



CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM REPORT November 2017

Steve & Kathy Austvold, EFCA Mission Mobilizers - Serving the NCD, NPD, and Beyond

Steve.austvold@ncdefca.org

Ph.#218-736-4412

Kathy.Austvold@ncdefca.org

Dear Pastor and Mission Leaders,



Greetings in Christ. On October 15-21st, I had the privilege of leading a team from Minnesota and North Dakota churches to serve in Houston, Texas. We were joined by a team from Elbow Lake, MN. There were 23 people in our two teams. In this letter, I would like to share some highlights and encourage you to lead a team to serve with EFCA Crisis Response.

Here are some of what we saw and heard:

- In the city of Friendswood, TX. 35% of the residents were flooded. One Baptist church reported that 10% of their members had flood damage.
- Everyone was affected by the hurricane, both rich and poor.
- In our area of Houston, there was not hurricane damage from the August storm. We did not see any trees down or roofs missing. We saw evidence of water damage as over 50" of rain fell in the city and streams and rivers overflowed. One river near the church where we stayed became two miles wide after the storm.
- Everyone affected by the flood has a story. Everyone we talked to was open to prayer.
- The clean-up and rebuilding will be long-term. EFCA crisis-response is expected to be in Texas for the next several years.
- Currently, they have one site in the Houston area, Trinity Fellowship Church. Our group of 23 people were divided into six teams based on our skills assessment. Most of the teams put up sheetrock.
- They are negotiating now to open another site in the Houston area.
- My team of five people worked on a house that still needed sheetrock and insulation removed. We also were cleaning furniture and household items that had mold.
- One day our team went to three job sites. We helped prepare a home for sheetrock. We delivered 54 sheets of donated sheetrock to another home. Our final home visit that day was to cut up some trees and brush.
- Each team did prayer walking during the week in their neighborhoods.
- There is a need for longer term staff to join EFCA Crisis Response. One young lady joined our team who just finished high school. She is serving with Crisis Response for a few months.
- Many churches are interested and are responding to the crisis need. Dates to serve are filling up fast for early 2018 for Corpus Christi and in Houston.
- Contact respond@efca.org if you are interested in serving.

Blessings,
Steve Austvold