a home or received damage in all of the impacted counties were treated just like one of our BGCO family and they received the same amount as given to the church members just to say “We love you and God loves you”.

I can assure you that we are much quicker to get the donated dollars to where the donors want it to go than any other agency that I know of and I work alongside and fellowship with all of them.

We just want there to be integrity in every way and be as efficient and quick as we can be to represent the Lord and every Oklahoma Baptist that places their trust and dollars in our care to get the funds to the right place!!

Again I am just awed by what you have done to help us in the Oklahoma Baptist DR leadership do to make this happen.. Now here is a scripture that some of us need. Galatians 6:9.. “let us not grow weary in well doing for we shall reap if we will Faint not.”

We will make it no matter how hard it may get because if God Calls you to any task in Life he will equip and empower you to carry out that task he has called you to if you answer his call. Believe me I know that he will.

So, thanks for joining us in the battle to be over comers in the Lord and to assist others to Overcome...

Final update

DR has prepared over 200,000 meals.

500 + homes have already received Debris cleaning teams, chain saw help, and flood recovery.

And we have had 250-400 trained volunteers on the ground each day from Oklahoma and 10 other states!!

PLUS the Chaplains have made eternal impacts on hundreds of lives and will continue to do so!!

I love you as my Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Sam Porter

Director of BGCO Disaster Relief