

Newsletter



Issue 11 August & September 2025

**BTS/HFM-3
"Flip House Project"**



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The WAIT Goes On

If it seems to you that we have not called a "Work Day" at our BTS/HFM-3 Project House for months, it's because we HAVEN'T called one. Our last official work day was June 7. A couple of us did "sneak" in to install one new window but quickly concluded that we should not proceed UNTIL WE RECEIVED BUILDING PERMITS. So that's where we are at this moment. WAITING for the official Building Permits to be issued. THEN... WE WILL BEGIN THE REMODEL. Watch our website www.bts.today for official updates. We are praying it will be SOON. ANY DAY NOW!



Consider Volunteering! Check www.bts.today for Work Days. Do you Live out of Town? We have an "On Site" camper for "overnight" volunteers. Connect with Leslie at 727-709-1754 to schedule.

"WHY Are We Not Deploying for Disaster Relief?"

Yes it is true, the reason Beyond The Storm was created and the reason we exist is to take the light and hope of Christ to people who have suffered loss through natural disasters. That's our purpose, that's our mission. We do that in partnership with Samaritan's Purse and if you are one of those who receives the Volunteer Calls from SP you will know that there have been calls for volunteers to sites in Texas and Wisconsin recently. WHY has BTS not responded? To arrange a team of 15 typically takes three weeks. The Texas deployment was announced as a two week deployment. In truth, it was extended but only one week at a time so it was impossible for us to deploy. The exception is WI and though it's borderline "out of range" for us, we were considering making the trip but all the volunteer spaces were full. SO WE AWAIT GOD'S CALL. Stay packed and ready. At any time you could receive the alert that we're going somewhere.



While it is true, this has been a slow season for BTS in terms of major deployments, with Poplar Bluff, MO (March 29-April 5) being the last full team we have deployed, WE HAVE NOT BEEN IDLE. Here are some of the ways God has used Beyond The Storm:

1. A ZOOM Prayer Meeting

We became aware that some of our BTS Volunteers were struggling with significant personal and family struggles so we invited our total team to join a zoom call to lift these needs to our Heavenly Father. Thirty three people signed up and what an amazing opportunity it was as our one hour prayer meeting became two. Reports continue to come in of how God is answering prayer from that night. AND among the exciting comments is from our prayer warriors themselves. We had agreed as we wrapped the meeting that we would commit to praying every day for these requests so we divided them between our team by days of the week. About two weeks into the rotation one of the prayer team said, "I said I would pray one day, but this has so changed my heart that I can't help but pray every day." We will add this format to our prayer focus along with 24hrs of Prayer and do it again.



2. We were given an opportunity to embrace dear friends of BTS

(Ken & Deb Osborne) (Ken is BTS Vice President)



We owe so much to Ken & Deb who have given so sacrificially to BTS through the years so when the Project they had struggled to complete for at least two years needed more hands and feet we stepped in. Our Volunteers devoted probably 10+ days to this venture of love. Because of the scope of the work, access was limited to guys only, in small numbers. What a joy to see God bring beauty from the ashes.





Check Our Website: www.btstorm.org

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3. HFM-Brooksville

In July, Bill Foster, CEO Emeritus of Habitat for Missions and a dear friend of BTS reached out to some of our



Leadership with a request for help with an HFM project in Brooksville unrelated to BTS. Leif & Gigi Laursen took the lead on this response and along with Ken "7" Osborne, worked days to rehab this house to get it on the market, with help from Steve "16" Manley. The results were amazing.



THANK YOU TEAM. You made a difference.



It happened on a Tuesday. After literally wearing the tires into the cord on our BTS Dump Trailer, God provided resources to purchase new

tires so I took it to my "go to tire place" for trailer tires. As the Service Tech began to install the tires, he said "Is that a cross on your logo?" When I replied "Yes it is. We take the hope and light of Christ to hurting people." He smiled and said, "Does that mean you are saved?" When I said "Absolutely, Jesus is my Savior & Lord," he responded, "mine too. I, came to America from Vietnam, have become a US citizen and my wife and children have accepted Jesus as Savior and serve Him. Tell me about Beyond the Storm."

Since that day, we have had dinner with Quinh & his lovely wife Trinh and he's signed up to be a part of the BTS team. Here's why I share the story: When Quinh brought the tires for my trailer, he brought different tires than I ordered. When I questioned why, he told me that these were much better than the ones I asked for. "How much more expensive," I asked? "\$50 per tire, but I will pay the extra \$200, you need THESE tires. We set aside money above our tithe to give back to our Lord." This from, by his own testimony, the lowest paid employee in the shop. This is what "The Sacrifice of Praise" looks like. **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**



This is in the category of "THE REST OF THE STORY." We heard the stories, read of the tragedies, we've cried the tears over 137 lives lost to the raging Guadeloupe River (including 37 children enjoying a Christian summer camp that has nurtured seemingly three generations of the community). We've prayed for the compassionate love of our Heavenly Father to restore and renew broken hearts and lives. We prayed to be able to deploy BTS volunteers to assist in the "hands on" work of pointing to the source of hope in Christ Jesus. When that door closed for logistical reasons we prayed for the Samaritan's Purse DR teams to make a difference.

Here's what you should know: SP asked the BTS Site Leadership Team (SLT) to join with other SLTs in Kerr County, TX to survey those who had lost so much for the purpose of offering extended assistance. Because of SP's faithfulness and God's great grace hurting people in Kerr and other counties were offered immediate cash grants, replacement vehicles, replacement furniture & appliances, clothes and personal item replacement AND, where warranted a possible rebuild or replacement of their home.

The BTS team (Steve Eckman, Leslie & Rick Cowley) returned following the week in TX, in overwhelming AWE of God's faithfulness and deep gratitude for the ministry of Samaritan's Purse and our privilege to be partners with them.



October 30, 2025

7:00pm Sarasota, FL

Will Graham, grandson of Billy Graham and son of Franklin Graham will bring his FL tour to Sarasota for one night, along with Jeremy Camp & Christine D'Clario. BTS will take the bus for this great event IF enough want to go. Check our website for details and to sign up.

www.btstorm.org Then click "Events"