

# Rodgers Baptist Church

P.O. Box 460639

Garland, Texas 75046

[www.rodgersbaptist.net](http://www.rodgersbaptist.net)

972-675-4800

# BAPTIST

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CHARITIES

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A Church Based Charity

April 23, 2018

Brothers and Sisters in Christ and fellow laborers in ministry,

This past month has been incredibly difficult, as we said farewell to Pastor Larry Jones, who has led this ministry from its inception. Your prayers, kind words, cards, and special gifts to his family mean more than we can possibly express. It is very obvious that he was not only loved by so many, but has a lasting impact on God's Kingdom through his surrendered life to the work of the Lord.

Baptist Charities has always been a church based charity, and will remain such under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the authority of Rodgers Baptist Church. Larry's passing has begun a new chapter for Baptist Charities, one that has a bright future, and much more to accomplish. We are in the planning stages of some new ministry ventures, and we are excited to share the details with you this summer.

Rodgers Baptist Church has made all the funds that were given with the designation of "Larry Jones Work Fund" available to Carol Jones, and we have closed that account. As we move forward and prepare for more joint ministry ventures, please address contributions to "**Baptist Charities Work Fund**" to assist with the overhead costs of operation.

## **Amazing Grace Children's Home - Fiesta Project**

For many years now, an annual summer trip is made to Mexico City, made up of members from various churches involved with the Amazing Grace Children's Home with the purpose of being a blessing to the children, and showing them how much they are loved. Just after the trip was announced, we were flooded with people registering for the trip. We quickly exceeded the number of people we were prepared to take, and had to close registration with a very full group.

Your opportunity to participate and be a blessing to the children is not limited to making the trip yourself. It costs approximately \$100 per child to provide them with new shoes, personal gifts at the fiesta, and the field trip events that take place during the week. Please consider sponsoring a child for this wonderful event! If you would like to contribute any amount, please mark "AGCH Fiesta" in the memo of your check and send it to Rodgers Baptist Church, P.O. Box 460639, Garland, TX 75046.

## **Hurricane Harvey Update**

Since the last update was shared in March, all the remaining funds that were given designated for Hurricane Relief have been disbursed through local churches in the disaster area (The November letter detailed the financial report on all of the previous gifts and distributions, and is available by request to ( continued )

office@rogersbaptist.net). As we looked to be faithful with the resources entrusted to us, we reached out to the pastors in the disaster area to find what needs were still unmet.

### **Grace Baptist Church, Vidor, Texas**

Baptist Charities contributed an additional \$15,172.40 to finish the reconstruction of the house for Pastor David & Sarah Lott. These contributions have made it possible for them to move back into their home and to replace much of the furniture that was destroyed by the flooding of their house. (More details and pictures are on the pages that follow.)

***“There simply are no words to express our heartfelt thanks to you, your church, Baptist Charities, and to the many, many wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ who have pulled together to accomplish this project. We will forever be grateful for all you have given and all you have done for us.” - Pastor David Lott***

### **Lighthouse Baptist Church, Dickinson, Texas**

In our conversations with Pastor Charles Dill, he told us of three families who were still struggling to recover from the displacement from their homes. Thanks to the kindness of the churches and individuals who contributed to Baptist Charities, \$15,172.40 was provided, which was enough to get two of the families back into their homes, and to help the third family move forward in the process of repairs.

### **Berean Baptist Church, Houston, Texas**

In talking with Pastor Roger Thompson, he shared a need for one of the widows in their church. Her roof, which was already in poor condition prior to the storm, had taken a hard hit, causing water and mold damage to the interior of her home. Through the generous giving of churches through Baptist Charities, \$10,000.00 was provided to replace her roof and to remediate all mold and water damage inside her home.

Please continue your prayers for this ministry. The Lord has done great things through the partnership of His churches, and “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

In Christ Alone,

Baptist Charities and Rodgers Baptist Church

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It was late August 2017. I was listening and glancing at the TV while the morning news was on. There was a storm brewing in the gulf, and the location for landfall was still not known. Then, we learned that Harvey was headed to South Texas several hours and miles from our location. The destruction was horrible, but now they are saying it may go out and come back into our area. It was that day, I decided to refill meds, buy bottled water and batteries, and to pack suitcases. I took out two small to medium suitcases, laid them open on the dining room table and began to pack. One suitcase held all our medicines, toiletries, personal



items and Important papers; the second had 3 changes of clothes each, a pair of shoes and night clothes. The suitcase lay open on the table for several days, and we just used what we needed and put them back. We also talked to our daughter, who lived about 30 minutes away and developed a game plan to evacuate together, if it became necessary.



On Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, the storm made landfall near us, and on Wednesday morning, I opened the front door to a sunny sky. "Thank you, Lord", I prayed as I looked out over our front yard. There were a few small puddles and the drainage ditch out front was less than half full! It appeared we had weathered the storm, but within the hour, the sun was gone, and the rain was coming down at a steady rate. By early afternoon, two separate neighbors came to talk about our situation and what we would all do. We all walked our street in the rain with umbrellas surveying the area and

discussing our thoughts (By now other neighbors had joined with us.) We were pinned in on all four sides by water, but it was still at a good distance from us. We had never flooded here, and we weren't in a flood zone. Still undecided, we called our Sheriff's department for an update and a recommendation. In a calm, confident voice, the officer said, "I

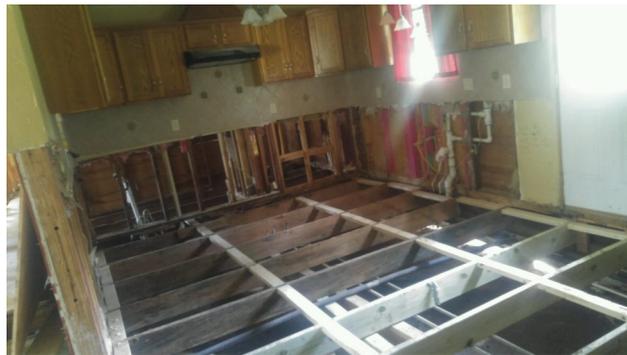


know exactly where your located, and you are on the highest street in that area, and you still have power. Other areas of town are already without power and under water. I recommend you stay exactly where you are...You are not going to flood!" And so, we did exactly that!



Early the next morning, my husband woke me up around day break and told me to get up and get dressed, the water was at both doors outside. Shortly, thereafter, our neighbor drove over in his jeep and said, "Preacher, it's time, I am going back to tie up some loose ends at home and ya'll need to do likewise. I will be back in 10-15 minutes and drive us to the corner; the boats are waiting on us!" We called our daughter, who

gathered her twenty-year-old Son and his high truck to head our way. When we got off the boat, they were not there, so we were given a ride by another young man, we didn't know, to the closest shelter. At that time, the shelter was being evacuated, so he took us on to our church about a mile down Main St. By then the water was coming up high on the sides of his truck, and my husband said, "Son, do you think you can



get through?" He replied, "I am sure going to try!" He delivered us safely to our church.... My daughter called and said they were looking for a route to get to us from her house. Most all roads were already flooded.



Then we heard from our daughter in San Antonio. Her daughter and son in law, our granddaughter, had been evacuated from their flooded home in Vidor, and were stranded at that first shelter, we had just left. She was a seven and a half months high risk pregnancy. Finally, they were able to get to us all to our church. Our daughter and grandson arrived, they had finally found a passable route, but our grandson left again to go and check on his other grandparents who were flooded across town. Another Granddaughter with her mate and their three-year-old arrived in a second high truck.

Things were happening so fast, military and first responders were staging on our church parking lot, Main

St was full of boats, high trucks, military trucks, and helicopters were flying overhead.... I remember thinking about our service men on foreign fields and getting a brief glimpse of what they go through.

My Son in law, a first responder with a local plant, called my daughter and said, "I don't think you can get back home, but don't even try. They are about to call a mandatory county evacuation. Traffic will be backed up for miles and gas will be scarce. Take your folks, our kids and your sister's kids and go East till you find a safe place to get a hotel room for everyone. I have it covered, just take care of everybody!" At the same time, we were still unable to reach one grandson, his wife and two toddlers by phone; our grandson who went to see about his other



grandparents was calling his Mom, hysterical, he couldn't get back, he wasn't going to make it, he loved her so much, please take care of his girlfriend, (who was with us.) He was saying good bye!! Finally, he found a way through! Our other Grandson and family were on the phone now. They would meet us on the Interstate. The water was getting higher. We had to go now!

My daughter and four grown grandchildren piled into the back of the first high truck, where they road for another 30 or 40 miles. Us old folks, the three-year-old, our pregnant mommy and our grandson, who was driving, were in the first crew cab. Not a word was spoken as we headed for the Interstate; the water was coming over the hood of the high truck and rolling past the door handles on the sides of the truck. The three-year-old grasp my hand and stared in a silent, somber manner directly at the water, as we drove Main street to the Interstate. Soon, we were headed East, the same Interstate headed West toward Beaumont was underwater and closed to all traffic. Exiting town on I 10, we saw housing additions with water to the peaks of the roofs. Only, the concrete barriers for construction were holding the water from coming on to our road.



By now, 15 family members in 3 vehicles were headed to Louisiana; this included 2 people over 70, our expectant mommy, and three toddlers ages 3, 3 and 2! Not to mention our daughter, who was taking care of everyone else is a type one diabetic on an insulin pump. Thinking she would pick us up in Vidor, and

go back to her house, she left with the clothes on her back and her bill fold.... No extra insulin or insulin supplies of any kind! (our next step was to find an Endocrinologist,



who could get what she needed and to Wal-Mart to buy her clothes!)



All that time, our daughter in San Antonio, our Son in Guatemala and three nieces and nephews in Dallas were on the phone and computer contacting first responders, checking open roads, searching for a hotel and putting prayer request on Facebook. Most of all, we were all praying! By mid-afternoon, we were checked into a hotel in Lafayette, getting a bite to eat and trying to rest a little. “Thank you Lord, we are alive, together and out of the storms way!”

This was a Thursday afternoon, and we would head back to our daughter’s home the following Tuesday. (Until then the Texas/Louisiana border was closed to west bound traffic) On the weekend afterward, the water had receded from the roads,

we were allowed access to get back into our town. Our first stop was our church, having been surrounded by water, our building was still dry and had no damage. This was not the case at our home, both our car and house had water inside. Our car was totaled by our insurance, inside our house was a nasty, still very wet and slushy, “mud” covered mess to say the least!





Our two daughters and their husbands, along with three grandchildren and ourselves worked feverishly to “de-mud” and gut the house. Mold was everywhere, warnings of disease and more were going out over the media! Soon 54 years of our earthly belongings were piled high in the front yard, walls and floors were ripped out, and only the things on the upper walls or top shelves were salvageable. Our children worked feverishly and endlessly. My husband and I were in shock almost, he suffered with 5 years of Parkinson’s, a bad back and other health issues, plus I have arthritis (two hip replacements & multiple other joints affected). We couldn’t do a lot, and we felt so helpless and useless to the effort! (Little did we know that after

6 weeks with our daughter’s family, we would be living the next four and a half months in a Sunday School room at our church.)



That first Sunday afternoon, a blue pickup drove up, and out came a tall lanky preacher with his wife and Mother in law. For the first time in almost 40 years, we renewed acquaintances... It was Bro, Larry Jones with Baptist Charities, his wife, Carol and her Mother, Mrs. Kenner! We had no idea they were coming, or even who they were at the time! In a strong, assuring voice, Bro. Larry said, “We are here to help you rebuild and get you back home!” After he did his survey and walk through, he began to unload dehumidifiers, cleaning tools and supplies, disinfectants, gloves, bottled water and more! When he was ready to leave, he gave us both a big hug; then he handed my husband a check for two thousand dollars and said this is just the beginning! He talked of work crews who would be coming, and that money would be there for materials. Then he turned to me grinning, winked and said, we will do all we can including giving you some money for furniture! Then they drove away...



Workers came from LA., Pennsylvania, Georgia, Kentucky and Texas!! They would work 2-3 long days, and then be gone. Most were the result of Bro. Jones contacts, some were from other groups, two were just a son and father who showed up in our services one night, and one were two and three generation families with children joining in to work! God was laying out His plan in His time, and we stood in awe. But, beyond a doubt, He was using Bro. Larry and Baptist Charities in a mighty way!



Two weeks later, Bro. Larry was back, bigger than life, shopping for materials, checking things out and leaving

another \$10,000. check for materials. The check came as a result of and through Baptist Charities from Riverview Baptist Church in Borger, Texas. It was on this trip we learned of Bro. Larry's health problems, and how hard he worked for others, while going through his own battle.

Our house was old, and when they tore out the Harvey damage they ran into multiple problems, MANY from Harvey and many that Harvey uncovered before we had a fire or a collapse or both. At one time, Bro. Jones thought the house might need tearing down and built from scratch. There were electrical problems, plumbing problems, joist and studs needing to be replaced, so very much!

Bro. Larry came another once or twice after that, and he talked with my husband and our Son in law who was overseeing everything and working side by side with the others, by phone on numerous occasions. Finally, when he was unable to come, he was still checking on the progress and wanting to do more. He wanted to keep his promise, and finish what he started, he wanted us to move home! Later another check for over \$15,000. arrived from Baptist Charities.

The first week in March a final group of workers came, six men, professional construction folks, working endlessly for 5 long days determined to get us moved back into our home. They found materials that had been virtually unavailable, they found hotel rooms that had always been booked, and when they drove away our home was 75 % complete. They and their church, Riverview Baptist in Borger, were here because of the burden Baptist Charities shared and Lord laid upon their hearts!

The following week, six months and two days, after leaving our home by boat, we moved home again. My husband and I can only walk away in tears when we talk about it. We are so humbled and forever grateful to this ministry, and those who have had a part. We did nothing to deserve the grace God has shed on us, and we stand amazed as His plan has unfolded these past seven months. The heart of one man with a vision, supported by his church, and sharing his burden with others has "moved mountains". Sometimes I say, "Why us, Lord?", and at first, I felt guilty that at 73 we are still here, while Bro. Jones has left his family behind. I don't understand God's ways, but I know that He has blessed us through you, and "thank you" is so small and empty compared to what has happened.

Yes, our Son's home church, Faith Baptist in Temple, Texas gave large offerings, individual families and other churches and organizations gave, but the love and support we have received from Baptist Charities and those they reached out to has been unbelievable, unending and tremendous. I truly don't know where we would be or what we would be doing if it were not for God using YOU! Our home is being rebuilt (with furniture, Bro. Larry) without insurances or government money. It was built by God through your ministry and your faithfulness to help other. May God richly bless you and may people continue to support this ministry.

To God Be the Glory,  
Charles & Sarah Lott

