

LSF Hurricane Relief Trip to New Orleans, Louisiana

January 2-9/2010

Greetings everyone, this is your information package for our trip to New Orleans, LA in January. It is coming soon, so please take care to look after the tasks on these checklists as soon as possible.

We will be working in New Orleans to help restore the city from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. There is plenty of work yet to be done, and with the hurricane taking place so long ago, many in the United States have already forgotten about the struggles Louisianans have had in recovering from Katrina. We will go to New Orleans and offer our assistance to the rebuilding effort, and at the same time take advantage of the opportunity to show that in spite of the damage God permits to take place in this fallen world, He does not leave or forsake us – He sends help, even in the form of mid-western college students!

Be prepared to serve in whatever capacity is requested of us by the folks at Camp Restore, our hosting partner in this mission trip. (They are expecting over 100 other people during the time we will be there.) I hope that you are as excited as I am to meet, serve, learn from, and share the love of Christ with the people we meet in New Orleans.

Blessings,
Pastor Bakker

Housekeeping Matters

There are 23 of us going on this trip in two vehicles (a 15 passenger minibus and a 15 passenger van). All told, we will be driving for about 18 hours each way. This means we will share very close quarters. In such a group situation we will all have to be considerate about noise, music on the radio, etc., but most importantly we will all have to be considerate of one another. This includes sharing time riding 'shotgun', taking turns in the van and bus, etc.

Because of the size of our group, and because of the various situations in which we will find ourselves throughout our time on the road and in New Orleans, I ask that everyone abide by the following policies for the safety of everyone in the group.

- Follow all instructions from Pastor Bakker and Deaconess Mitchell
- Use the buddy system whenever you are away from the whole group (i.e. at rest areas, work sites, in New Orleans, and in Nashville).
- You (and your buddy!) may not leave the rest of the group at any time without Pastor Bakker's (for CMU students) or Deaconess Mitchell's (for BSU students) knowledge and approval.
- Alcohol Policy
 - o No underage drinking
 - o If you are of age, you may only drink on the free nights during free time (Wed after church in New Orleans, Fri in downtown Nashville)
 - o If you are of age, you may not drink to the point of being drunk or even tipsy (in other words, 1 or 2 drinks only, please)
 - o Drivers may not drink at all within 10 hours of driving for the group

Packing List

Be sure to bring a **Bible** and a **willing spirit**, ready to serve in whatever manner is asked of us. I was told that we are to think 'camp' when we pack. For housing, there are separate areas for men and women, and there are bunk beds with twin mattresses provided, but we're responsible for making up our own beds. **Pack lightly** as much as possible, because we will be crammed into two vehicles the whole way there and back. Share luggage with siblings and/or roommates, use smaller (carry-on sized) bags for luggage. Boots can go under seats, etc. Please limit your personal carry-on to either a laptop sized bag or backpack.

Here's what we should bring:

- Sleeping bag and/or twin sheet set and blanket
- Pillow
- Towel and wash cloth (they have showers)
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Prescription meds and contact solution, if necessary
- Earplugs, for when Pastor Bakker snores
- Foot powder
- Shower shoes
- Pajamas
- Flashlight (and batteries)
- I'm not kidding about the earplugs...
- Alarm clock
- Laundry bag (plastic bag, ideally)

For the work, bring the following:

- Water bottle
- Hat/bandanna
- Work boots/work shoes (not sneakers, steel toed boots are preferred)
- Jeans/work clothes (it is suggested that these be old clothes that can be thrown away afterward because of possible mold contamination)
- Waterless hand sanitizer, sunblock, insect repellent
- Raincoat/poncho
- Backpack
- Work gloves

For the rest of our time, bring the following:

- Non-work clothes to wear (casual for travelling and evenings, clothes for church on Sunday morning/Wednesday evening)
- Some cash for food while travelling (we will each receive \$10.00/travel day, but you'll probably want more than that)
- Pens, journals, notebooks
- Camera and film/batteries/memory cards
- The camp has wi-fi, but there is no guaranteed secure storage for valuables during the day.

Also bring your **Health Insurance card**. Camp Restore and I will have copies of your information you submitted in the registration, but it doesn't hurt to bring another copy along.

PLEASE LABEL YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Housing and Emergency Contact Numbers

January 2: Nashville, TN

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Rev. Phillip Young
800 Bellevue Road,
Nashville, TN 37221
615-646-3150
<http://www.redeemernashville.org/>

January 3-7: New Orleans, LA

Camp Restore
9301 Chef Menteur Highway
New Orleans, LA 70127
888-248-2636
<http://raiministries.org/index.php/restore/index>

January 8: Nashville, TN

Holiday Inn Express
920 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37209
615-244-0150
<http://www.hiexndt.com/>

Pastor Bakker's Cell: 414-412-0994
Deaconess Mitchell's Cell: 949-285-6388
[Please store these numbers in your cell phones]

Pastor Bakker's email: jbakker@winntel.net
Deaconess Mitchell's email: deaconessmitchell@gmail.com

Please share these addresses, phone numbers, and websites with your parents!

Tentative Schedule/Itinerary

Friday January 1	
All Day	Arrive in Mt. Pleasant/Muncie, pack, and get a good night's sleep.
Saturday January 2	
6am	Go to Christ The King, load up the vehicles, devotion in the chapel, and leave for Muncie, IN at 6:30am
11am (approx)	Pick up BSULSF near Muncie, IN [Time zone change – gain an hour]
6-7pm	Arrive @ Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN Meals will be in transit.
12pm	Bedtime
Sunday January 3	
8am	Wake up, Showers (if necessary), Breakfast, load vehicles
9:15am	Bible Study at Redeemer
10:45am	Divine Service at Redeemer
11:45am	Leave for Camp Restore, New Orleans, LA Meals will be in transit.
8-9pm	Arrive @ Camp Restore and get checked in
Monday January 4 through Thursday January 7*	
7am	Breakfast at Camp Restore
8am-4pm	Work (bagged lunch)
4:30-5pm	Return to Camp, clean up for dinner
6pm	Dinner at Camp Restore
After Dinner	Group devotion and free time
10:30pm	Lights out
Friday January 8	
7am	Breakfast and devotion before travelling
8am	Load the vehicles, depart for Nashville, TN
6pm	Arrive in Nashville, TN Meals in transit, free night in downtown Nashville, TN
12pm	Bedtime
Saturday January 9	
8am	Wake up, continental breakfast, devotion, load vehicles, leave for home! [Time zone change – lose an hour]
2pm	Drop Off BSULSF near Muncie, IN and say goodbye!
7pm	Arrive at CTK Meals in transit
* Wed January 6 th	will have a special itinerary after work as follows:
6pm	Eat quickly and dress for Epiphany service
7:30pm	Divine Service at Salem Lutheran Church, Gretna, LA
8:30pm-12pm	Free time in the French Quarter
12pm	Return to Camp Restore, lights out right away

TIPS AND THINGS TO REMEMBER AS A MEMBER OF A DISASTER RELIEF TEAM

During challenging and stressful situations it can be easy to forget why you are serving and who you are representing. It is important to remember that you are God's ambassador, His hands and His voice. Your words and deeds should be a constant reflection of the love Christ has for each of the individuals whose lives have been impacted by a disaster. You have the opportunity to be a light shining in the darkness, a city on a hill, offering hope and comfort. Do not allow careless words or actions to diminish the work being done. Always remember that we are going as servants of God.

As a member of the team we are there to serve the needs of the people. That is our purpose and priority of being there. This was a disaster zone – as you work to repair damaged buildings and construct new ones, remember that you are there to serve the people who were affected by the disaster. These people are still grieving the losses they have experienced. Listen, listen, listen, to their hurts, pain, losses and despair. Let them tell you their stories if they want to. Pray that God opens your eyes to see the appropriate times to gently speak the words of comfort and hope. Let them know they are not alone and that God is and has been with them all the time. If that time does not present itself remember that in your very presence there, God is at work doing that which only He can do.

Respect the property of people who were affected by the disaster. Things that seem destroyed or damaged beyond repair may hold precious memories for someone. Respect the privacy of every individual. When taking pictures, whether of people or scenes of destruction, be sensitive to the feelings of the people involved. If they are present, always ask permission.

As a relief worker you will have the chance to act out your faith in a tangible way, and often that action will open the door to share that faith in words. Be prepared to share with people the reason you are serving: Jesus Christ and His love for all people.

Don't expect favors or preferential treatment. Don't require everyone else to accommodate you or your needs. Know your limitations and don't over reach them. Expect that in some way your life will be changed too. No one can see or go through these experiences and not be affected by them. God is at work in your life too, transforming you to be more like His Son Jesus.

Remember you are a team, and follow the directions of those in charge. Watch and take care of one another. Be sure you drink lots of water. Take frequent breaks and rest. Disaster relief is hard work. You will get more done and work better if you take short breaks for rest and renewal.

Remember each evening as a team to take time to talk about your experiences of the day. What was hard or difficult? What did you or did you not expect? Where did you see God at work today?