

SUMMER 2019

LCH

LOTT CAREY HERALD

LOTT CAREY PARTNERSHIPS:

REVIVING COMMUNITIES, REBUILDING LIVES
IN FLORIDA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND TEXAS



LC-NBCA operations contacts and our Red Cross partners



Seated, from left: Chris Young (Red Cross), Kelly Parker, Brenda Carter, Pauline Hurst, Joyce Jackson, Theresa Gannaway, and Eva Oakley; **standing, from left:** Marvet Samuels, Dr. Julius Wynn, Rev. Terry White, Rev. Ronald Smith, Mark Smith (Red Cross), Dr. Chris Traylor, Leigh Johnson, Rev. James Brown, Dr. Gregory Moss Sr; Richard Cox, Kathi Reid, Earl Brown (Red Cross), and Takeshia Klu. Joe Wilson could not attend.

CONVENTION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President
Pastor Gregory J. Jackson

First Vice President
Pastor Gina M. Stewart

Second Vice President
Pastor Jesse T. Williams Jr.

Chairman, Board of Directors
Pastor John M. Alexander Jr.

Interim Executive Secretary-
Treasurer
Dr. Gregory K. Moss Sr.

WOMEN IN SERVICE EVERYWHERE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President
Ms. Carol W. Mohamed

First Vice President
Ms. Rosette T. Graham

Second Vice President
Dr. Angelita Clifton

MEN ON MISSIONS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Team Leader
Mr. Tony Taylor

Team Leader-Short-Term
Missions
Mr. Jersey Joe Wilson

Team Leader-Special Projects
Mr. Charles Monterio

Team Leader-Recruitment
Mr. Gregory Gabriel

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP

Team Leader
Pastor Vernon Gordon

Publisher & Editor
Dr. Gregory K. Moss Sr.

Managing Editor
Mike Tucker

Design Director
Dash Parham

Copy Editor
Tonga Peterson

Contributing Editor
Kathi L. Reid

Editorial Assistant
Christopher Tucker

Published by Lott Carey
8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 1245
Landover, MD 20785-2230
Phone: 301-429-3300

Current and back issues of the Lott
Carey Herald are available online at
LottCarey.org/Resources-2



HYATT REGENCY

Hyatt Regency
Atlanta
Thanks You!

Proud Sponsor of the 2018
Lott Carey Annual Session.

Your Preferred Hotel on Peachtree Street.

HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA
www.atlanta.regency.hyatt.com
facebook.com/HyattRegencyAtlanta
265 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303



The HYATT trademark and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation or its affiliates.
© 2018 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.

CONTENTS



FLORIDA

NORTH CAROLINA



8



24



TEXAS

MISSIONS



36

Lott Carey Herald, Summer 2019

The Water Box

The Water Box provides clean and odor-free water tested daily. Designed with the local water community, the system is engineered with proven components that reduce heavy metals like lead and eliminates harmful bacteria.

What's inside this box:



53

WATER HEALS HERE
43° 0' 30.096" N 83° 41' 9.564" W

Lott Carey remains vigilant amid global changes

A firm foundation, amid transition. That's the legacy of Lott Carey and its partners—remaining steady, progressive, and impactful.

Throughout its storied history, Lott Carey has experienced seismic shifts. When Dr. Wendell C. Somerville—Lott Carey personified—retired, many supporters were anxious. Uncertainty filled the air. Yet, God sent a young, energetic, missions-minded visionary to assume the helm. For more than two decades, Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley expanded the organization's mission and extended its witness.

In 2019, we are again in transition. Dr. Goatley accepted a well-earned appointment at Duke University but remains a senior strategist for Lott Carey, working with programs developed through several major grants. Lott Carey is now in a season of prayer as we discern whom God will send as the next executive secretary-treasurer.

Change is just the way of things, so we must remain vigilant because many people depend on our missions. Throughout the globe, disasters continue to wreak havoc. It is no longer a matter of *if* they will occur but *when*. Warnings regarding climate change, global warming, and other environmental issues have validity.

Lott Carey responded to deadly hurricanes Floyd, Katrina, Rita and other superstorms and we are ready to do so again. The devastation to property and lives remains. Only the names change—Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence and Matthew. And, deadly wildfires have ravaged California.

Fortunately, we have expanded our relationships with other organizations and governmental entities by entering into seasons of

collaboration that have broadened our ability to reach further and deepen our impact in the United States and around the globe.

This issue of the *Lott Carey Herald* will introduce you to some of the partners implementing Harvey and Irma grants that target disaster recovery and community restoration and resiliency. There is a briefing about some of the work of the Lott Carey–National Baptist Convention of America (NBCA) Disaster Network Operations contacts deployed to support the major 2018 disasters. Included are updates on recovery efforts in Florida, North Carolina, and Texas. You will also hear from some of the Red Cross staffers who have been

instrumental in the successful implementation of the Lott Carey-NBCA-Red Cross partnership. In addition, there are missions reports on Flint, Liberia, Australia, and Haiti.

Most of our Lott Carey family has heard about the hostilities in Haiti. Since the release of the November 2017 Haitian Senate's report—outlining corruption, misappropriation of \$1.7 billion dollars, and implicating that country's current and former presidents—Haiti has been in a political crisis. Due to escalating unrest and violence, Lott Carey short-term missions have been suspended until 2020. Teams scheduled for Haiti were either cancelled or diverted to Puerto Rico to help rebuild communities damaged by Hurricane Maria.

Without a doubt, the work continues. You have been tremendous in your support of our important and impactful labor of helping our brothers and sisters face, recover, and rise from devastating circumstances. Your continued prayers and donations are appreciated. As God reminds us, "To whom much is given . . ." Well, you know the rest.



Dr. Gregory K. Moss Sr.

Interim Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Lott Carey-NBCA-Red Cross Partnership

It was a chance to catch up, trade ideas, and figure out how things are going; a regular meeting about the Lott Carey-NBCA-Red Cross partnership held at regional headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia. *Lott Carey Herald* asked to sit in for a couple of minutes. Here's an excerpt of a conversation between Kathi L. Reid, Program Manager, Disaster Services, Lott Carey, and Earl R. Brown, National Partner Relations & Agreements, National Disaster Partnerships, American Red Cross. The alliance, which started in 2013, provides disaster assistance across the country.

Brown: The partnership filled a need that we had. The Red Cross has diversity challenges in different parts of the country. There was no one national partner that we were comfortable with that was taking care of the black community. When we initiated the partnership with Lott Carey, we initially started in the Mid-Atlantic states. Then, it grew into what it is now. It's still growing as a matter of fact.

Reid: Lott Carey has a long history of being involved in disaster services, even before the early 2000s.

Brown: We were not sure we were covering and serving the total community. Lott Carey came alongside the Red Cross and helped in a tremendous way.

Reid: The great thing about this partnership is that it allows the local



Earl R. Brown of the American Red Cross and Kathi L. Reid of Lott Carey discuss what their organizations have learned from partnership.

church and the church community to help individuals and families prepare for, respond to, and recover from local, regional or national disasters.

Brown: What really helped was the planning we did at the end of 2018. We sat down and developed a plan for 2019. You brought in all your contacts to do a deep dive. They're a great group of people.

Reid: From our work during disaster deployments, one of the things we've learned is—first and foremost—it is very important for Lott Carey, the National Baptist Convention of America and the African American church to be at the table during the planning phase before a disaster hits. If we're there, we're able to make sure that we have input, get an early start recruiting people to deploy, and ensure that our churches are ready to respond to the community's needs.

Turning disasters into testimonies



Kathi L. Reid
Program Manager,
Disaster Services,
Lott Carey

It has been two years since the *Lott Carey Herald* issue “Houston Healing,” which reported on the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and disaster relief and recovery in Texas. Hurricanes Irma and Maria proved to be just as catastrophic, occurring back-to-back after Harvey. A lot has happened since that issue. Not only was 2018 an extremely active hurricane season with Florence and Michael, there were also deadly fires in California.

Lott Carey’s disaster services is focused on protecting the most vulnerable by helping them prepare for disasters. We, along with the National Baptist Convention of America (NBCA), reach communities of color and the underserved primarily through churches in and out of the Lott Carey–NCBA, Disaster Services Network and its partnership with the American Red Cross. Our strategies:

1. Educate congregations and communities toward effective disaster preparedness.
2. Recruit churches to host or participate in Home Fire Campaigns and blood drives.
3. Recruit and train volunteers to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.
4. Recruit churches to become feeding and distribution centers or certified as shelters in areas that are vulnerable to disasters.
5. Provide sustained long-term investment in disasters through financial support and human capital.
6. In the aftermath of disasters, we want to provide a holistic approach to recovery through mold awareness, spiritual care, mental health services, and referrals to case management.

Our hope is for families and individuals to know the types of disasters their communities are prone to and be prepared. In doing so, communities will become more resilient in the face of disasters. As Lott Carey continues to emphasize the importance of disaster preparedness and family resiliency, we must not take for granted people’s ability to afford the costs to prepare. It is vital to think about the supplies needed to build a kit, if families have cars or transportation to evacuate, if they are undocumented, and other economic and physical capacities.

A strong team of trained volunteers are needed who are willing to go and serve in the aftermath of a disaster—whether it’s a fire in your city or a natural disaster in your region, state or elsewhere. We, who are able, must support those who are unable (Matthew 25:40—“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”) Volunteers are needed to join the Lott Carey–NBCA–Red Cross partnership and do the work needed to help people rise. Please contact your local operations contact listed below or email me at kreid@lottcarey.org.

A Special thank you . . .

. . . Operations contacts for your work in growing the LC–NBCA Disaster Services Network; all the Lott Carey–NBCA volunteers serving during disasters including: Theresa, Allyson, and Dawn, who did multiple deployments in 2018); the staff serving on the Irma Recovery and Harvey Restoration Grant teams; the American Red Cross for opening partnership opportunities to Lott Carey—Earl Brown, Scott Graham, Mark Smith, Melissa Crews, Paula Jemison, Crysty Skevington, Bryan Seibt, Robert Sofaly, Candice Covin, and many others).

The Lott Carey Disaster Services Division is administered by Program Manager Kathi L. Reid, MBA, and Program Coordinator Takeshia Klu, MA. Its major program areas are the Disaster Services Network (a partnership between Lott Carey, National Baptist Convention of America, and American Red Cross); Grants Management (program management and oversight of grants received to fund disaster recovery and resiliency); Short-term Missions, and Special Projects (i.e.: Haiti—Carries Rebuild, Flint Water Project, Flint Refresh and others.) Here are LC–NBCA Disaster Services Network points of contact:

STATE	LC-NBCA OPERATIONS CONTACT	CITY/STATE	LC-NBCA OPERATIONS CONTACT
Louisiana	Pauline Hurst - bjmaxonjr@yahoo.com	Philadelphia, PA	Marvet Samuels - MSamuels@enontab.org
Mississippi	Rev. Dr. Chris Traylor - revchrisraylor22@comcast.net	Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. James Brown Minbrown148@aol.com
Florida	Dr. Julius Wynn - revjwynn@yahoo.com	Virginia	Halifax/ South Boston: Joyce Jackson - 1jackson@comcast.net
Alabama	Tracy Williams - tracy.williams@redcross.org		Northern VA: Cleo Hucks - rhodia1944@hotmail.com
Georgia	Calvin Lasbury - Clasbury@gmail.com	Baltimore, MD	Rev. Dr. Alfred Bailey II - abailey@newpsalmist.org
California	Rev. Dr. Edward Gaddis - ewgaddis@sbcglobal.net	Raleigh, NC	Eva Oakley - ecolemanoakley@yahoo.com
Texas	Dallas: Rev. Terry White - tlwhite54@gmail.com	Greensboro, NC	Theresa Gannaway - theresa.gannaway@aol.com
	Houston: Rev. Ronald Smith - pastorsmith@live.com	Charlotte, NC	Joe Wilson - jjoesr@gmail.com
	Houston: Leigh Johnson - rjohnson15@gmail.com	South Carolina	Brenda Carter - davisalah@gmail.com
New York	Richard Cox - lottcareyarcnypg@gmail.com	Ohio	Columbus - Denise Prater - dprater33@sbcglobal.net
New Jersey	Richard Cox & Dr. Daphne Lockett - daphnelockett@att.net	Dayton	Dayton - Rev. Xavier Johnson - pastor@bmbcd Dayton.org
		Michigan	Flint - Deacon William Quarles - brquarles@yahoo.com



FLORIDA: IRMA GRANT SUMMARY

The American Red Cross awarded Lott Carey a \$254,500 grant for disaster recovery services in Collier, Lee, and Monroe counties. The one-year grant ended April 30, 2019, but the work continues. The goal of the Irma Recovery Project was to provide social services and recovery services to vulnerable African American, Hispanic/Latino/Latina, and Haitian households impacted by Hurricane Irma in 2017. Services included mental health awareness; outreach to underserved, immigrant, and minority programs; disaster preparedness training and fire safety; and mold awareness.



Area pastors on the Red Cross and partnership, Page 11



Two moms covered by grace and new roofs, Page 18



Making the (pillow)case for fun and child safety, Page 20





Photo by Mike Tucker

Above: Project Director Kelly L. Parker says Immokalee residents face many economic and social challenges but stick together as neighbors. At right: A learning exhibit about disaster preparations.

Lott Carey partnerships bring hope and better connections



By Kelly L. Parker

This is a first step in helping people in South Florida. Lott Carey's primary goal is to solidify its relationship with the American Red Cross and the National Baptist Convention of America so that the partnership can move forward as a unified front. Meetings about programs, launch dates, and guidance from the Red Cross are all part of the process.

The most rewarding part of the work is alleviating human suffering: It is the look in people's eyes, the tears of joy and gratitude that come when you're able to meet a need at a critical time. This is made possible because of Lott Carey's methods.

This is my first experience with Lott Carey, but I think the methodology is brilliant. Come into a community, look at the needs, and partner with community leaders and churches to find out what their perceptions of the needs are. Then move forward. It is a strategy I'm mindful of as I visit areas to assess disaster recovery needs—Immokalee and Naples in Collier County; Fort Myers and Lehigh Acres in Lee County, and Key West, Big Pine Key, and Marathon in Monroe County.

I am awed by the resilience of the people, especially in the Immokalee area where there's a very high concentration of Hispanic and Haitian residents. The response to disaster has been to come together. They won't be defeated. They figure out a way to rise again. I feel their troubles in a profound way, whether it's mentoring young people or helping families with food challenges. I feel like I've come full circle. I'm one of 12 children—my mother's 10th child. We have the same mother and father, grew up in the same household, and as children experienced extreme poverty. To grow up, become an adult and be able to address

the same needs for other families is fulfilling. I feel like those childhood experiences happened to me so I could respond to those needs in the community.

Those needs can really be felt and seen in a town like Immokalee, where the income per capita is \$9,966—64 percent lower than the Florida average and 67 percent lower than the national average, according to AreaVibes, a web site that assigns livability scores to cities and towns across the U.S. The median household income is also lower than state and national averages. This illustrates an extreme level of poverty in a farm worker community, and while farm work is essential in putting food on our tables, it's not a high-paying way to make a living. The poverty is very real, the people's hearts are big and genuine. They work hard, and they need a hand up.

I would like to see all the communities we're working in be more resilient and develop their own resources. One of the obstacles that was revealed when Irma came is that there were organizations in Immokalee that no one had ever heard of. They hadn't been vetted; those in need didn't know the people who could help. I want to be a part of building a response that is grassroots so that people in need know disaster relief volunteers.

Kelly L. Parker was project director for the Lott Carey Irma Recovery Project in Florida. The project team also included: Francisca Parra, Carlos Cornelio, Natacha Pierre, Jennifer Valiente, Diane Martinez, Shanna Barthelemy, Charnette Butler-Valdez, and Trennadi Anderson. She is a science teacher for Collier County Public Schools, where she works with at-risk youth. She earned her bachelor's degree from Troy University in Dothan, Alabama, and her master's from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.



*'Everybody has
different experiences,
different signs'*

IRMA'S WRATH LEAVES PSYCHOLOGICAL SCARS

Photos by Mike Tucker

Mental health worker Natacha Pierre helps disaster survivors connect to help for psychological traumas.

In Summer 2017, Hurricane Irma left an array of physical damage easily seen, particularly water and wind damage. The psychological impact on residents is often harder to assess. Experts say it is common for survivors to experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), chronic depression, anxiety, and addiction. There may also be withdrawal, mood swings, and trouble sleeping. Natacha Pierre, a mental health worker for the Lott Carey partnership in southwest Florida, is well-acquainted with these challenges. She spoke to the Lott Carey Herald about her job—traveling to churches and community organizations to talk about mental health issues, and helping residents spot problems:

What can you tell me about the mental anguish caused by Hurricane Irma?

Some of the people, they don't know anything about mental health. They don't know how to recognize the signs. So, educating people about how to recognize signs of mental illness is amazing. A lot of people are grateful because they learn what to do, where to go, who to call. It is a great experience for me to be engaged in the commu-

nity and to educate people, especially the Hispanic, Haitian, and African American populations.

What type of mental health issues have come up?

I cannot really tell exactly because everybody comes up with different signs. They might have depression, or sometimes they cannot sleep because they think that Irma's going to come back. Sometimes they say, "Nothing matters to me;" or "I feel like everything I worked for is lost. Why do I have to live?"

Those statements seem to illustrate the importance of mental health care.

It's hard to hear those things. And sometimes people don't have insurance, so they cannot see a therapist. That's why Lott Carey comes in and gives information, educates them about what to do, and connects them to someone who might be a resource. People need somebody to talk to because there is still distress due to Irma. Communities of color are suffering from Irma. They still need the services.

—Text and Photo by Mike Tucker

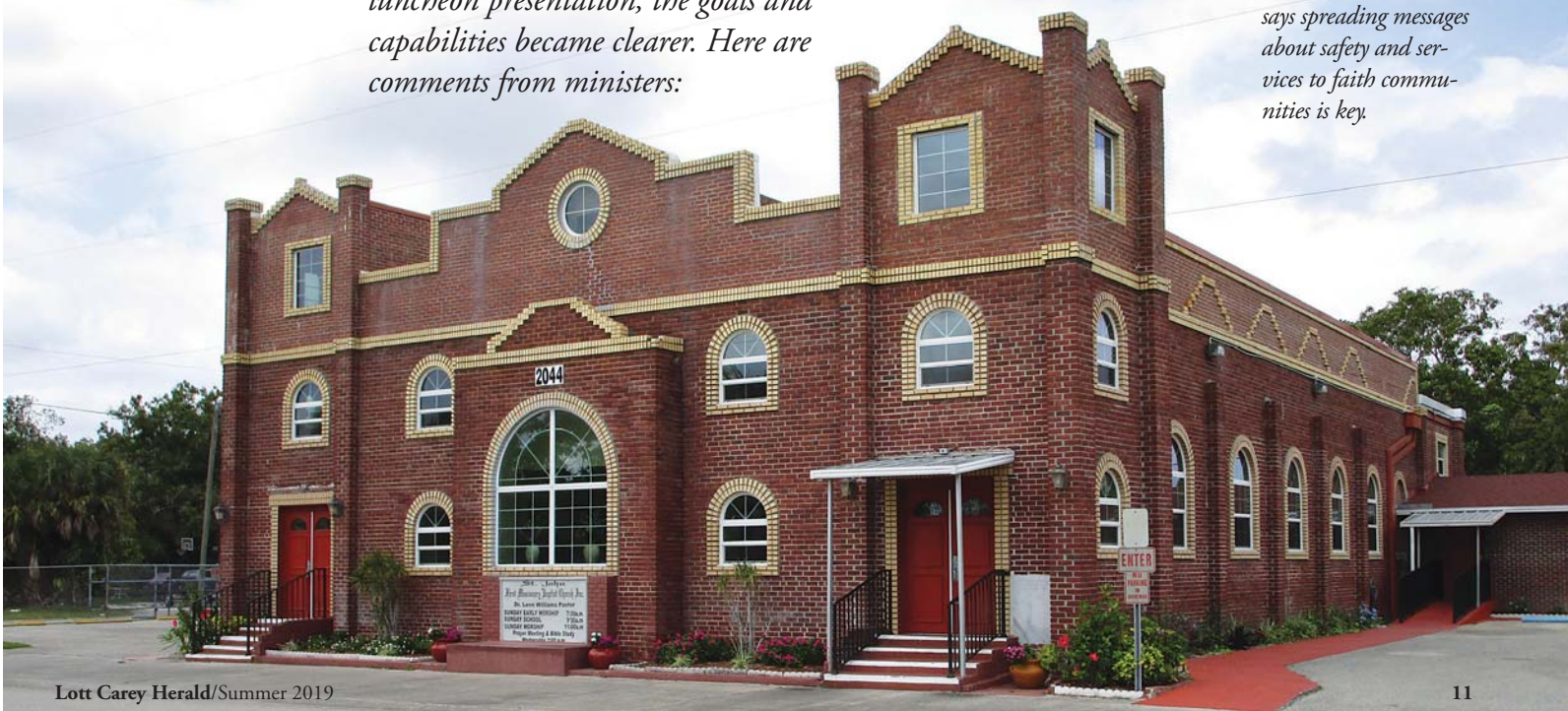
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

PASTORS REACT TO PARTNERSHIP CALL

The mood was cautiously optimistic as a group of area pastors recently met at St. John First Missionary Baptist Church to hear about the Lott Carey alliance to help with Irma recovery. For some, this was their introduction to Lott Carey. Virtually all knew about the American Red Cross (ARC), Lott Carey's partner, but were not aware of all the services available. ARC's Jill Palmer thought the meeting went well. "This was a very positive step towards continuing to build our relationships and increase our presence with the area churches and pastoral leaders," said Palmer, executive director of Florida's Southern Gulf Chapter. After a luncheon presentation, the goals and capabilities became clearer. Here are comments from ministers:



Jill Palmer of the American Red Cross says spreading messages about safety and services to faith communities is key.



LEON WILLIAMS

Pastor

*St. John First Missionary Baptist Church
Fort Myers, Florida*

“I have played a role in facilitating meetings that Lott Carey has in the area. What impresses me is the organization’s desire to help people in practical ways. The partnership is a great outreach endeavor that could be even more emphasized in Fort Myers. A lot of pastors don’t know what Lott Carey can do. The greatest value will be getting people involved in a cross-cultural way. This is not a help-African-Americans-only initiative. It’s to help all people. I’m talking about Native Americans and Hispanics, too. There is still a need for financial assistance, especially in communities of color. Some homes still have blue tarps. One of the problems is qualifying for funds to replace or repair damaged areas. My church, St. John, set up a disaster relief team that visited vulnerable members, such as widows and the disabled, to assess needs. Some needed windows boarded up, some needed sandbags to keep water back. We were able to help. To expand the partnership, pastors need to see and know what Lott Carey is. That needs to happen, No. 1. And somehow, there needs to be something to lure pastors in to say, ‘Hey, this can benefit your people and—if you invest time and energy to attend the meetings—there will be less panic when something happens.’”



RAMIRO RAFAEL REYES

Assistant Pastor

*Revival International Center
Fort Myers, Florida*

“Lott Carey has been doing a great job since 1897 (when it was founded)—in Africa, India, Haiti, and all the places it is located. The partnership can help us prepare the community, the church members, and the leaders because when a disaster comes—most of the time—we are not really prepared. People need to be educated on how to be prepared. The Red Cross presentation made sense because it’s another way of helping the community when the bad times come. And it’s an opportunity to preach the gospel, to bring hope. In the worst cases, people need to hear the word of God from people of God. We are a lucky congregation because we are a community church. We work with the Haitian community. We have a service in Haitian Creole every Sunday. We also have a service in Spanish. And in Portuguese. And we do a bilingual service if we have English-speaking people from the community. This partnership makes sense because we can be a conduit because our church is located in a community with all kinds of cultures.”



LONNIE MILLS

Pastor

*Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
Naples, Florida*

“This introductory meeting was very informative. It gave me some more insight on what we could do as a church and as a community to help prepare people for a disaster—before and after the fact.

We still have some people dealing with roofs damaged because of the hurricane. Our church is trying to help by getting information to them. I think the partnership idea is great because it gives you more resources. It gives you more outlets. And when it all comes together, we’ll have the right source to go to.”



WILLIAM GLOVER

Pastor

*Mount Hermon Ministries
Fort Myers, Florida*

“The value in the Lott Carey partnership is connecting organizations when a disaster happens. Connecting them with a partner like the American Red Cross bridges the gap in services more efficiently—and with greater resources. Irma recovery is still going on. Case in point, it took a year and a half to get the damage repaired in our worship and educational facilities at my church. That’s just from the materials side of it. From the emotional side of it, people who experienced flooding and displacement are still recovering. Lott Carey coming in to bridge the gap—especially in terms of helping people prepare and know that there is a partner to help you weather a disaster—is good. I think the partnership is empowering. Not much thought was given to disaster relief before Irma because it had been almost a decade since this area was hit by a storm. You tend to relax and forget about the inevitability of it. Irma was a reminder that you must be prepared and have collaboration to mobilize and be responsive. We still need more awareness, education, and communication. There are always people who fall between the gaps. The American Red Cross presentation describing services before, during, and after an emergency was very informative. I leave here wanting to establish a partnership.”

DIONICIA AND CARLOS AGUILAR

Pastors

*Ministerio Mundial Llamados a Triunfar
(World Ministry Called to Succeed)
North Fort Myers, Florida*

“The partnership can help prepare members of the church in case we have another disaster. I hadn’t heard of Lott Carey before, but the partners have important information about where to go and what to do after a disaster. Many people lost their homes because of Irma, or they didn’t have electricity or water. So, we just want to say thank you for coming together and forming a partnership. I feel the churches are coming together so we can be helpful to the community.”



From left, clockwise:
Robert Sofaly of the American Red Cross presenting at recent meeting; Kelly Parker, project director for the Lott Carey Irma Recovery Project in Florida; pastors and church members learning about Red Cross programs and services.



IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA

MINISTERS OF HOPE WORK FOR A BRIGHTER DAY



Terry Mallory and Frank Rincon are pals and pastors who believe in the power of community action.



You can tell Terry Mallory and Frank Rincon are buddies. The laughter comes easily when they're together, but both are deadly serious about their missions—to make life better for the 24,000 citizens of this agricultural town in northern Collier County.

Like many communities of color, Immokalee families were economically challenged before the storm. Hurricane Irma in Summer 2017 only made things worse for the population, which is 70 percent Hispanic and 18 percent African American.

Despite the challenges, the Chamber of Commerce paints Immokalee as a “noncoastal, agricultural wonderland.” While other Florida cities are known for their

beaches, Immokalee is proud of its small size and pastoral atmosphere. The town's name itself may be difficult to say for first-time visitors, but its origin is quite welcoming—it means “your home” in Mikasuki, part of a language family spoken by about 500 people in southern Florida.

Lott Carey Herald Managing Editor Mike Tucker met Mallory and Rincon at the Benison Center, founded in 2017 after Hurricane Irma. The massive warehouse operation continues to serve Immokalee and other communities through partnerships with churches and organizations.

Mallory, who works at the Benison Center, is pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church. Rincon, director of



the center, is English ministries pastor at Bethel Ministries International. Both are optimistic that change is on the way.

Lott Carey and its partners are reaching out to churches and organizations in Immokalee and throughout southwest Florida. What do you see happening?

Mallory: I see people getting some of their needs met and organizations coming together and working together. The more we come together, the better it is for the community.

Rincon: After the disaster, there was so much need for food and cleaning supplies every day. Irma was the biggest blessing for Immokalee because the need was always here. It has always existed. What Irma did was bring national attention to a small community that no one had ever heard of. And so, we were getting disaster relief supplies from as far away as New York, Ohio, you name it. It was

coming into Immokalee, and every agency in Immokalee became a distribution center, every church. Schools became shelters, and after the storm everybody did their part in the community.

Mallory: But seeing the damage ... trailers destroyed, and you wonder about the people. Then, you find out later that some were in hotels, some had to move. For a while, there were a lot of kids who would show up at school one day and then, all of a sudden, not be there anymore because the families had to move for work or whatever because of the hurricane.

Sounds like there's value in continuing partnerships.

Rincon: It's something that's needed. If those partnerships dissolve, then you have to restart the engine, rebuild them if a disaster ever occurs again. That's why we're here. Benison is no longer a disaster relief organization, so we had to become relevant for the doors to stay



A look at some of the supplies housed in the vast Benison Center in Immokalee, Florida.

open. If there's ever another disaster, the warehouse is here, the staff is here, and all we have to do is turn the ship to the left or right.

Is sharing information part of the partnership process?

Mallory: It is a must. It's one of those things that you must have to get resources to the community. You've got to make the connection, make the phone calls. To already have personnel and a facility like this—something that will sustain us for a while until we can get more help to the community—is a blessing, like the name “benison.”

It has been about two years since Irma struck, yet people are still recovering. What sorts of problems persist?

Rincon: You still see blue tarps on roofs because repair is a huge expense for many. I still have a blue tarp on my home.

How does it look for the distribution guy to have that?

Rincon: “I’m okay with it. The tarp’s working fine. I’m just waiting for the right guy to give me the right quote.” (Laughter.) How do you install a brand-new roof when the insurance companies give you 40 percent of the cost?

Are homeowners buying 40 percent coverage or 100 percent coverage?

Rincon: Oh, they’re buying 110 percent coverage.

So, why aren’t they getting 100 percent money to fix or replace the roof?

Rincon: Ask the insurance companies.

Two moms grateful for amazing grace . . . and new roofs to protect their families

‘The Lott Carey partnership is awesome’

Angel Cardenas works in the Department of Elder Services for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She and her husband, Juan, a construction worker, live in a two-bedroom, one bath mobile home with their sons, J.C., 13, and R.J., 9.



Photos by Mike Tucker

“I was working at the shelter when Irma hit, and I couldn’t come home for three to four days. When I came home, I found out that inside it got all wet from the roof. It was leaking very bad. The Salvation Army helped us with a blue tarp. Ever since then, we were waiting so we could save up enough money to fix our roof. It was damaged in different areas—the bathroom, the kitchen and one of the bedrooms. We tried to see if FEMA could help, but FEMA denied us any kind of assistance. Well, we do a lot with the community and one of the parents told us about the program, and we met with Lott Carey. A representative helped us with all the paperwork. Soon after she said, ‘Oh, Angel, we’re ready to do your roof.’ And I’m like, ‘What? So quick?’ And she said yes, and I was really happy because she helped us get our roof done. The Lott Carey partnership is awesome. I didn’t know that there were these programs or organizations to help people. They really did help me a lot. They fixed the whole roof and water damage on the windowsills and in one of the rooms. I just want to say thank you for all the wonderful help you gave me and my family.”

Jessica Nieto, who works in housekeeping, has lived in Immokalee for more than 30 years. She and her five children—Lamar, 19; Carmela, 16; Rosario, 15; Camantha, 13; and Curz, 12—live in a single-family house near a high school.

“I was without any lights and water here where I live with my five kids. I kind of ran out of shelter solutions, so I took myself and my kids to the high school where they provided everything that I needed—food, somewhere to lay down. We took some of our belongings, blankets, pillows, and we stayed there. The electric was out; and some of our roofing started leaking. The partnership came and fixed the roof. One of the things these groups do is to inform people so in case, God forbid, it happens again you know at least what to do and where to go. Miss Kelly Parker—she’s a great person. Everything that I needed, she had it for me. You could tell, she’s here to help the people.”





Proudly Partnering with Lott Carey since 1982, providing Sound, Lighting and Video Production Services to the Annual Conference.

What We Do:

- Permanent Installs (Church or Business)
- Conference Recording
- Live Sound
- HD Video Production & Streaming
- LED Video Walls
- Digital Mapping
- Stage Lighting Design



Find Us On:



BIG PINE KEY, FLORIDA

PUTTING FUN INTO SAFETY

*'There is a lot to be
learned from the youth'*

The American Red Cross, a Lott Carey partner, uses a unique educational method to teach youngsters about safety—the Pillowcase Project. There's no lying down on the job for participants; but there is a ton of fun as children learn to safeguard their well-being in a crisis.

The Red Cross created the program and implemented it after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It's now widely used to help kids identify:

- The best ways to stay safe during emergencies, including a home fire.
- How to manage stress in emergencies and everyday situations.
- How science plays a role in emergency preparedness.

Students ages 8-11 are given a Red Cross lecture, a chance for small group collaboration, and a learning environment in which to ask lots of questions. They also receive a workbook to expand their learning after the program, a certificate, and a pillowcase to decorate and use as an emergency supply kit.

Everyone was happy with the results of a recent project at the Boys and Girls Club in Big Pine Key, an unincorporated community of about 5,000 in Monroe County. Shanna Barthelmy, a mental health specialist with the Lott Carey Irma Recovery Project, emphasized the importance of the safety lessons.

"The kids learned coping skills and exercises to keep anxiety down and keep a tranquil environment," she says. "It was clearly a success."

Adds Charnette Butler-Valdez, an outreach coordinator on the project: "After going through Hurricane Irma and given the tools we provided, they will be more prepared in the event of another disaster. 'The youth were engaging and a delight to work with. They truly touched my heart. Some are still homeless but can still smile. There is a lot to be learned from the youth.'"



Charnette Butler-Valdez, middle, and Shanna Barthelemy, right, display colorful creation.



Youngsters show off their colorful safety messages started for the Pillowcase Project. The program, started in 2005, teaches kids how to be safe during an emergency.



TAMPA, FLORIDA

GRANT EVALUATOR PAIRS FAITH AND WORK FOR POSITIVE RESULTS

*'Lott Carey has made the decision
to impact the world'*



Dr. Wynn with survivors, above; storm damage in Florida.

Julius L. Wynn Sr. is a man of action.

When Hurricane Michael in October 2018 became the first Category 5 twister to impact the Florida Panhandle, he traveled to Quincy, Marianna, and Panama City helping charities and churches assess damage. Not long after, he and a group from his Tampa church traveled in the church van and a 26-foot rental truck to churches in the Carolinas to deliver water and other supplies to people still struggling in the wake of Hurricane Florence, which had struck a month earlier. When duty calls, he answers—including collecting \$20,000 for churches in hurricane zones and 40,000 pounds of food for those in need.

So, it's no surprise that Dr. Wynn is Florida operations contact for the Lott Carey-National Baptist Convention of America Disaster Network. He is also the grant project evaluator for the network's response to 2017's Hurricane Irma Recovery Project. That's a big load for one who also pastors Highland Missionary Baptist Church in Tampa; is Home Mission Chairman for the First South Florida Missionary Baptist District Association; and serves as Home Mission Chairman and the secretary to the president of the Progressive Missionary & Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida (President – Dr. Bartholomew Banks). He is also a member of the Home



Mission Board for National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc. (President – Dr. Samuel Tolbert). It is in this role with NBCA that Dr. Wynn began his affiliation with Lott Carey. NBCA and Lott Carey have a partnership relationship that is impacting lives in many communities.

Dr. Wynn earned a bachelor of science degree in purchasing and materials management from Florida State University; and a master's in educational leadership and a doctorate in education from the University of South Florida. He currently is an administrator in the Pinellas County School System and teaches at St. Petersburg College and the American College of Education. He and his wife, Tonya, have two daughters and a son.

He talked about his work among storm survivors with *Lott Carey Herald*. Excerpts:

What's your primary job as Irma grant evaluator in Florida?

My role as evaluator requires me to track the overall success of the project using quantitative and qualitative program measures. Meaning, I evaluate the progress of the grant based on metrics to help Kathi Reid, the Lott Carey program manager make sure that the team is meeting the objectives of the grant. In my grant evaluator role, I also reach out to pastors in areas that have been affected, and make sure that they're getting their needs met via the Red Cross and share that information with Lott Carey-NBCA Disaster Network.



What areas will be evaluated?

Lee County, that's the Fort Myers area; Collier County, that's the Naples area, and Monroe County, that's Key West.

What needs have you identified?

They need smoke detectors. Part of the grant was for dealing with that, but some people are still struggling years after Irma. I was in Key West recently, and some people are still having roofing issues. We've come a long way, but a lot of people are still in bad shape.

Why the difficulties?

Part of the answer is that some of the money from the state has not come through. I'm not sure why—because some people have gotten them and in some areas they just haven't.

How does your experience in education and public service help you in your evaluator role?

I have a passion for teaching, missions work, and helping those who are less fortunate get funding or teaching them how to reach out. Sometimes, people are left out because they don't know who to contact.

What's your methodology when you meet with hurricane survivors?

The first thing I do is to listen. Second, I look past the stated need

because people often say they need stuff but then when you evaluate what they tell you, it's not what they need. The third step is to try to find somebody who can meet their needs. The listening piece is key. You'd be surprised by how many people are not heard.

What is it about this work that makes you feel so good?

Just being able to help people. As believers, as human beings, we ought to have a passion for helping. A lot of people have compassion, which means they're concerned. But when you're compassionate, you do something about it.

What's next on the agenda as you work with pastors?

Fire prevention and safety and blood drives.

You've had about a three-year association with Lott Carey? Any thoughts?

I like Lott Carey because they have the same passion for missions work that I have. We understand that there's work to do, and Lott Carey has made the decision to impact the world, to try and make a difference. That's what I do.

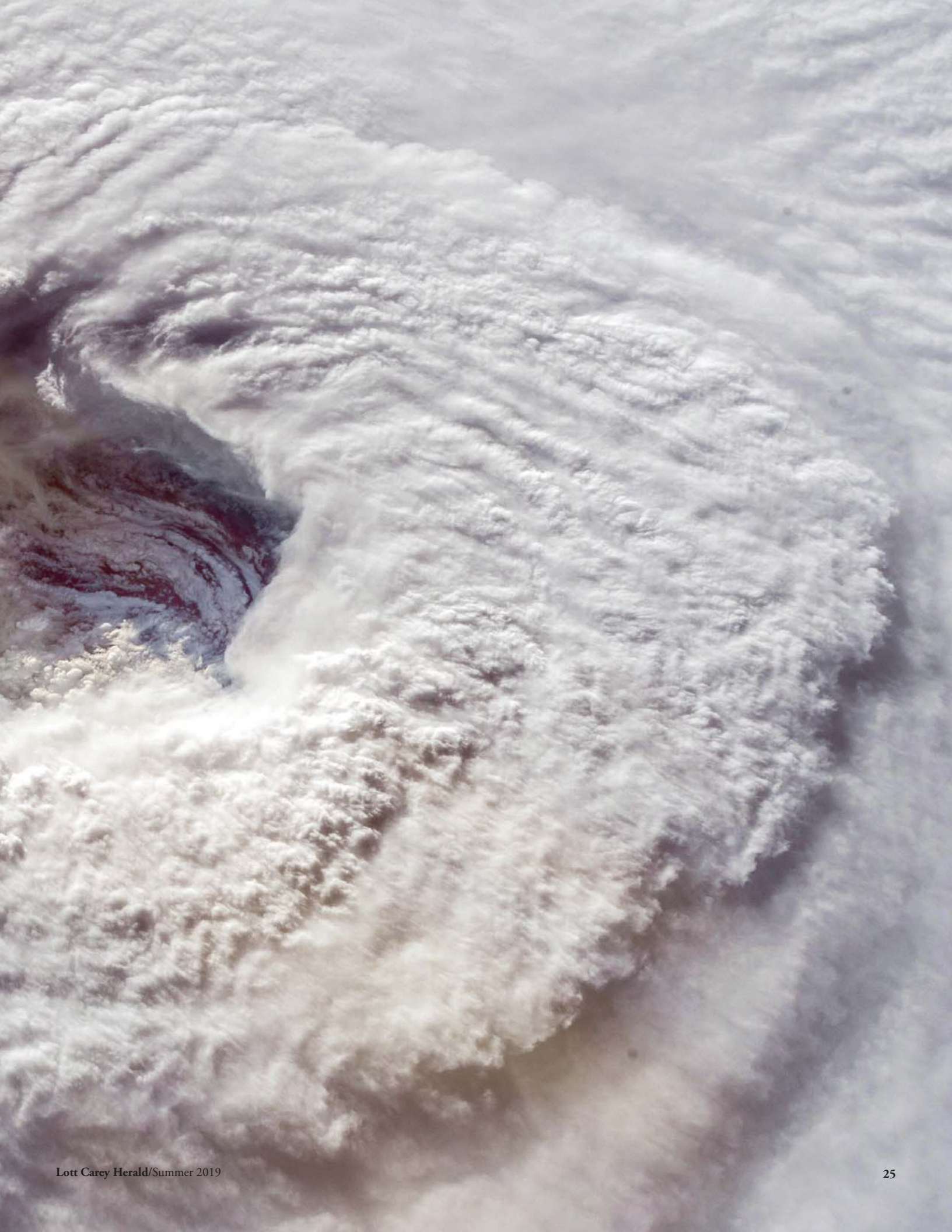
What do you say when people ask about doing missions?

I tell them that there's enough work for all of us. You really don't have to look hard to find people in need. Feed the homeless. There doesn't have to be a disaster. Just work around your local community.

An aerial photograph of a hurricane, showing the swirling white clouds and the dark center of the storm. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

FIGHTING
HURRICANE FLORENCE'S
DESTRUCTIVE LEGACY:

LOTT CAREY
AND PARTNERS
HELP NORTH
CAROLINA'S
MOST
VULNERABLE
COMMUNITIES



GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA



Stories & Photos by Neill Caldwell

Rev. Joe Jackson pulls himself into his large SUV in the parking lot of Best Grove Missionary Baptist Church, which he pastors, to begin our tour. With his cell phone perched at the ready on his dashboard, he heads the truck through town toward Kenansville, a small rural community about 30 miles to the south. Jackson wants to show off an expansive supply depot that provided much relief in the wake of Hurricane Florence, which struck North Carolina almost a year ago.

The supply hub hosted by the Word of Faith Ministries is part of the partnership between Lott Carey, the American Red Cross (ARC), and the National Baptist Convention of America (NBCA). Hurricane Florence hit the coast on Sept. 13 and inched her way inland, dumping more than three feet of water on the eastern half of the state.

While the storm's winds were strong enough to uproot trees, causing widespread power outages, water was the main culprit. That amount of rain on already saturated ground caused major flooding across the region. Just a few weeks later Tropical Storm Michael cov-

ered the same territory with more heavy rain, doubling the region's problems.

"In less than two years, three storms have hit us—two hurricanes and a tropical storm—and we're still recovering," Jackson said. "Some of our churches got hit twice."

Since Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Lott Carey-NBCA volunteers have been embedded with ARC Disaster Relief Operations in select regions to help ensure poorer communities are served by the national relief agency. That person contacts churches or associations and other Lott Carey partners in the area affected by a disaster.

"Because I'm from North Carolina, it was quite easy for me to contact these churches," said Theresa Gannaway of High Point, one of several Lott Carey volunteers who served during the disaster. "For example, I was able to contact Jackson for the 30 or so churches that are under his care as moderator, I would find out what were his needs, and I would set up a distribution center. Rather than having the Red Cross drop resources to individual churches, they put the resources into a central area. Then Jackson and his volunteers would distribute them to the different areas in need. In that way, we were able to cover a large area, more so than me trying to call each individual church."

Rev. Quan Stewart, who directed relief efforts in southeastern North Carolina for the Middle District Baptist Association, said:



***Clockwise from top:** The supply hub in rural Kenansville is managed by the Word of Faith Ministries; AmeriCorps volunteers help pack boxes of food; Patsy Quinn directs volunteers and staff workers at the relief supply hub hosted by her church, Word of Faith Ministries; Pastor Joe Jackson of Best Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Goldsboro and Pastor Juanito Hernandez of Iglesias Pentecostés Alfa y Omega Church.*

“Whatever supplies we need—cleaning supplies, tarps or whatever—the Red Cross will help bring those items to us, including hot meals three times a day. In our situation, it was more communications and logistic needs, which was a tremendous blessing, because without that connection, my experience has shown, these communities would not have been served. For instance, in one area, Maple Hill in Pender County, the way in which the storm came through ... it literally cut off the community from itself. Had it not been for the Lott Carey partnership, those people would not have gotten assistance.”

From Working in Parallel to Partnering

Before 2005, all of Lott Carey’s relief work was overseas. Hurricane Floyd’s devastation in Princeville, North Carolina, was Lott Carey’s first significant investment in missions in the United States. Then came Katrina and Rita in 2005, which devastated the Gulf Coast.

“When Hurricane Katrina struck and, six weeks later, Hurricane Rita, they created two third-world kinds of disasters right in our front yard,” says Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, former executive secretary-treasurer for Lott Carey, now a senior strategist for the organization.

“Katrina generated a significant amount of funding, so we built our own response mechanism. We would find ourselves in similar spaces with the Red Cross but were never able to collaborate. About seven years ago we connected with them to explore ways to do a better job

in reaching what they called “vulnerable communities.” They meant black and brown people. So, we started conversations in the Mid-Atlantic Region (of the Red Cross) and created a Memo of Understanding for that area. Later, we did another one for the Northeast after Hurricane Sandy. Eventually, we decided it was time to roll up to a national partnership.

“We knew how to connect for recovery work. We finally found a Red Cross executive who was interested in a partner who could help them with some of their difficulties connecting in the black and brown communities.”

That was Mid-Atlantic Division Disaster Executive Scott Graham, who along with volunteer Earl Brown, began to work with Goatley and Kathi Reid in the Lott Carey office.

“Earl and I had been trying to build a model of engagement with African American communities through Lott Carey,” Graham said. “There were a number of Lott Carey churches in my division, which goes from South Carolina to Pennsylvania. We had some early meetings in 2014 and got some traction in 2015. Subsequently, we were able to include NBCA as a co-partner with Lott Carey. That’s been a huge opportunity for us to extend our reach all over the country.”

Brown, relationship manager between ARC and Lott Carey/NBCA, said: “I retired from Xerox Corp. and didn’t care too much for retirement, so I got connected with Scott and became his volunteer partner. We developed this model where we would have one-to-



one relationships at the local level, and we introduced that through Lott Carey. That makes Lott Carey unique from a lot of Red Cross partners.”

Graham added: “We’ve had Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Florence in North Carolina, Irma in Florida. After each, we have had an ‘after-action review’ to see what we learned and what we were able to accomplish. It’s a continuing building process. Before the storm, we energize the network to prepare them for what’s coming, contact churches that might be shelters, and dispatch readiness teams into the area. Then we prioritize where we will send the liaisons, assess the needs, and do damage assessment. We distribute MREs, water, cleanup kits, tarps, ways to prevent mold in homes, and also listen to people’s mental health needs.”

Kathi Reid, Lott Carey’s Disaster Services program manager who works in the Landover, Maryland, headquarters, explained: “We deploy volunteers to assist with disaster relief and did so during Hurricane Florence in September. It becomes a missions outreach of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The Rev. Dr. Gregory Moss and the late Rev. Dr. Haywood Gray identified four association moderators to make sure communities affected by Florence receive support from the Red Cross. We did the same for Harvey, Irma, Michael, and the California fires. Churches become

the distribution network for food, clothing, cleaning supplies, whatever is needed.”

Reid says that volunteers set up more than 30 distribution hubs for supplies after Florence struck. “In the process, we connected with about 55 churches in 17 counties. Gannaway, a North Carolina resident, was on site a week after I arrived and provided leadership for the team and stayed until the assignment was completed.”

“The system works pretty well,” said Gannaway. “They divided the state into districts, so we made sure that we had a distribution center in each one of the districts. We could put in the request for supplies with the Red Cross plus other in-kind donations. Other members from the headquarters went out and did site visits and assessments.”

“I’m pleased with the development and the progress we’ve made,” says the Red Cross’ Graham. “Right before this hurricane season, we had a deliberate engagement about liaisons who would work in conjunction with the Red Cross and our disaster relief headquarters. For North Carolina and this most recent disaster, we had a number of folks who came in and were part of that experience with us. ... It has helped us expand our reach and build relationships where we didn’t have them before. It’s a partnership that is making things better for people who are hurting.”

Also, there’s a trust factor. When you reach and connect with



Clockwise from left: Volunteers load boxes of food into vehicles in front of the relief hub in Kenansville; on an assembly line, volunteers place donated items, including cereals, from large boxes into individual food boxes for people to take home.

churches on an everyday basis before there is a disaster, and you have a positive relationship with them, your ability to accelerate the coordination increases dramatically. We've been able to extend our self through that network and a different demographic."

Bringing Churches Together

It's all about meeting needs, says Best Grove's Jackson, senior pastor of Best Grove for 19 years and who serves as moderator of the Bear Creek Association, a group of 27 mostly small churches. "Best Grove happens to have a bigger facility. Our dining hall can seat 450, so we can do large meals. When we cook meals, we include the whole community, including our (homebound) seniors and the local Kitty Askins Hospice Center."

Now, community efforts are moving into a different phase, Jackson says. "We are looking at after-care and building trust. We've expanded into the Hispanic community. There is a family of 12 who lost everything and is living in a church. We told them whatever we can do we will try and help them. I pass things on to Pastor Juanito Hernandez (of Iglesias Pentecostés Alfa y Omega Church) and he passes it on to his community."

Jackson's military background may be one reason he's good at organizing. The other is his friendly manner. "We put the word out

that we would help whoever we can. And we took care of everybody who came.

"We've had several site visits from Lott Carey and the Red Cross to see what our program was like and see what we are doing. It's included the United Way of Wayne County and the Salvation Army, and The General Baptist State Convention. The Red Cross gave us 700 meals in two days and we went through them pretty fast. The Salvation Army took them and they know the hot spots of where the need is greatest."

Items have included everything from cleaning supplies, comfort kits, water, hygiene products, bleach, tarps, dehumidifiers, heaters, towels, baby food, baby supplies, peanut butter to power bars.

One Amazing Operation

The 30-minute drive ends as Rev. Jackson pulls into Word of Faith. Although the facility there is less than two years old, it's huge and consists of several large warehouses.

Inside is a beehive of activity. Two forklifts move pallets of boxes around while a line of about a dozen volunteers—including several AmeriCorps workers from around the country—packs food boxes for folks to take home. The boxes may include anything from canned beets to Oreos; it just depends on what has been donated on that

Hundreds of boxes of food and household items are stored at the Word of Faith supply hub in Kenansville.



particular day. On Mondays and Wednesdays, people can come to the facility, sign up for a box of food and take it home. They even get curbside service, only without the curb.

The hub is managed by Rev. Bud Quinn and his wife, Patsy, but within seconds it's clear who is in charge. Bud and grandson JonPaul Murphy provide the muscle while Patsy gives the directions. Despite being in a wheelchair, getting dialysis three times a week and being in her 70s, she's a ball of energy. When North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper came to the facility a couple of weeks ago, it was Patsy who answered all his questions.

"Patsy Quinn was trying to take care of a lot of people in this rural area, some of them migrant workers," says Gannaway. "She was calling into the Red Cross for assistance, and we learned that there were about 3,000 people living out in the woods because their homes had been destroyed. She didn't have the resources to help that many people. After she called in to the Red Cross, it went up to upper management because it was more people than I could handle. And they went in there and they took truckloads of food, cleaning kits, tarps ... anything we thought they could use."

"The Red Cross will always take care of the cities—Wilmington, Fayetteville, Lumberton—but you have to keep in mind that you have more rural area in North Carolina than you have cities," Gannaway adds. Most people in this part of the state didn't have flood insurance because they'd never had a flood before, Patsy Quinn explains. They were without power for at least a week; and their children were out of school for two months.

The Red Cross provided lots of cleaning supplies and plenty of food, she says. "But what we really need now is building materials. We're sitting here with houses in a mess but nothing to put in them. I have the volunteers to do the work. I guess you have to bite that elephant one bite at a time."

Murphy, who doubles as youth pastor of Word of Faith and warehouse manager, says that an average of three or four tractor-trailers pull in each week and unload 75 pallets of supplies, from canned food to baby diapers. Other churches donate used furniture. There's an entire warehouse building that's full of empty boxes, all identical in size to make packing them easier. Because of the amount of donations coming in each week, it all has to be distributed to the people



just as quickly.

"It's really kind of amazing," laughs Quinn, overseeing the scene. "When we give out of something and we need something, we get together and pray. And it's never failed yet because the Lord provides. Like Rev. Jackson said he needed a freezer and we didn't have a freezer. But someone was given a freezer that he didn't need and he brought it by here the next day. ... Our ministry is to try to make life easier for people who are having a hard time and are hurting. That's our goal."

"Stuff comes in and you see how busy they are pushing things out," Rev. Jackson offers as we end the tour. "(Mrs. Quinn and I) took an instant liking to each other. Over the past few weeks, we've grown closer and closer. She gives so much stuff to us and turns it right back out to our community. I'm so thankful for her."

The Last to Get Assistance

On the road back from Kenansville, Rev. Jackson continues his assessments of the disaster relief partnership. "The rural areas are hard because we don't get there, and there are technology issues. When the

phone lines go down and the roads get covered up with water, then you're using boats to get in. Sometimes it's dangerous for us to try and get to people—you know we've got a lot of snakes—but we do it because we love them.

"Minority communities are the last ones to get assistance," Jackson adds. "Part of the Lott Carey-Red Cross partnership is addressing how do we make sure everyone gets assistance. When we do disaster recovery, we're following God's plan in that anyone who comes in the door gets help. We've brought that philosophy to our association. We're learning better ways to connect with other people and meet the needs of an ever-changing society. We're working with everybody, not just within our own denomination. That's built a lot of confidence in the community about our efforts. I'm just thankful for the way God has brought us together."

Rev. Jackson runs down a list of ways things can be done better in the future:

- Improve the ways that the elderly can reach out for assistance; technology is not their friend. Computerize records to build a database.

A flatbed truckload of potatoes is unloaded at the supply hub in Kenansville.



- Be more proactive in establishing a contact, if one is not already in place, before the crisis hits. Create a plan of action for meeting the needs of poor, rural communities.
- Develop plans for aftercare, including counseling to meet the psychological needs of individuals and families.
- Establish additional strategic sites in our communities in case our facilities are damaged.

"We are planning to have a group of pastors and church members educated and certified through the Red Cross Disaster classes," Jackson adds. "These courses will help to ensure that most, if not all those affected by the storms, fires, floods" get their physical, emotional, spiritual, psychological, and communal needs met in ways that aid their return to a sense of normalcy.

Things also seem to be going well from a Red Cross perspective. "We just had a planning meeting last week to talk about 2018 and 2019," says Brown. "There are glitches and hiccups in certain areas, but we're persevering. We've got some relationships that we need to revitalize in certain areas of the country. We count on Lott Carey most of all for diversity. The Red Cross is challenged in some areas with diversity, and Lott Carey-NBCA allows us to get into those areas and provide relief.

"Lott Carey is one of our more dependable partnerships—one that

we count on during an action. But I don't think people understand all the work that goes on behind the curtain. It's not something where you just flip a switch and walk away. And it's not something you just crank up during a disaster."

Between disasters, the Red Cross partners with Lott Carey on blood drives, on the installation of smoke detectors in homes, and on fire prevention training for elementary school-aged children. It also staffs an information table at Lott Carey's Annual Session.

The partnership also helps people prepare for the next storm or disaster. The Red Cross' disaster program is free, Gannaway says. If the local churches are willing to join with their local Red Cross, they will get training that will teach the community about what it can do in preparation for the next hurricane.

"We rejoice in our Lott Carey-National Baptist Convention of America-American Red Cross national partnership that engages churches to support vulnerable communities for disaster preparation, relief, and recovery," says Dr. Goatley. "We have come a long way since our 2013 planning meetings. We now enjoy a partnership that includes recent relief for Florence as well as recovery projects for Black and Latino communities in Florida and vulnerable communities in Texas. We rejoice in our growing relationship and look forward to continuing work toward helping people rise again."

BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

‘You do for others because you never know when it will be your time’



Packing, loading, and delivering relief food and supplies create an endless cycle, but the joy is in helping others.

You can easily spot the homes and businesses that still need work months after a hurricane hits because royal blue tarps cover damaged roofs and walls. They stand out like beacons, focusing attention on homeowners’ long-term pain.

That’s the way it is here in the wake of Hurricane Florence and the same holds true in the aftermath of Matthew, Katrina, Irma, Andrew and Hugo—other hurricanes that spread destruction across the country.

Rev. Quan Stewart is pastor at St. John Missionary Baptist Church and second vice moderator of the Middle District Baptist Association, which serves eight counties of southeastern North Carolina. In addition to his many other job—which include teaching history and sociology at North Brunswick High School—he is disaster relief coordinator for the association, coordinating assistance among the 60 churches and from outside entities.

“This relief effort following Hurricane Florence has been quite a monumental task,” Stewart says while sitting in his office at St. John. “Every county in our association was affected in some way, shape, or form.”

The North Carolina relief effort was part of the Lott Carey/NBCA Disaster Network, established in early 2016 with the American Red Cross to cover the entire U.S. plus the Caribbean. A new slate of association officers was being voted in as Tropical Storm Michael came ashore in September 2016. Stewart suggested they do something to

help the churches in the organization. He got the disaster relief job.

Stewart received a crash course in disaster relief when traveling with Dr. Alyn E. Waller, Dr. Gregory Moss, and other Lott Carey officials to assess damage following Hurricane Harvey in southeastern Texas in 2017. This was a pastoral visit coordinated by Lott Carey. “That trip changed me because it made me see the need for missions. It changed me to be a person who is in tune to listening more. I’m a person who is always on the go. But this has forced me to slow down. It made me rethink what church is about. As a young man I heard my elders say ‘you do for others because you never know when it will be your time.’ So (when Florence came) it was our time. My heart is different. My eyes are different. It even affects what I do in the classroom.

“First, I had flashbacks from Harvey—talking to people and hearing the same stories. Hurricane Florence may have destroyed homes, but she somehow built up my soul. She caused water to fill people’s homes but caused a flood of love to fill my heart. And I’m better because of it.”

Too often, we think about missions work as sending dollars to this place or that place,” Stewart says. “But missions is about personal relationships. Missions is about being in your community, being with your community. We’ve somehow managed to make church about dollars and about the worship service, forgetting that after the benediction these people go home and live a life. So now our church focus is on missions.”



Forklifts run virtually nonstop at the supply hub in Kenansville, moving pallet loads of produce and other goods to volunteers, who pack the goods into boxes, and then moving those boxes to storage spaces.

Florence was a huge storm that brought three feet of rain to eastern North Carolina in September. While the storm was powerful, the storm's duration and the resulting flooding caused the greater damage. "It lingered for five days and dumped so much rain on the area. Our church looked like it was sitting in the middle of an ocean."

The Middle District association, working with the Red Cross and Lott Carey as partners, designated St. John as a hub for supplies along with several other churches in other counties. Stewart's church coordinated supplies for three to four weeks—serving hot meals and distributing clothes and goods, such as diapers, cleaning supplies, and the ever-present tarps.

Things seem to go better when working through the church network, Stewart says, because churches are more in touch with the needs of their communities than are some government agencies. "There has been a constant struggle in all eight of our counties for resources to reach the poorest communities," he said. "At times, there are racial tendencies to that. If you look today at the richer areas, it looks like nothing happened because those areas heal faster. In the poorer areas, it looks as if the storm came last week. The storm came through in September, but when we visited areas of Pender County in late November there were still piles of furniture and house materials on the side of the road. We have some disparities."

The work following Florence in his home area has made an even greater effect on Stewart than his exposure to Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

"You never really know how much you touch someone until

something like this happens. One day we went down with a truck of supplies to Rose Hill and Wallace, and you heard people there say they thought they were forgotten. You hear stories of how they lost everything. Yet God helped them endure. A church in Atkinson had water up to their ceiling. When we came to open up the relief effort, we thought we were coming to serve them, and they were coming to serve us. It's interesting how God does that. You come to minister, and yet people minister to you. Our people are resilient. If you could lose everything and still have a smile on your face... that shows the impact of what we've done."

Yet, none of the relief efforts would have been possible without Lott Carey and the Red Cross partnership. "After Hurricane Matthew, we had no resources beyond what we could pull together within our association. But when (Florence) came, the partnership was the difference maker. ... If it wasn't for this partnership, some communities would still be lost, still be left behind, and all but ignored by those elected officials who swore an oath to take care of their people. That's why God put us here... not to depend on government. We are to be what government is not."



Neill Caldwell is a freelance writer in North Carolina.

WE YOU

NEED

✝ LOTT CAREY -
NATIONAL BAPTIST
CONVENTION OF AMERICA
Disaster Services Network




We need your help for the

HARVEY RESTORATION PROJECT

Areas in Need
Houston
Beaumont
Port Arthur
Orange, Texas

We have a need for skilled and unskilled workers.
Together, we will help people rise again!



45 Bread of Life's
expanding vision
for Houston

50 How do you spell
empowerment?
B-E-T-H-E-L

TEXAS: HARVEY GRANT SUMMARY

The American Red Cross awarded Lott Carey a \$1.6 million grant to support recovery services in Harrison, Jefferson, and Orange counties. The 18-month grant concludes February 2020. The goal is to advocate for solutions that protect underserved, immigrant, and minority populations, aid their recovery, and help them prepare for future disasters. Objectives include repairs of at least 91 homes, spiritual care, and disaster preparedness training through three implementing partners: Bread of Life, National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., and Bethel Empowerment Center.

HOUSTON, TEXAS



Project Director Leigh Johnson with Lou Porter of Bread of Life, Chris Gleeton, who trains volunteers to do repairs, and April Luck, also of Bread of Life.

Not picture; In addition to the repair teams, Johnson oversees Kaitland Brannon, Project Coordinator, the Outreach Team (Veronica Caldwell and James Lee) and Spiritual Care Team (Gloria Mylles-Russell, Charles Jones and Lee Fields) and Dr. Jamie Russell.

Photos by Mike Tucker

Lott Carey partners bring hope by fixing homes, lifting burdens . . . and listening

'You can see them take in breaths of fresh air'

By Leigh Johnson

We're trying to help people rise again. That's our motto and we're doing three main things:

- Helping to repair homes damaged by Harvey. Even though the hurricane was about two years ago, not all repairs have been done. Many people still have leaky roofs.
- Meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of people surviving the hurricane's destruction. Often, you can fix a house, but people are still dealing with things emotionally. We provide a listening ear to comfort people and refer them to mental health services.
- Educating the community about disaster preparedness. We've found that when people take the necessary precautions, the damage that's done is reduced. A big part of what we're doing is sending outreach teams to deliver information about preparation and installing smoke alarms.

The most rewarding part of this work, for me, is seeing burdens lifted off people when they realize someone will help them deal with getting the repairs done, getting contractors. That's the biggest thing. They appreciate that we are helping keep their families safe. You can see them take in breaths of fresh air.

This is a unique experience for me and my first with Lott Carey, which I joined in November 2018. It's a world-class organization that works in foreign missions. Lott Carey values connections; and I find it fascinating that it is bringing those connections to North America, which has become a missions field because of the hurricanes. There

are lots of opportunities to connect and form partnership. That's why the alliance between Lott Carey, National Baptist Convention of America (NBCA) and the American Red Cross is so exciting. Lott Carey is expert in maintaining existing partnerships, forming new ones, and mobilizing to get the work done.

I work in the Houston and Beaumont areas, and it's always heartening to see the resilience of individuals—people committed to a community. Even when things are bad and they have lost everything, they come back and start over. The surprising part is that two years after the storm people are still suffering.

Restoring homes and families will be the ongoing work with our partners—the Church at Bethel's Family and the Bread of Life in Houston, and the NBCA in Beaumont. There's still a need for continuing repairs, spiritual outreach, and educating households on safety through smoke alarm installations. We will provide disaster preparedness training, work with kids to help them understand how to stay safe in an emergency, and expand our reach by connecting with more churches.

The key to success is partnering. We want residents to volunteer with Lott Carey or their churches and community organizations. By joining together, we can make sure people understand that help is available and recovery is possible.

Leigh Johnson is project director for the Lott Carey Harvey Restoration Project in Texas. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Vanderbilt University and his MBA from the University of Houston. He is also a certified project management professional.

MISSION-FOCUSED: NCBA HARVEY RESTORATION TEAM

KENNETH R. REEVES

Laborer, NBCA Harvey Restoration Team

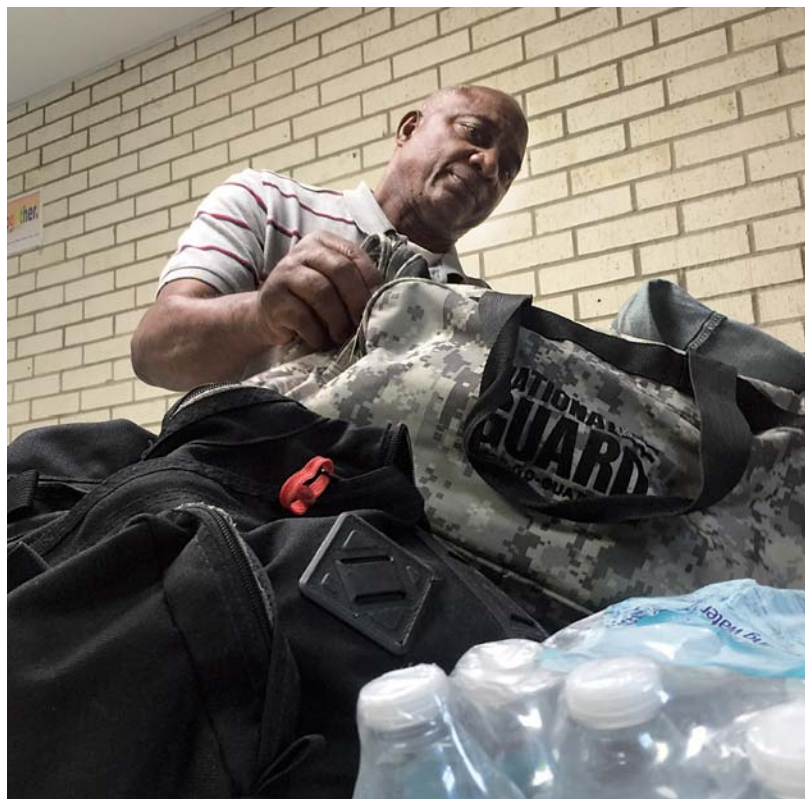
*Deacon, Greater Starlight Missionary Baptist Church
Covington, Louisiana*

My responsibilities are to assist with the rebuilding and restoration of Harvey-affected homes. First to bring them to a level of safety and second to encourage and support the homeowner and family to ensure quality work is being done with the proper materials in a timely manner.

The Lott Carey-NBCA partnership is truly a blessing to those still in distress. It's hard to believe, but many individuals who relocated after the storm are still not back in their homes. However, Lott Carey has become one of the leading outlets to which homeowners can turn for assistance.

Recovery is a series of processes. A storm the size and duration of Harvey is rare. Therefore, there is no blueprint for solutions, so very little is known about how to respond. Initial efforts concentrated on food and shelter and assessment of damages, which was duplicated by different organizations. Then came the challenge of finding skilled volunteer labor and contractors. Volunteers have dwindled and are sporadic at best. Good contractors have more work than they can handle. Subsequently, homeowners are left with the reality of living in their homes "as is" hoping that help eventually will come. Long term or short term, this is not a healthy situation.

It is special every time I knock on a door or make a phone call to a homeowner, tell them who I am, and why I have come. To see their faces or hear the anticipation in their voice because someone has them on their mind seems to put them at ease. They welcome you with open arms.



What I would like the public to know is that Harvey victims still need help. They need your prayers and your physical and financial support. But their attitude and resilience are truly something to behold. It's what keeps me going.

LA'CONYA J. CEASAR

Project Coordinator, NBCA Harvey Restoration Team

Lake Charles, Louisiana

As project coordinator, I'm responsible for maintaining and monitoring documentation for those receiving funding in Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Vidor. I ensure that homes selected for repair adhere to selection requirements; set up and submit payments upon approval of the project director; and maintain the budget. I support the NBCA project manager and project team with any administrative duties.

I appreciate the partnership with Lott Carey. The Harvey Restoration Grant supports and assists families that might have run out of options or that just need a little more funding to move back into their homes. There are a multitude of reasons why recovery is taking so long—from limited supplies to limited funding to limited volunteers. I'm saddened that some people are still not in their homes yet have to pay rent and a mortgage. But the people have not given up. They continue to push through and are grateful for any assistance.

I am blessed to be a part of the recovery efforts. And, I want every-



one to know those affected by Hurricane Harvey still have hope; they are optimistic, appreciative, and resourceful. I would like the world to know assistance is still needed and urge their continued support through prayers, partnership, resources, funding, and volunteering.

PAULINE W. HURST

*Project Coordinator, NBCA Harvey Restoration Team
Hammond, Louisiana*

I coordinate volunteers wanting to assist with the rebuilding effort in the Beaumont and Port Arthur areas. This includes securing lodging for volunteers and making sure they have the necessary equipment to do the work. I also coordinate meals for the workers with the various facilities that are housing the workers. And, I conduct outreach to churches, organizations, and individuals for assisting in the rebuilding effort.

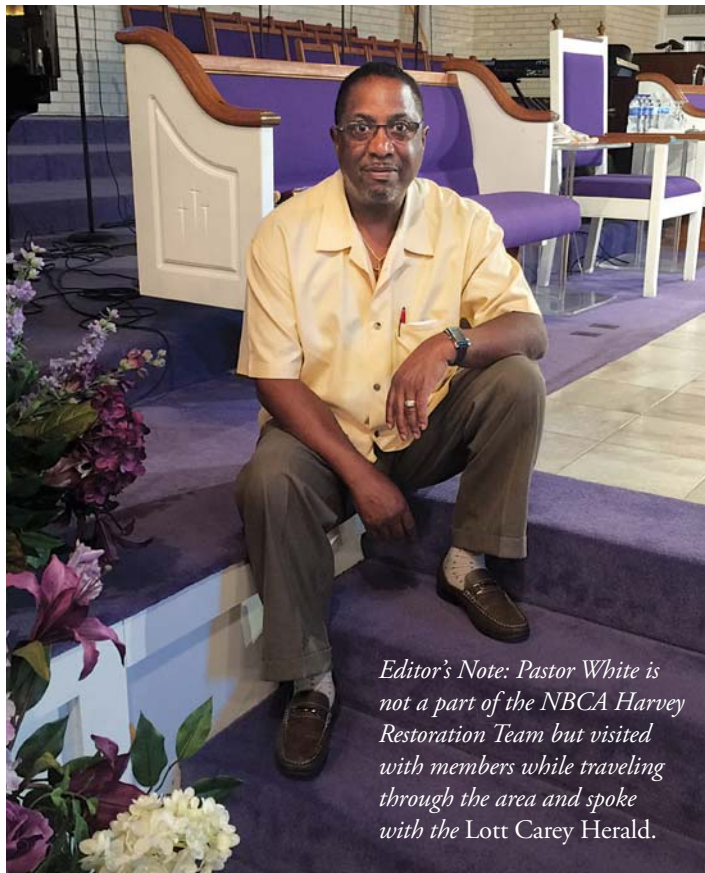
Working with Lott Carey is an amazing experience because they never have an agenda, but they have resources, money, and human capital to help people move forward. When trouble calls, Lott Carey answers. Their leaders always ask how they can respond. Helping communities recover from disasters is a way of showing the love of God. Lott Carey's focus is to help others do what they do best, and that means getting the resources so families can get back to a normal way of life.

It has taken a long time to recover for some because a lot of families had no insurance and no idea of how to get help. They were told so many different things and heard promises that were never kept. Families had to stay in their homes because they could not afford to go anywhere else and family members were also affected.

This disaster was huge and horrible. Hurricane Katrina forced me to leave New Orleans and settle on the other side of the state in Lake Charles. So, when I see volunteers putting up new walls and laying new flooring, and installing new plumbing, I get very excited because I know how it feels.



People don't understand that the need is still great. We still see homes that are down to the studs because owners don't have the resources to get the proper help, or they fear being swindled. We have seen cases where contractors come in and start the work but don't complete it and the homeowner is out of those funds. There is need for skilled and unskilled volunteers, and through the power of Jesus Christ, we can help people move toward security again.



Editor's Note: Pastor White is not a part of the NBCA Harvey Restoration Team but visited with members while traveling through the area and spoke with the Lott Carey Herald.

TERRY WHITE

*Pastor, Marsalis Avenue Missionary Baptist Church
Dallas, Texas
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc.
Louisville, Kentucky*

My responsibility is to respond to all disasters in the United States by deploying teams to the affected areas for relief and recovery.

The Lott Carey partnership is vital and intricate and engages our teams in preparation and deployment. It helps organize supplies and resources through our collaboration with the American Red Cross and other agencies that assist us.

Sometimes it takes a while to envision recovery because people soon forget about the devastation. People respond to immediate needs but not long-term needs. Our goal encompasses both relief and recovery. There is no time limit to recovery because the needs are great, and the resources are few. But we remain committed to helping people return to their homes and lives. It brings joy and satisfaction to me knowing that I have impacted the lives of the people we are privileged to serve.

I want people to know that relief is the immediate step, but recovery is the most important process because while the news media have stopped covering what happened, victims are still homeless, devastated, and left with minimum resources. We still need people to support relief and recovery efforts in their communities and continue until every family has a sense of peace and renewal.

Red Cross official sees comeback but . . .

'A storm of that size with so much damage is going to take time to recover from'

The American Red Cross (ARC) reportedly raised \$523 million to help Harvey victims—money that came from across the country. Emergencies such as Harvey present an opportunity for communities to exhibit their best nature, according to Melanie Fahey, the Red Cross' director of external relations for the Hurricane Harvey Long-Term Recovery Project in Houston. And while some might say a half-billion dollars represents a proverbial drop in the bucket, Fahey says the tally shows how many citizens saw a need and wanted to help. She shared a few perspectives with the Lott Carey Herald.



Partnerships with community organizations and churches are an essential part of spreading information about assistance and safety, says Melanie Fahey of the American Red Cross.

It's been two years since Harvey. Why haven't all areas experienced a comeback?

A lot of people are still in recovery, and some are just beginning recovery. That is due in large part to the size of the storm and how many people were affected. Harvey was the second-largest storm to hit the United States since the hurricane of 1900. It caused \$125 billion in damage with more than 135,000 homes damaged. A storm of that size with so much damage is going to take time to recover from.

What challenges persist?

Some people got two to three feet of water in their home. Okay, that's bad enough. But authorities had to release water from some of our reservoirs that they were afraid would break and cause even greater damage. Once that water was released, those same people had eight feet of water in their homes and that water stood for two weeks

or more. So that's not just water in your home, that's water seeping into your home. Once the water finally went down, homeowners had to get a contractor to gut the home. Then the home had to dry. That alone took months. And now you're also talking mold.

What do you hear from Harvey victims?

A gamut of issues. If you're a person with a fair amount of resources, and you got some help from FEMA, and you had insurance, you might just now be recovering. I know people that fit that description, and they are just now moving back into their homes.

What if you don't fit that description—you get FEMA help, but you don't have coverage or your insurance refuses to recognize your policy coverages?

There are plenty of heartbreaking stories. And again, it all goes back

Continued on page 52

'Sound the Alarm' offers ring of safety and security for rebuilt homes and residents

American Red Cross program has saved more than 500 lives

By Paula Jemison

We continue to have a strong relationship with Lott Carey-NBCA, one of our national partners. We meet to ensure that our Preparedness Program is understood and implemented. Lott Carey has committed to providing volunteers to participate in our activities.

We install free smoke alarms and provide fire safety education and an escape plan as part of our *Sound the Alarm* campaign, designed to reduce injuries and deaths caused by home fires.

The program is working well. We have installed more than a million smoke alarms since the program's inception in 2014. And it's documented that we've saved 552 lives with this program.

We're still working with victims of Hurricane Harvey. We have a vigorous long-term plan that started right after Harvey hit. We're providing financial assistance to some owners and block grants to partners to rebuild 91 homes. And we're also committed to installing smoke alarms.

Our mission is to help alleviate human suffering during a time

Continued on page 52



Photo: Mike Tucker

Paula Jemison of the American Red Cross says the constant threat of home fires makes *Sound the Alarm* a vital safety campaign.

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

PASTOR SAYS REPAIRS ARE SLOW BUT SIGNIFICANT

'This is what you call missions work'



Pastor Reynolds

Photos by Mike Tucker

Extensive administrative and networking experience make Pastor Airon Reynolds Jr. a successful project manager for the NBCA Harvey Restoration Team, charged with restoring homes and families in Orange and Jefferson counties. He leads the Borden Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Beaumont and is a member of a variety of denominational associations. He received his Bachelor of Theology from United Theological Seminary & Bible College in Monroe, Louisiana, and has an honorary Doctor of Divinity from the University of India. Reynolds took a moment to talk to Mike Tucker of the Lott Carey Herald while visiting a home site under repair. The pastor and team members Pauline Hurst, La'Conya Ceasar, Kenneth Reeves and Glynn Bailey understand the enormity of damage means making progress is a slog.



How are things going for the Lott Carey-NBCA partnership in Beaumont?

It's gone slowly, but positively. Several thousand homes have been damaged from the hurricane and subsequent flooding. But with Lott Carey's assistance we're able to work on 26 homes.

We're outside one of those homes, where workers are busy inside making repairs. That's progress. How does that make you feel?

It gives great hope. Many homeowners did not have flood insurance and were in a hopeless situation. FEMA denied 95 percent of the people in this area, so they had no other resources to assist them. I

spoke to some homeowners in Houston, and they told me they had insurance and their claims were denied because the representative said it was livable. This house had seven feet of water in it. Not livable.

I've seen the watermark on the window. What goes through your mind when you hear of people coping with seven feet of water in their homes?

You think it's not true. But when you visit devastated houses, it helps you to identify with the homeowners' sense of hopelessness. It makes me more determined to assist them.



***Clockwise from far left:** Contractor Luis Orellana and carpenter Jerrell Driver discuss strategy as they make repairs; the dirty bottom rows of windows illustrate how high the water rose in the house; rubble from repairs; Driver fills holes and cracks with a drywall compound.*

More volunteers are needed. What do you need them to do, and what's your message to those who say they have too little time to give?

There is no such thing as too little because it's been almost two years since the hurricane and flooding. We're not on the TV cameras. That means we are not on the (public's) radar. We still need folks to help us to muck out sheetrock that's been damaged. We need folks to help us to remove debris still in these homes. Whatever your level of expertise, we need that.

Might be a good way to earn a few stars in your crown.

Yes, indeed. This is what you call missions work. We're not in Africa, we're not in South America. We call it home missions.

Seriously, why do people help? How do volunteers inspire you?

They are spreading the love of Christ. You can't love Christ and do nothing to help those who are less fortunate.

Faith without works . . .

. . . is dead. You show me your work without faith, I'll show you mine by faith.



Schoolteacher's faith brings blessing of a new roof

At home, schoolteacher Samantha Odom stands outside and stares at her prized possession. At work, she shows off pictures of it. "I don't have children, I don't have a dog, but I show people pictures of my roof," she says, laughing. Odom has a reason to be happy because the Bethel Harvey Restoration Team replaced her Harvey-damaged roof with a new one. She is all smiles now, after going through a wilderness of insurance claims, rejections, and questionable contractors. Now, a new top adorns her three-bedroom, 2,464-square-foot home. "I am wonderfully blessed," says Odom, who originally is from South Bend, Indiana. "Happy is not the word. I'm ecstatic."

Homeowner's joyous testimony: 'All I can say is thank the Lord'

Text and Photos by Mike Tucker

Lillie B. Segura seemed annoyed as she greeted visitors on her front lawn. Wild hogs, an unending source of frustration in Texas and much of the U.S., had uprooted her foliage. "My neighbor had to shoot two last week," she said, hugging her guests, lightening the mood.

The retired Southwestern Bell employee posed for pictures then invited her guests into her home to see the renovations done by the Beaumont recovery team, including replacing walls and flooring damaged by water. She recounted what she had endured before the team came to her aid. It began with faulty information from her insurance company and bad luck.

"I carried flood insurance until 2014," says Segura, who will celebrate her 73rd birthday on September 14. Then, she made some decisions based on what the insurance company told her.

"They decided to go up on my bill, my premium. I talked to the agent and was told I didn't need to have it because I wasn't in a flood zone," she said. "And so, I let it go."

Then came August 2017, when Harvey hit and caused \$125 billion in damage from calamitous flooding in metro Houston and southeast Texas. She was a bit whimsical as she spoke.

"I had no flood insurance and I'm retired, live on a fixed income, and I did what I could. FEMA gave me little or nothing. What they gave me wasn't enough really to even tear out the walls."

Her pastor contacted Pastor Airon Reynolds Jr. of the Borden Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Beaumont and a member of the National Baptist Convention of America (NBCA) Harvey Restoration team.



Pastor Airon Reynolds with homeowner Lillie B. Segura, who is grateful for ceiling and kitchen repairs.

Restoration was set in motion, including ceiling and kitchen repairs.

"We've had volunteers come in and do the work. They've been paying for the material and everything," she says joyfully. "All I can say is, 'Thank the Lord.' It has been a two-year process. But I'm patient."

Segura says the Lott Carey-NBCA partnership reminds her of bygone days when people and pastors routinely came together to tackle community challenges.

"If you go back in the old days, that's what people did," she says. "It's time to get back to the olden days. Instead of pulling against each other, pull together and help one another."

HOUSTON, TEXAS

GIVING DAILY: BREAD OF LIFE SHINES AS NEW LOTT CAREY PARTNER

Interview & Photos by Mike Tucker

Just a perusal of its website makes it clear why the non-profit Bread of Life organization makes an ideal partner for Lott Carey's Harvey Restoration Project:

- *Its vision is clear: "To end homelessness and improve the quality of life of those in need."*
- *Its mission is focused: "Sustain, equip, and transform those in poverty and the low to moderate income communities with compassion and dignity."*

Rudy and Juanita Rasmus founded the organization in 1992, serving hot meals to the homeless from St. John's United Methodist Church, which the couple co-pastor.



Their ministry and civic engagement have reportedly transformed downtown Houston with a variety of services, including HIV/AIDS testing and prevention, housing the homeless, and disaster relief.

Bread of Life's leader is Catherine Flowers, at left, an enterprising CEO who relishes her role as an administrator and advocate. She is also putting her considerable government and corporate management experience into a November 5 election run for an at-large seat on the Houston City Council. The energetic chief executive slowed down just long enough to talk about her organization's massive influence and dynamic partnership with Lott Carey:

Catherine Flowers

Bread of Life CEO Catherine Flowers with Deryk Jones, logistics, left; and John Celestine, general laborer.



Harvey' legacy lingers after two years of recovery. What do people still need?

They need the same thing they needed before the storm. People need hope. If you experienced Harvey and you were struggling to pay your rent or if you were struggling to make ends meet, imagine the devastation you're feeling now because you lost everything. It's about two years later and we still have folks living in mold-infested houses. There are the unemployed or people who lost their cars and have no transportation.

Federal funds have arrived. What's the holdup?

They're still going through a process. They want folks to take a survey first. They want folks to figure out what it is that they needed. Folks are not being served for minor things. And what's most frustrating is that we say we have a commitment to serve the most vulnerable communities. I mean, seniors are dying. People are getting sick.

You say you been able to detect mold because of an acquired allergy.

I can go into a building with mold and my lymph nodes swell up. I imagine people who are experiencing that every day. We delivered a microwave to a woman whose house was finished. It had already been restored. And the moment I got there I knew she still had mold. They had to redo her entire house because all the walls were filled with mold. But she had been living in that for months. If you really want to take care of people, you've got to do the right thing.

What were your thoughts when Bread of Life was approached by Lott Carey? Had you heard of Lott Carey before?

I had not. But I believe collaboration is key. No one organization can get it done alone. There are so many people that we're trying to serve with limited resources. And so, the more collaboration the more you can provide for folks.

Seems like Bread of Life and Lott Carey are simpatico.

Life is about relationships. Lott Carey has been in the game of disaster



relief for a long time, a little longer than us. The resources that they bring to the table add value to our program.

The “stay-in-your-lane” cliché may not be a viable strategy?

Collaboration allows you to dive deeper. We have a max of \$7,000 on homes we’re working on. But some folks need more. If we can fix someone’s roof for \$7,000 and then bring in more resources, we may meet other needs. Having a partnership allows us to serve people better. As Lott Carey says, “Helping people rise again.”

That seems an increasingly difficult task, given the red tape.

It’s an opportunity to be a better champion. Every time I walk into a room, I feel more empowered to say to the mayor or to the housing director, “This isn’t enough.” Part of the problem from a leadership perspective is they’re not service providers. They have this high-level perspective: We’re just going to pass the money down. It doesn’t work that way. Even getting folks to take surveys as outreach . . . that cost

us money. The cost of serving is a thing that people take for granted because even though we’re a small team, we have accomplished amazing things because God shows up for us every day.

Many great leaders have said, information or knowledge is power. Is lack of information one of the great enemies to overcome in this recovery effort?

Absolutely. The Word says people perish for lack of knowledge. And I always say if you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu. If you don’t know, you get excluded.

You’ve told me about several victims whose stories bring tears to your eyes. Have you ever had doubts that led you to throw up your hands and say, “Oh my God, I don’t know if I can keep doing this?”

If anything, it encourages me more. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. When a regular person fails to just smile or offer food or offer condolences, we fail as Christians. Every time we decide to



just stand by or think there's nothing we can do, we fail as Christians. I am encouraged because God shows up through the tears.

All this talk of helping the poor and vulnerable . . . it might sound like socialism to the current crop of leaders in Washington, D.C.

It's not a socialist concept. It is the Christian faith.

What does charity work have to do with Christianity?

We all make the pie bigger. We need a workforce. Not everybody can be a director of an organization, but we need people who can do the labor, who can clean the streets. We need people who are willing to just

be good citizens. Houston is the fourth largest city in the nation (with more than 2.3 million). Our diversity, our social economics, everything about us is what the rest of the nation will be 20 years from now. The nation is already struggling. Houston is the promise. If we can get it right, right now, the world is better.

What do you envision in the short term?

Preparation plus opportunity equals success. I hope that through this Lott Carey collaboration we continue to build capacity so that we will be prepared to respond. It's not if something will happen, it's when it will happen. We want to stay ready, so we don't have to get ready.



The Bread of Life Harvey Restoration team serving the Pleasantville and Kashmere Gardens communities of Houston consists of volunteers; Project Coordinator April Luck, opposite page top; and Project Manager Lou Porter, opposite page bottom.

Above. Simon "Cee" Cullins is operations partner for Bread's radio station, 102.5 FM, which pumps out music, news, and information; at left, CEO Catherine Flowers and Project Director Leigh Johnson discuss next steps.

Bethel's Family already on the front line of Harvey recovery

New Lott Carey partner says service is a ministry brand



If you look up “empowerment” in the dictionary, you just might find a picture of The Church at Bethel’s Family. The sprawling house of worship is known for its array of programs, events, and ministries that serve the body and the spirit—and it is a Lott Carey partner in the restoration of Houston. The senior pastor is Walter August Jr., an ex-Marine who founded the church in 1994 and now oversees a membership of more than 13,000. August is in perpetual motion, moving from meeting to meeting, and event to event. He slowed down long enough for a brief interview with the Lott Carey Herald:

Photos by Mike Tucker

What’s going on with Harvey survivors? Their needs have not diminished. Yes, the floodwaters are gone and yes, they have cleaned up the streets, but there are still a lot of homes needing repairs. Insurance companies have not been fair. Insurers have been tight-fisted and contesting claims. Then there’s an underlying area that we don’t see . . . a lot of folks are dealing with depression.

You’re not one to wait for opportunities to serve.

That’s our ministry brand. Even as we’re talking, the church is serving hot meals downstairs to 300 people. This is the work we do. When Harvey came, we just had to expand programs that we’re currently doing. Our church never expects anybody from the outside to do what we can do inside.

Action-oriented thinking makes sense. The current federal administration doesn’t seem interested in helping poor people.

And that was devastating for people during Hurricane Katrina. They

were all looking to Washington. A lot of people lost their lives waiting on governmental assistance. At Bethel’s Family, we are concerned about the whole person 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If the community is not doing well, the church has a responsibility to impact the community. We do it locally and globally. So, when Lott Carey comes in and infuses its staff, then we can get more done because the landscape here in Houston is broad.

What do you think of the partnership?

We do missions around the world and honestly, I had not totally heard about Lott Carey until we were introduced a couple of years ago. Once I researched and figured out what they do, met some officials and participated in some events, it just blessed me to find African Americans on the missions field locally and globally making a difference. Lott Cary is around the world. I take that to heart and see greater things on the horizon. I’m so impressed. Lott Carey is forward-thinking, they’re looking ahead, they’re saying, “We’re going to be ready.”

Harvey Restoration team tries to heal minds and spirits

When Hurricane Harvey slammed Houston, news stories and video of decimated homes and lives turned upside down dominated the headlines. Now, almost two years later, Harvey's legacy of damaged psyches and spiritual crisis continues to haunt many survivors. The Lott Carey Harvey Restoration Project is not only rebuilding homes but repairing the inner scars caused by the disaster. Two members of the spiritual care team are specialists Gloria Russell and Charles Jones. They had just finished training with the American Red Cross when the Lott Carey Herald listened in. Russell is a ministry coordinator for children at Nehemiah Community Church, Houston, where her husband, Jamie, is pastor. Jones pastors the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Clute, Texas.



Russell: Every time you saw Jesus, he dealt with spiritual needs. So, dealing with the people who have been affected by Harvey . . . I consider myself blessed to be part of it.

Jones: People don't realize that some of the same survivors we bless financially are at home struggling because the money only covers so much. They're struggling because of property loss, relationships that have been severed, and the loss of friends or relatives.

Russell: It's been almost two years, and some people are still in trailers and dealing with loss. These things get compounded when you don't have anyone to talk to. Lott Carey's decision to include spiritual care in the grant is a magnificent move of God because it gives us a chance to deal with the aftermath.

Jones: That is so true. One of the larger issues is the absence of clear information. People are told that they're going to get money only to find out that they had issues that prohibit them from getting money. A lot of people have lost hope.

Russell: I see that. But with programs like the one from Lott Carey, workers and volunteers are coming in and doing what they said they

would to rebuild. Their hope is being rebuilt, too. Do you think that will get them back to normalcy in their day-to-day living?

Jones: Some people may never get back to the normalcy they had before Harvey. They must look at a new norm. The new norm is important because if you don't accept it, you're going to continually struggle with depression or finances. It's going to exacerbate their anger. However, when you have people like us come in, we can try to keep them spiritually and emotionally grounded and remind them that despite the storm they are blessed.

Russell: That's what the Red Cross does and why the training has been a blessing. It's very informative. Getting me to think not just of my little region but to broaden my understanding of how to help people. Even finding out if clients have any type of faith . . . and continuing to pray for them because that's my faith.

Jones: As a pastor, I'm always in teach mode trying to help people grow. Now, I'm learning to be more in listening mode because sometimes just listening and being there and caring can help us get through the process. This program has helped me grow, and I'm thankful for that.

Home repairs take faith and heart

By Craig S. Taylor Sr.

We're still recovering, still dealing with the harshness of losing so much. Some are still going through moments of depression, moments of isolation. The main problem for many has been reaching out for help—meaning they don't know about programs; they're just afraid to act; or they're put on a waiting list and never hear from anyone.

The great thing about the Lott Carey project is that we're readily available. That has brought a new sense of hope, a new sense of feeling that their prayers are being answered. I try to make sure that all our contractors are Christians—not just church members, but believers. I want them to look at the people we're helping with compassion, as if they were family members.

We're still dealing with damaged roofs, water damage, and mold. First, we do an assessment with the homeowner. Based on that assessment, we bring in a contractor to look at those things that need to be addressed. There's a limit of about \$7,000 each for about 35 homes.

My No. 1 priority is to provide comfort and then to give residents the assurance that we're going to be there and we're going to accomplish as much as we can within the guidelines, within the budget. You really feel for the participants. Even though they've been devastated, they still have hope. This is a blessing to me.

Craig S. Taylor Sr. is pastor of True Light Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, and a project manager with the Bethel Harvey Restoration Team, which includes Project Coordinator David McCullough and a host of volunteers.



Red Cross sees comeback *Continued from page 40*

to the size of the hurricane.

How can the partnership between the ARC, Lott Carey, and the National Baptist Convention of America make a difference?

The Red Cross has been giving out financial assistance and will continue to do that through the second anniversary of Harvey. Our partnership with Lott Carey comes from a grants program in which the Red Cross provided \$62 million in funding to 148 organizations, including Lott Carey, to provide recovery services that we don't offer. We have funded organizations to repair and rebuild homes. That's the biggest portion of the funding. But the groups are also delivering behavioral and spiritual care.

This partnership sounds like a win-win because even a small church can feel empowered to help members.

We absolutely want to partner with organizations in the community because they have great relationships. They are hands-on with the people who need help. Those kinds of partnerships lead to high-quality recovery services. We're looking for that win-win situation. We have money that we want to get into the hands of people who need help.

Sound the Alarm *Continued from page 40*

of a disaster. And we do that through our Disaster Cycle Service of prepare, respond, and recover. The Red Cross is trying to build on our partnership with churches in the area so we can meet the needs of communities.

During Hurricane Harvey, that relationship with churches guided us to communities that needed help the most but that we could not reach. Those churches were our eyes and our ears. They were our conduits. We're trying to empower communities to be more resilient, to be responsible for supporting themselves through the help and the support of the American Red Cross.

So, we're looking at offering disaster training, shelter training, disaster response, preparedness training—all of which the American Red Cross offers to our communities. We want to bring volunteers in and train them so that they can train their communities to respond to a house fire. Why? Because 90 percent of the disasters we respond to are home fires. Every eight minutes we're responding to a home fire. That's why *Sound the Alarm* is so important.

Paula Jemison is Regional Preparedness and Community Resilience Manager for the American Red Cross, Houston, Texas.

The Water Box



MISSIONS

54 Flint employs new tool
in fight for clean water

56 LCMS student 'graduates'
to head of the class

60 Youngsters put 'mission'
in missionary

WATER HEALS HERE

43° 0' 30.096" N 83° 41' 9.564" W

KEEP PLUGGED IN

A man wearing a blue hoodie and a baseball cap is filling a blue water jug from a mobile filtration unit. The unit is blue and has a yellow hose connected to it. The background is a brick wall. The text "FLINT, MICHIGAN" is at the top. The main title "MOBILE FILTRATION UNIT HELPS BUT IS NOT A SOLUTION TO FLINT'S CONTINUING WATER CRISIS" is in large white letters across the middle. Below the title, it says "Photos Courtesy First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church".

FLINT, MICHIGAN

the Water Box

MOBILE FILTRATION UNIT HELPS BUT IS NOT A SOLUTION TO FLINT'S CONTINUING WATER CRISIS

Photos Courtesy First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

'We've been distributing water for five years, and we don't see an end in sight'

By Geri Coleman Tucker

More than half a decade and millions of bottles later, many residents of Flint, Michigan, are still dealing with a water crisis. The flood of media coverage that reached its height a few years ago has slowed to a trickle.

"Lots of people outside of this area are still amazed that we are in this predicament," says Deacon Bill Quarles of First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, the main distribution hub for clean water. He notes that the state of Michigan stopped distributing bottled water to residents about a year ago. "The crisis is not being talked about, and nobody is doing anything."

Warehouses once bulging with palettes and cases of donated water from around the country are largely empty. But the missions effort to supply residents of Flint with a steady stream of clean water goes on unabated. Members of First Trinity are among those who have never grown weary in their well-doing even though most of the volunteers are in their 60s, 70s and 80s. Week after week, they along with

volunteers from the community, churches and now college students from Kettering University's School of Engineering are ensuring that Flint families receive uncontaminated water for drinking, cooking, and bathing.

"The community is still having a rough time," says Quarles. "We've been distributing water for five years, and we don't see an end in sight."

But a major donation is helping, Quarles says. The church received a mobile water filtration system from actor Jaden Smith and business partners The Last Kilometer, Rethink H2O, Black Millennials for Flint, and 501CThree. The gift, simply known as the Water Box, can dispense 10 gallons of clean water per minute and is considered a sustainable solution that could eventually end the dependence on donated bottled water. The water is tested before and after each use on site for pH, TDS (total dissolved solids, such as calcium), and lead levels. In addition, the water is also tested offsite for quality assurance and test findings are posted on a website for residents to review at any time.

Quarles estimates the Water Box costs about \$50,000 and said



From top: First Trinity Pastor Ezra L. Tillman with actor Jaden Smith, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, and First Lady Catrina Tillman; above, Pastor Tillman with Dr. Gregory Moss, interim executive secretary-treasurer, and Trinity Deacon Bill Quarles.

- You can learn more about the Water Box and First Trinity's water project at <https://www.firsttrinitywater.com/>.
- If you would like to donate a refillable plastic 5-gallon jug, navigate to <https://www.firsttrinitywater.com/donate-a-jug/3v4ihtd7yqs0qvdsn8unt71jxs60n> on your web browser.

Smith's mother, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, has volunteered to donate a second unit, which is currently being fabricated. Because the Water Box is connected to the church's water supply, the Smiths are also covering the cost of any increases to the church's water bills, Quarles adds.

On Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, residents can fill their 5-gallon plastic jugs with fresh, clean water from the Water Box. On Tuesdays, the church still dispenses bottled water but there's not enough to meet demand, Quarles says. People start lining up at 7 in the morning even though distribution doesn't start until 10. By noon, all the water is gone, he says.

State officials say test results show the city's tap water is cleaner than federal standards require. But many residents in this once-booming industrial town don't believe it because of government officials' long history of misinformation, dishonesty and decision-making that seemed to put finances before people. The distrust stems from a decision by Flint officials in 2014 to switch the city's water supply from the Detroit water system to the Flint River, where aging pipes leaked lead, *e coli* and other dangerous chemicals into the drinking water and sickened hundreds of people. The city has replaced about half of the estimated 18,300 lead and galvanized steel water service lines that

can contribute to lead contamination. Flint Mayor Karen Weaver announced all the affected water lines will be replaced by year's end.

Although more than 15 state and city officials had been indicted for their roles in the water debacle, none have gone to jail although about half have struck plea deals. Prosecutors unexpectedly dropped criminal charges against eight people in mid-June but pledged to start the investigation from scratch because "all available evidence" was not pursued by previous prosecutors, according to Michigan Solicitor General Fadwa Hammoud. Several lawsuits are still pending against state and federal agencies and private contractors involved in one of the worst man-made environmental disasters in U.S. history.

Meanwhile, actors T.I. "Tip" Harris and John Ortiz are set to star in a feature film titled *Flint* set against the backdrop of the water crisis, according to online magazine Deadline.com.



Geri Coleman Tucker is a freelance writer living in the Washington, D.C., area.



BREWERVILLE, LIBERIA

New School Administrator Wants to Transform Education in Liberia

'Most essential is the knowledge gained'

By Mike Tucker

Muriel Druycilla Craigwell Sumowalt is one of the lucky ones. Born a few years after Liberia's first civil war began and schooled while a second conflict raged, she bears no obvious academic scars from the constant combat inflicted on the educational system. It is difficult to gauge the effect of the violence, especially with the thousands of young who were drawn into the conflict both as participants and victims. There are virtually no education statistics for the 1990s because the social upheaval spawned by the war obliterated nearly all paper records.

The adult literacy rate in 1995 was about 38.3 percent—53.9 percent for men and 22.4 percent for women, according to the StateUniversity.com Education Encyclopedia, a resource for professional educators and education students. U.S. estimates for 2015 show some improvement: 47.6 percent of those age 15 and above can read and write—62.4 percent of men, 32.8 percent of women.

Sumowalt is fortunate to be on the winning side of those statistics thanks, in part, to the Lott Carey Mission School (LCMS), which never closed its doors during 14 years of fighting and uncertainty—1989 to 1997 for the first war, 1999 to 2003 for the second. That means her education was not interrupted. Neither was her love affair with learning and the school that first nurtured it.

Eventually, the student became the teacher. Sumowalt, who graduated from LCMS in 2009, is now vice principal for instruction, which makes her responsible for the curriculum and, as she puts it, “the integrity of the learning process.” She calls the institution, which was founded in 1908 and offers a K-12 education, her home away from home.

“I’ve always been in love with my school—way back as a student and now as an administrator,” says Sumowalt, now 27 and married to Thomas Natee Sumowalt, a medical supply coordinator. “I am forever grateful to my school for the many opportunities to learn so much. LCMS has uniquely shaped me for a professional career I love.”

Sumowalt's success is not surprising when you consider the mindset of LCMS, which opened a second campus in Bopolu in 1960. High expectations are part of the learning process for the 1,400 students attending the school. Half of them are female. The school says its graduates enjoy public and private sectors careers abroad and throughout Liberia, including in the President's office. Add the Lott Carey motto, “Touching Lives with Transforming Love,” and the success formula nears completion.

But slogans mean little during a crisis . . . unless they are bolstered by action. Sumowalt experienced the depth of that transforming love



Sumowalt is a new education administrator who fondly remembers her days as a Lott Carey Mission School student.



a week before high school graduation. Her father died, and the family was left in a financial void that threatened the young scholar's prospects.

“My dad was my best friend and a mentor,” she remembers. “I was devastated, my hopes were shattered, and it was just by God's mercy I survived. My hopes of becoming an educator and lawyer were dashed. I would cry my eyes out not knowing that God had a special plan for me.”

Then, Rev. Emile D.E. Sam-Peal, LCMS superintendent and principal, called with good news: Sumowalt was granted a scholarship. College was back on the agenda,

“Tears of joy ran down my face,” Sumowalt says. “It is one of my most treasured memories: a golden opportunity to acquire higher education.”

She has made the most of the opportunity. She received her bachelor's degree in education from Bishop John Collins Teachers College, part of Stella Maris Polytechnic in Monrovia. Her master's degree in educational administration and supervision is from Cuttington University in Suacoco. And she continues her ascent. Her desire for further education—specifically, a law degree—has not diminished.



Above: As a student, teacher and now an administrator, Sumowalt says she wants to inspire youngsters to develop their minds through reading and study.

Left: Sumowalt with Rev. Emile Sam-Peal, superintendent-principal of Lott Carey Mission School.

Sumowalt's academic triumphs do not surprise Sam-Peal, who has watched her blossom from student-to-teacher-to administrator.

"Muriel is successful because of her commitment to the institution, her love for teaching and children, her dedication to her work, and her willingness to learn," he says. "She is a team player."

Sumowalt says her passions fuel her educational ambitions. "Reading helps me be a more interesting person, teacher and administrator. It helps me find new ways to think, understand problems and, most importantly, spend quality time with my own mind."

She relishes all genres—textbooks, inspirational literature, history, art, novels. And she enjoys helping young people discover the joy and power that comes from reading.

"My passion for teaching is natural," she says. "I'm amazed by the feeling of accomplishment when I see students grow in knowledge and confidence. It melts my heart every time I see my struggling readers turn to super readers."

Sumowalt still loves the classroom and enjoys subbing when a teacher is out. But her focus is administration. She says the delineation is im-

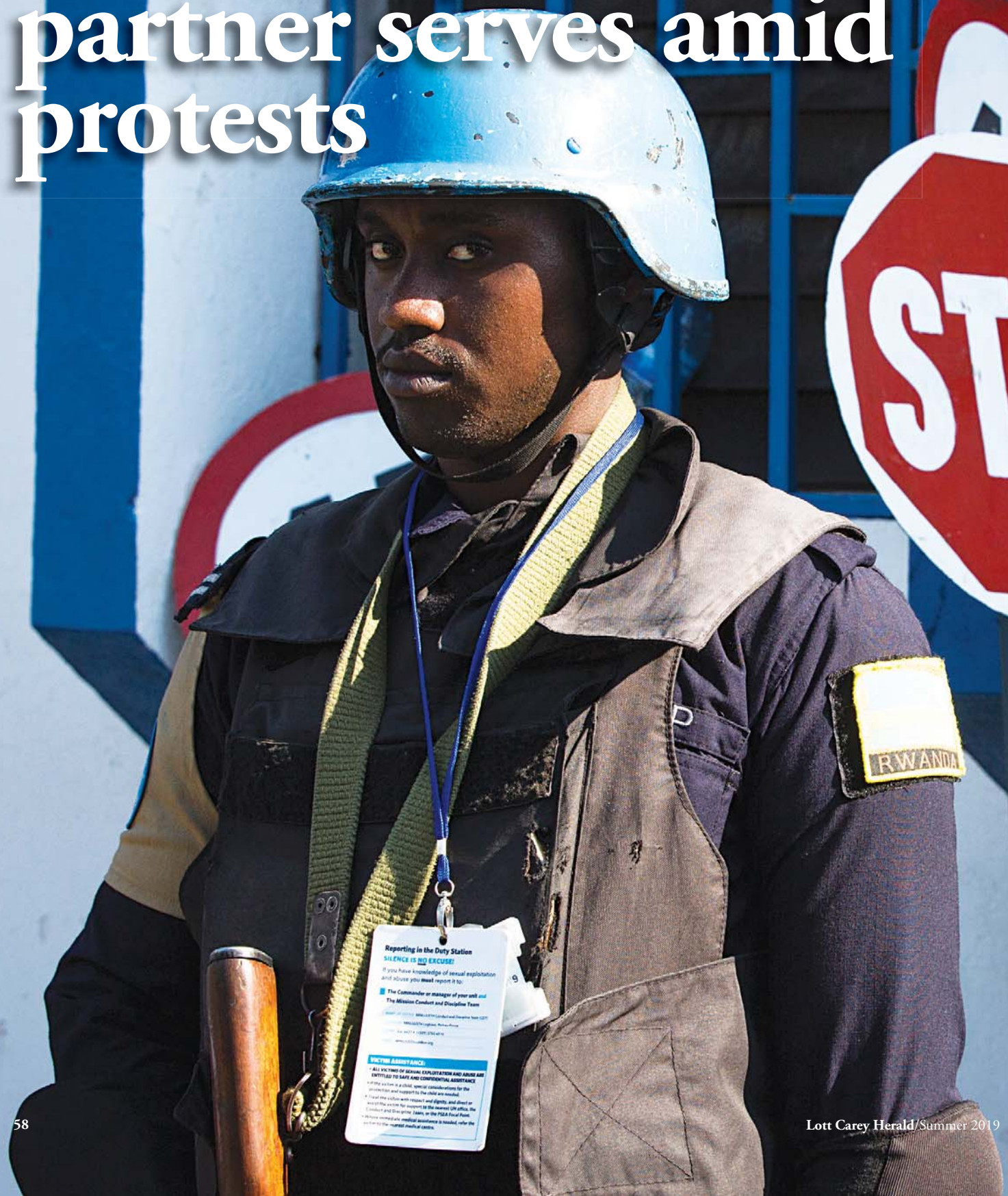
portant: "The difference of being an administrator is the leadership role. You're responsible for supervising, organizing, instructing, and planning with colleagues the day-to-day instructional activities of the entire school. As a teacher (she taught third grade at LCMS for a time), I was responsible for just a class or a specific subject."

The most surprising thing she's discovered about carrying out her duties "is the level of sincere commitment and dedication of the faculty and staff" as she works one-on-one with the various departments.

Sumowalt wants LCMS to continue to play a critical role in contributing to a stable Liberia.

"Education develops in us a perspective of looking at life and building opinions. Education gives us a knowledge of the world around us and changes it into something better. Most essential is the knowledge gained," she says. "One thing I wish for and am working toward is a paradigm shift in the Liberian education system so that no child is left behind. We are building a community of learners with our motto: 'Character, industry, and scholarship with good morals and love for country.'"

Dedicated and Determined: Lott Carey's Haitian partner serves amid protests





UN policeman stands guard during a delegation visit to Haiti.

UN Photo: Leonora Baumann



CARRIES VILLAGE, HAITI



UN Photo: Evan Schneider

Bocchit Edmond, minister for foreign affairs of Haiti, addresses Security Council meeting on unrest in Haiti. At left: Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

By Linotte “Lynn” Joseph

God never promised us that life would be easy or fair, and He never told us there wouldn't be bumps in the road. But He promised us that if we kept our eyes on Him, He would see us through the difficulties. It is with that promise that the Mission of Grace has walked this past turbulent year. Never in our nine years have we faced such trials and tribulations, but God will not fail us.

When the Mission of Grace planted a stake in the ground and said, “This is where God wants us to be,” it was for the long term. That stake wasn't planted on a whim but as a command; and one doesn't go against God's commands lightly. So, we stay, still rooted to the proposition that God is in control. Buildings can be burned and people sometimes die, but that doesn't mean that God is wrong or that we should leave.



Lynn Joseph

There is still work to be done on our little hillside village. At times, it might seem like war is being waged. But it is a war that will be won because God is invincible and we are ordained to continue the fight for life and prosperity on that hillside. It has never been easy, but neither was it supposed to be. It has never been fair, but neither was it supposed to be. And for every bump in the road there is an upside that is difficult to traverse and a downside that is calmer. We may be on the upside now with difficulties at the fore, but the downside will come—maybe not today or tomorrow, but it will get here when God deems it a suitable time.

Burning buildings and death are nothing new, but in the ashes we still walk. And though we mourn death, there is renewal in the indomitable spirit of the living Christ.

We thank those who stand with us, and we thank God for His presence amid the storm. We thank Him for providing us a guiding light, for being our provider, and for being the way, the truth and the life.

Bondye bon. God is good.

Linotte “Lynn” Joseph is founder of Mission of Grace International, which includes a school, church, orphanage, girls' home, boys' home, youth ministry, and soup kitchen.



Photos by N'Namdi Washington

Hope Missionary Day: Spreading love through dedicated service and learning

An 'awesome experience' in working and sharing at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville, Virginia

The recent Hope Missionary Day was a huge success. First, the Hope Missionaries along with some adults **packed over 20,000** meals for Haiti which included soy, seasoning, rice, and protein. That's a lot of meals, if you ask me. **What was the experience like?** The experience was awesome; everyone was so enthusiastic and so full of energy and ready to do whatever it took to pack those 20,000 meals. I personally enjoyed being there **because helping others makes you feel so good** about yourself because it lets you know that you are never too young to help people. I am 13 years old and going into eighth grade at Bull Run Middle School and I love helping my community. **What else did we do?** Mrs. Gabbi Afolabi, one of the parent volunteers from our church, **taught us how to code**. Then, she put us in groups and challenged us to build the best city using kinetic sand and other materials. We could also share the materials with other groups, if they chose to share. **The Red Cross also came** to talk about how to stay safe during an emergency. **What I learned?** I learned that many families live on very little money daily, but with hours of packing meals **I hope we made a change** in someone's life.



—Jesirer Frost



Message from a Missionary Mom



My name is Nadine Frost. My family and I are active missionaries—locally and abroad. We have traveled to all parts of Africa, Puerto Rico, Mexico. We do lots of local missions work. My daughter, Jesirer, has been a junior missionary since age 3. She loves, loves, loves to serve.

Jesirer is the president of the Hope Missionary Ministry at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville, Virginia. I serve as the coordinator of the Hope Missionaries at the church, which is under the leadership of Pastor Eugene Johnson, who had a vision to start the ministry in 2015.

We have a small group, but they make a large impact in the kingdom. We packed 20,000 plus dry meal to ship to Haiti. The cost of ingredients for 20,000 meals was \$5,000. We were able to raise it in less than three weeks, and almost double it by June. This enabled us to send water as well.

The Hope Missionaries are ages 6-13. They love to serve, and I love to serve with them. I thank God, our pastor, and the parents of the Hope Missionaries for this opportunity.





SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

From many tribes, one community

'Leaving the reserve, our hearts were heavy but hopeful'

Commentary by Gregory J. Jackson

The Lott Carey Mob, as we affectionately came to be known, recently landed in Sydney, Australia, and hit the ground running. I led a small but strategic group of leaders from New Jersey, Virginia, Georgia, and South Carolina. In Sydney, we enjoyed great fellowship and great food.

After traveling 23 hours, we were worn out but determined "to make it do what it do" by having fun with our new friends.

We discussed cumulative trauma and dissected behavioral patterns forced on Aboriginal people. The workshops on Evangelism, Discipleship, Grief, and Loss culminated with a pictorial presentation on the impact of Cumulative Trauma. We discussed the complexities of discriminatory practices endured by indigenous people and church leaders trying to enhance the quality of life in the community.

In route to the Cherbourg Reserve, preparing to preach and teach, we strategized on ways to continue to touch lives with transforming love. Working with the indigenous people, we examined generational cycles of abuse—discovering ways to use culture and custom to introduce self-care. We stood on land once belonging to the Wakka Wakka, an indigenous Australian people of the state of Queensland, where many tribes now reside while struggling to sustain their unique traditions.

Leaving the reserve, our hearts were heavy but hopeful. Heavy, because of the exploitive mindset marginalizing indigenous people in Australia and the African Diaspora. Yet we were incredibly hopeful, because we serve an almighty God who had orchestrated a meeting of historically marginalized people so that they could strategize about making wrong things right; a God who reminds us we are many, yet we are one.

Gregory J. Jackson is president of Lott Carey and pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church, Hackensack, New Jersey.



Harvey Restoration Project

WE ARE SEEKING



Able Bodied Individuals

We are seeking to build teams of men and women who can work for 5-6 hours a day for 4 days.



Skilled Workers

We need those who can do roofing, hang sheetrock, hang doors, taping & floating, insulation, carpentry, flooring, painting, electrical work, and plumbing.



Unskilled Workers

We need those who can perform cleanup, do office work, run errands, and assist with sheet rock.

COST

The cost is \$25/day or \$150/week per person (includes lodging and food).

LODGING

Dormitory style at a local church. Hotel options are available upon request.

FOOD

Meals will be provided. Upon registration, you will have an opportunity to let us know if you have particular needs, allergies, etc.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation must be provided by the team.

WHAT WE DO

Simply put: we are “helping people to rise again.”

We are helping families in the Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange, Texas areas recover from Hurricane Harvey by repairing homes. These communities have not been able to get the help that is required to put them back in their homes.

WHO TO CONTACT

Pauline Hurst

Project Coordinator - NBPA
Lott Cary Harvey Restoration Project
bjmaxonjr@yahoo.com
(504) 430-8123

Thank you for your willingness to support the residents of Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange, Texas!



LOTT CAREY -

NATIONAL BAPTIST
CONVENTION OF AMERICA
Disaster Services Network





Photo by Mike Tucker

Unity in purpose: Repairing homes and lives in Florida, page 8, and in Texas, 36



Lott Carey Photo