# Newsletter



*Issue 3 | May 2024* 



#### More About the QRT

If you have wondered why you get notices from Samaritan's Purse calling for Volunteers for a deployment but hear nothing from BTS... thank you for noticing. This has been the case with at least the last five SP deployments and there's a clear reason for that.

In these cases and others like them SP will announce a deployment that they intend to last only two weeks. The net affect of that call is that we literally have only seven days to get our team together and deploy. Because we strive to take a team of 12-18 Volunteers, most of whom have active lives, we simply can't get a team together that quickly. So we sit here with our bus packed and engine running but unable to deploy a team.

## SO... Here's our Plan

We are looking to recruit volunteers for a Quick Response Team. The members of QRT would have a strong likelihood of availability in seven days. Certainly there would be no obligation implied in joining the team, only a willingness to consider the call and deploy if possible.

This would NOT diminish the need for the larger body of volunteers. We would continue to send out the calls, assemble teams and deploy as in times past.

Would you be willing to join the BTS QRT? You could significantly increase our opportunities to make a difference in the Kingdom of God.

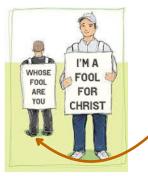
#### Here's How...

- 1. Go to www.btstorm.org, click the "Volunteer Page" tab, click QRT, then "Click to be Added."

  OR
- 2. Text 727-804-1427 with your name and "Add me to QRT Team."



check website for details: www.btstorm.org click "Events" Tab



I Corinthians 4:10

"We are fools

for Christ"



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#### Check Our Website: www.btstorm.org

#### **ANOTHER FIRST:**



We are SO excited about this 1st ever BTS Memorial Day Picnic! We've been praying for a long time for an opportunity to spend some fun time together with the BTS Family. YES, we know some of you live in "far away" places, some of you have family commitments, some of you

don't do picnics, some have health issues, and maybe some other complications, but this is gonna be so special that no matter where you are, it's not TOO far to make this a priority. SO bring your family and Let's do it!!!

FULL DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE www.btstorm.org (click the "Events" Tab )

# SPOTLIGHT ON: a BTS Volunteer

As we know so well, THE most treasured important components of the BTS ministry (ok, GOD is <u>THE</u> most important) is our amazing VOLUNTEERS. Periodically we want you to hear from some of these amazing people.

### Meet Gigi Laursen: She is a Christ Follower,

Nurse, wife, mother and BTS Volunteer.



## Here's What GIGI

has to say about DR Volunteering...

Physical work where every muscle aches, even fingertips. New skills – pulling nails, preserving wood, tarp a roof, use a chainsaw. Now that is hard work! My favorite part of the trip is the spiritual focus. We don't waste time; we learn and grow. Panama City 3 was the trip where Rick started 'naming' the trips. I was part of Team Awakened. Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines over you." Things I will never forget: friendships, God's glory, and #120 Heather (and others) who gave their hearts to Jesus!



# Panama City, FL-3: April 6-11, 2019

Hurricane Michael hit the Florida Panhandle in

October 2018 as a Category 5 Hurricane and was the first

Cat 5 on record to impact the Panhandle. Damage was Catastrophic and BTS joined Samaritan's Purse on three separate occasions to bring hope and help to homeowners. Conveniently we designated

these as Panama City 1 (Jan), 2 (Feb) &

3 (April) deployments. There were a number of "Firsts" on this Panama City 3 deployment. BTS was housed at a



small church (The Cove) a few miles from the SP Campus and we had our first ever BTS "Hymn Sing" in the Worship Center with Jill Hagen playing the piano. One

of our great memories. On this deployment we introduced the concept of "Themed Deployments" with

every team being given a Team Name. Panama City 3 was "Team Awakened" based on Isaiah 60:1. "Arise, Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines."





93 yr old Edith received Christ as Savior here in Panama City Deployment along with over 120 more during SP Deployment time there.

# FOR A PICTURE TOUR OF PANAMA CITY 3 DEPLOYMENT CHECK OUR WEBSITE

(www.btstorm.org), click the Deployment Archives tab, select Panama City 3.

# Honestly There are four things I know

- 1. BTS continues to make a difference in the lives of people in need.
- 2. Without consistent financial support we cannot accomplish what God calls us to do.
- 3. The HFM Project Money helps with Capital Investments but not daily expenses.
- 4.We are praying for a team of people who will consider a monthly donation to BTS for Ministry Expenses.