

Dear Gloria Dei Family,

Many of us are working through a gamut of emotions right now. "Survivor's guilt," shock, determination, fear, anger, helplessness, irritation over how relief is being handled, etc. I get it because I am feeling those emotions, too. I'm thankful to report that the roads finally cleared for driving in the Nassau Bay area, so most our staff was able to finally come together yesterday morning to pray and support each other. We have begun the process of learning a new "normal" for our Gloria Dei family, our neighborhoods and in our communities. Rebuilding after a storm is not unfamiliar to Gloria Dei. We are a strong family who is courageous, sacrificial, and we know how to come together and overcome!

We want to respond to the needs of our Gloria Dei family and community as best we can with the abilities and resources that are available to us. So many of you want to help, but don't know where to start. I encourage you to continue checking on your neighbors. Maybe you can introduce yourself for the first time, see what their needs are, and determine how you can serve them by sharing in their burden. I have heard story after story of our members rescuing others, caring for their small group members and opening up their homes to those in need. Thank you for your incredible ministry these past couple of days!

As we enter into the first stages of the recovery process, I want to ask a couple of things of you. **First** and foremost, I need your prayers for wisdom. There are multiple relief scenarios to consider, so pray for us as we determine which ones will help us best respond to the needs of our families and community. **Second**, I need your patience. So many people want to help immediately; which is understandable. But the reality is that, in most cases, we need to first let the water reside and assess needs. I am thrilled to share that we have assembled a stellar deployment team, and they are going out TODAY to assess seven homes. Volunteer teams are also being assigned and will be deployed into our community as early as Friday. **Third**, I need your perseverance. This will be a long-term relief effort. A city receiving over 50" of rain cannot recover overnight. Although this effort will challenge each of us in different ways, we serve a GREAT God who gives us the strength to do GREAT things in His name!

To that end, **we will be having one worship service this Sunday, September 3, at 10am in the Worship Center.** Why? It is important for me to have the family of Gloria Dei together in worship, prayer, and encouragement of one another. Our prayer teams will be available all morning, and we will have *Harvey Disaster Relief Effort* stations set up in the Life Center between 9am and Noon, with opportunities for you to participate in helping.

NEXT STEPS & WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Was your home damaged in the storm?

We know that some of our members experienced flooding and mandatory evacuation and we have reached out to them, but I know there are many more who were affected by the storm. If you are in need of assistance as a result of this storm, we want to help! Please **complete the Emergency Assistance Request Form on our website** that we have set up, so one of our team members can respond to your needs. Please do not be too proud to ask for help. We have many members who were not impacted by the storm, but feel helpless because they don't know how, or whom, to help. They WANT to help. They NEED to help.

Cleaning Kit Buckets

There is an immediate need for cleaning supplies. Please visit gdlc.org to view the list of items needed, with directions for assembling a "Cleaning Kit Bucket." This is also a great way to involve your kids in serving! Please bring your completed "Cleaning Kit Bucket" (or

some of the supplies on the list) to the Life Center stage, starting today, between the hours of 9am and 5pm. For those who would like to shop from the comforts of your home, we created an "Amazon Wish List." Visit gdlc.org for the link to a simple way to purchase the items for a cleaning kit and have them sent directly to Gloria Dei.

Volunteer Opportunities

I know many of you want to volunteer to help. Praise the Lord, thank you and we need you! Please **complete the Emergency Assistance Volunteer Form on our website** that has been created to organize volunteer schedules and skill sets. Please note that our list of requests will change, as our needs change, so we will send this form out periodically with new requests and needs.

Donate

Consider making a designated gift to the Harvey Disaster Relief fund. You can give online by visiting gdlc.org/giving. Share this link with those asking where to donate. We will also be receiving a special offering for disaster relief this Sunday, if you prefer to donate at that time.

My prayers remain with each of you, and for our community, as we work together to *help one another live life with Jesus every day* in the midst of this crisis.

In His service and yours,
Pastor Dan