

## Southern District LCMS Recovery News Update from the Hurricane Zone

"You Can Make a Difference Issue"  
January 2006

### One Can Make A Difference: The Man from Texas



Carl Bruhl showed up in Baton Rouge at the end of September pulling his RV behind his truck . He headed for Trinity Lutheran Church and told Pastor Dave Buss and DCE Christiane Zoch that he wanted to help people. Relief efforts were in full swing and volunteers were being coordinated to help with clean up. Two sites had been chosen for Volunteer Camps but progress was slow in getting them up and running. Carl changed all that.

Carl is a retired engineer and project manager from Delta Airlines. Carl quickly became a project manager in charge of Volunteer Camps in Louisiana. Working with volunteer DCE Seth Kaiser and Lutheran Disaster Response Coordinator Jessica Vermilyia the project was tackled. Tents were set up, plywood floors laid, electricity and sewer connected. Arrangements were made for a portable kitchen and a shower trailer. An empty field was transformed into a camp to house volunteers. By the middle of November the camp at Atonement in Metairie was ready to go, but Carl's work wasn't done. He packed up his RV and moved to Lamb of God in Slidell, LA to tackle the same kind of work.

The week after Christmas the hard work was rewarded. Nearly 200 volunteers from around the country were staying at both camps, helping people recover from the losses of Katrina.

Carl isn't new to serving. A member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clifton, Texas he serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Clifton Lutheran Home. He came to Louisiana to help people. Carl was just one person but God used him (along with hundreds of others) to make a difference in a way he never planned. Carl's skills helped make it possible for hundreds of people in the future to be housed and cared for as they come to volunteer. Carl lived his faith and his joyful, persistent and faith filled spirit encouraged all those around him.

God's waiting to use you in a unique way too! There are all kinds of opportunities: Clean up, construction, hand holding, food distribution, cooking, office work, helping with day camp, visiting seniors. The list is as creative as you are.

Volunteer to help with cleanup and construction projects at [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org) or call Mike at 866 709-0888 for Louisiana information.. To volunteer with congregational ministry projects like helping with day camps, VBS, visiting the elderly, serving at distribution centers sign up at <http://lcmsworldmission.org/relief> . Frequently asked questions about volunteering can be answered at <http://relief.inspirlink.com/Index.asp?PageID=4124>

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

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## Critical Needs!

People, prayer, financial support! It's simple. People, prayers and financial support are the most important needs in the recovery effort today. As Hurricane Katrina fades from the news, the effects don't fade from the landscape. Hundreds of thousands of people have no permanent place to live. Trailers are slow in coming. Financial needs mean the lines at food banks grow longer. (We are providing food and supplies to more than 1000 families every week and resources are running desperately short). Long term planning is difficult until governmental agencies make decisions. A shortage of counselors means overwhelming spiritual and emotional needs go unaddressed. Prayers to almighty God acknowledge that he alone is the source of our strength. Financial gifts are used to purchase supplies, feed volunteers and give direct financial assistance to hurting storm victims. And volunteers give relief to weary people.

People make the difference. People can help clean out houses, and listen to the stories of victims. People can distribute food and supplies. People can cut trees and can hold hands. People can serve meals, wash dishes and play with children. People bring hope in the name of Christ.

Please volunteer --- get a group together from your church, school or neighborhood and come to the area for a weekend or a week and make a difference. Registration information is available in two places. To volunteer for PHYSICAL CLEANUP, REBUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION type jobs please go to [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org) and click on the volunteer link. For specific information about volunteering in Louisiana you may call Mike at 866 709-0888. To assist with MINISTRY EFFORTS like food distribution, helping with VBS or daycare, visiting the elderly, hosting congregational events sign up at the list of opportunities at <http://lcmsworldmission.org/relief> .

Volunteer camps and coordination areas are set up in New Orleans and Slidell, Louisiana and Biloxi, Mississippi. More information about specific questions can be found by checking the FAQ page at the Southern District Website at <http://relief.inspiralink.com/Index.asp?PageID=4124> .



For More Information Contact  
The Southern District  
Disaster Recovery Office  
Pastor David Lewis, Coordinator

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