

Newsletter



Issue 7 October 24-February 25



Just When You Thought... Life Happens & Everything Changes

I had the first page of the BTS Newsletter almost completed when the local news outlets alerted us to the imminent arrival of Hurricane Helene. Uncharacteristically I agreed to shelter in place until morning, then complete the newsletter and send out the next installment of "What's Happening with BTS." That was 5:00pm September 26, 2024. No one could have imagined that well over four months later we would finally get back to the "What's Happening." It's 5:00pm February 6, 2025 and I'm starting over. You'll get this by February 15. NOTHING is the same.

Throughout this newsletter you will read more details but let's start here:

1. Hurricane Helene made landfall on the Pinellas County, FL coast and it's estimated that 30,000 homes were damaged significantly enough that many are now uninhabitable.
2. Then FL's Big Bend, Then GA, Then NC & SC. It's estimated that the damage will exceed \$110 Billion dollars.
3. Then two weeks later, Hurricane Milton wreaked more havoc with a combined death toll of over 230 lives.

This issue is dedicated to prayer for those who have suffered so much and gratitude to those who truly made a difference. WITH THIS CLEAR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT... while our context is the difference BTS volunteers made within 20 miles of our office, there were many volunteers making life changing impact across many states.



REPRESENTED IN NC/GA RESPONSE



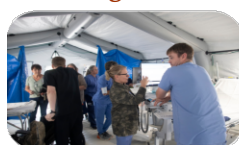
Dr. Steve Hagen, who is one of the primary care doctors at the on-site Wake Forest Baptist Health clinic at the Samaritan's Purse headquarters in Boone, NC and his wife Jill a life long educator are both Directors with Beyond the Storm. They served faithfully, so many hurting people



when Hurricane Helene hit North Carolina. Jill and some of her students helped provide



invaluable assistance at the SP Food/Supply site in Boone and Dr. Steve provided medical support to countless patients rescued in what became the largest



private air operation in US history. We are so grateful for who they are and their unflagging service to our Lord,



Samaritan's Purse, and by extension to BTS as well. We honor Julyn & Alecia Liburd who served so faithfully with in the SP NC & GA Response. As did Lisa Valdes, Lori Crisco and Danielle Danner. Beyond The Storm is such a ubiquitous ministry we often have



volunteers serving in places unknown to us, so if you served with SP in Hurricane Helene or Milton response other than St. Pete, please let us know.

PHILIPPIANS 1:11

MAY YOU ALWAYS BE FILLED WITH THE FRUIT
OF YOUR SALVATION—THE RIGHTEOUS
CHARACTER PRODUCED IN YOUR LIFE BY JESUS
CHRIST—FOR THIS WILL BRING MUCH GLORY
AND PRAISE TO GOD.



WATCH GOD WORK..

THROUGH BTS IN ST. PETERSBURG, FL

It was clear, the morning after Hurricane Helene hit Pinellas County, FL that not only was the devastation extensive but that Beyond The Storm would need to step up with a strong response. Calls for "help" began to pour in with the most heartbreaking stories. "We live in a 'Safe Zone' and we had 5' of water in our house," or "Everything's gone." "We survived on top of our furniture." So we began to assess houses, thinking that BTS would deploy volunteers and do the work we have done for so long with SP. WITHIN HOURS we had more work orders than we could have competed in months and the cries continued to come in. THEN TODD TAYLOR (Manager of US Disaster Relief for Samaritan's Purse) CALLED. "Samaritan's Purse is deploying to St. Petersburg, are you available to serve with us?" AND, my response was immediate, "If SP will assume our work orders, yes we will."

SO... Here's the story:

1. BTS supplied 14 volunteers to begin canvassing before camp was opened.
2. Leslie managed the "Call Center" with a team of 15 ladies for more than eight weeks, answering well over 5000 calls and processing more than 1500 work orders.
3. BTS Team Leads led teams for 64 days, completed 49 work orders and led well over 1240 volunteers.
4. 33 BTS volunteers responded and served, some one day, some many days.



While it will be years before recovery is realized here in the Tampa, St. Petersburg area, God used Samaritan's Purse AND Beyond The Storm to make a difference. We honor HIM and honor you, the BTS family.



A Homeowner Story:

Dale & Tracy Wallace

After Hurricane Helene devastated our home in Madeira Beach, a friend recommended we contact



Beyond The Storm. Within a few days, BTS showed up at our home, with BTS leading a team of Samaritan's Purse volunteers and the first thing they did

was pray for and with us. Afterward, they began to demolish what had been permanently damaged by flood water. They expedited the cleanup process, and we were able to start the restoration process of our beloved home. After seeing and experiencing, firsthand, what Samaritan's Purse was all about, we began to volunteer with them. What a rewarding experience for us to be able to give back, just a small portion of what Samaritan's Purse did for us. We are forever grateful for this organization. Coming to us in Jesus' name; what a tremendous blessing they were.

CHECK THESE OUT

Billy Graham TV has produced perhaps the best overview of the broad and devastating impact of Hurricane Helene to be found anywhere. It's available on the Beyond The Storm Website.

www.btstorm.org. Go to the Deployment Archives Tab and click "Storms of Life." It's riveting, heartbreaking and overwhelmingly HOPE filled.



Sage Steele, former ESPN host and broadcaster made a trip to St. Petersburg to survey the damage caused by Hurricane Helene. This is such an impressive revelation of HOPE. This is an important statement. It's a "must see." It's available on the Beyond The Storm Website. www.btstorm.org. Go to the Deployment Archives Tab and click "Sage Steele in St. Pete."