

May 4, 2006

HURRICANE RELIEF UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Deacon Jack Swann and I returned to visit the areas ravaged by **Hurricane Katrina** this past week. The purpose of our trip was to follow up to assess the needs and review opportunities to assist those still trying to put their lives back together after last year's devastating storms. After spending time in Biloxi, Gulfport, Bay St. Louis, Slidell, and New Orleans, we would recommend that as you are able to assist, you do so in the following locations:

New Orleans: Ray and Cari Bordelon were members of the OPC mission work in New Orleans and live in the city. Ray and his family have determined to rebuild their home. There was 8' of water in their garage area, and approximately 4-5' of water throughout the rest of the first floor of their 1.5 story home for many weeks. It has now been gutted down to the studs and the rebuilding is set to begin. **They need your help!** Ray, a licensed contractor, and his son and employee have begun the work, but it is a bit overwhelming. They are currently living with other family members as they rebuild their home. If you can bring a team to assist the Bordelons, please note the following:

Requirements:

- Need is immediate through summer
- Maximum team size is 8 – 10
- A few skilled tradesman or handymen are needed on each team
- Minimum age for any team member is 16
- No allergies to mold or difficulty working in heat
- Ideal for Sr. High youth group led by at least 2 skilled tradesmen

Contact: Vickie Swann with
OPC Disaster Response at
swann.1@opc.org or call her
at (267) 312-6430

Bay St. Louis: PCA church planter Jean Larroux has returned to his hometown to minister to this hurting city and, by God's grace, plant a church. He is re-establishing contacts and reaching out to those who have great needs. His prayer is that, through this ministry of mercy, the Lord will bring many worshippers to join in worshipping the One who controls the winds and the waves. If you would like to assist with this work, please note the following:

Requirements:

- Maximum team size is 20
- Skilled and/or unskilled labor needed
- Minimum age 14 if accompanied by an adult
- Dates available from June through August
- Ideal for Youth Groups
- For further information – www.lagniappechurch.com

Contact: Jocie Slepian with
MNA Short-Term
Ministries at (678)294-3012
or email
jslepian@pcanet.org

Your help is needed! Please consider sending a team to assist in the rebuilding efforts on the Gulf Coast. If you have any questions, please email Vickie Swann at opcweb@comcast.net .

On behalf of the Disaster Response Team,

David E. Haney, Coordinator