

# Four Bridges Feel then See

(Feel their pain  
then see our remedy.)

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# Golden Rule

- Jesus said, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Matt. 7:12 and Luke 6:31)
- Imagine that you had to suddenly leave your home with only the clothes on your back.
- You evacuated from a natural disaster. You lived in a shelter for a while. Then you moved into a FEMA apartment or returned home to rebuild.
- How would you want other Christians to help you in this time of your greatest need?

# Rough Sketch

- The following is just a rough sketch of what I guess it would be like to be an evacuee and rebuilding.
- During the coming months I plan to talk with those who went through this in person and by phone.
- I will gradually create a composite mural of the short, medium and long term needs.
- This mural will guide our initial preparations.

# Learn by Doing

- Experience is the best teacher in learning how to serve people.
- A team of 2 or 3 single men will rent a camper. Together we will go into the area hit hardest by the hurricane – Ground Zero.
- We will also visit the Surrounding Areas
  - where the evacuees fled
  - seeking possible staging stations for help

# Dream with Me

- After following several hurricanes we will learn what works and does not work.
- Seek to offer excellent leadership manuals for the pastors and others that are serving the evacuees and those rebuilding.
- Seek to have an extensive network of support partners that can be quickly activated.
  - Intercessors
  - Volunteer workers
  - Donors of things
  - Trained lay counselors
  - Evangelism teams

# Evacuee

## 1<sup>st</sup> day

- Left everything
  - Home
  - Things
  - Family?
  - Friends
  - Church family
  - Job
  - School

- Experienced?
  - Danger
  - Fear
  - Loss
  - Pain
  - Terrified
  - Grief
  - Disorientation
  - Confusion

# Evacuee

## 1<sup>st</sup> week – Relief

- Seek and find

- Shelter

- Red Cross
- motel or hotel
- family or friend

- Food

- Medication

- Clothes

- Family members

- Information

- Maybe feel

- Anxious

- Fearful

- Worried

- Insecure

- Desperate

- Numb

- Grateful

- Fretful

# Evacuee

## 1<sup>st</sup> month(s) - Recovery

- FEMA apartment or trailer
  - Children in school
  - Find employment
  - Furniture
  - Decide to return or not
    - advantages
    - disadvantages
    - costs
    - timing

- Could feel
  - Lonely
  - Isolated
  - Frustrated
  - Confused
  - Overwhelmed
  - Angry
  - Discouraged
  - Depressed
  - Despair

# Evacuee

## Rebuild - Start life in new city

- After decide to remain
- Like any relocation
  - Get situated
    - weekly routines
    - social community
    - church family
- But also deal with
  - Property
    - lost
    - left
  - Legal contracts
  - Grief

- Could feel
  - Sad
  - Weary
  - Disappointed
  - Directionless
  - Hopeless
  - Helpless
  - Stranded
  - Cut off
  - Isolated
  - Resentful
  - Neglected

# Rebuild

## Residents that remained and Evacuees that returned

- Repairs
  - Minor
  - Major
- Infrastructure
  - Back to normal
  - Will be back soon
  - Will be back later
- Job?
- School?
- Church?

- Could feel
  - Exhausted
  - Abandoned
  - Worn out
  - Stressed
  - Hopeless
  - Helpless
  - Forsaken
  - Insecure
  - Distressed

# Hurts and Effects

- Possible sources of hurt

- Saw horrible incidents
- Personal injury
- Loss of
  - loved one(s)
  - home
  - employment
  - community
  - church family
- Major changes
  - abrupt
  - uncontrollable

- Possible effects of hurt

- Depression
  - mild to severe
- Sleeping disorders
- Eating disorders
- Alcoholism
  - new
  - increased
- Drug abuse
- Family violence
- Suicide

# Besides Material Aid

- Lay counseling
  - Listen attentively
  - Validate the feelings
  - Address symptoms
  - Provide coping techniques
  - Offer different perspective(s)
  - Constructive action steps

- Possible resources
  - Online
    - secular sites
    - Christian sites
    - Four Bridges site
  - Quarterly CDs
  - Recommended
    - books
    - videos/DVDs
    - cassette tapes & audio CDs

# Eternal Perspective

- Before the gospel
  - Testimonies of answered prayer
  - Salvation testimonies
  - Apologetics
    - all the basics
    - especially the Problem of Evil
      - If God has all power and all love then why did He cause or permit this tragedy?

- Gospel presentation
  - Communicate the truth in love
  - Do not compromise on what the Bible clearly states
  - Be extra sensitive during the delicate season
  - Sow, water and reap as the Holy Spirit leads

# Make Disciples

- Come along the side of believers
  - Evacuee in person
  - Rebuilder in person
  - Either online
- Communicate the truth in love
- Allow your spiritual gifts to flow to meet their needs
- Point them to daily faith in Jesus Christ
- Lead them by your example of a follower of Jesus Christ

- Possible resources
  - Online
    - Christian sites
    - Four Bridges site
  - Quarterly CDs
  - Fellowship with maturing believers
    - locally
    - online
  - Recommended
    - books
    - videos/DVDs
    - cassette tapes & audio CDs

# Phase 1- Until Hurricane Season

## January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>

- Be Prepared

- Initial quarterly CD
  - ready to ship
- Quarterly CDs web platform
  - ready to follow up
- Ready to visit Ground Zero(s) and surrounding areas
  - equipment
  - training
  - paperwork

- Enroll intercessors

- Develop confidential ways to share requests

- Enroll work teams

- Ready to move out on short notice

- Enroll staging areas

- For collecting and packing items to take to the affected areas

# Quarterly CDs

- Like

- Sunday newspaper
- Shelf of books
- Huge web site on a disk
- Super Sunday school class
- Encyclopedia
- Public library
- Christian Google
- Catalyst

- Subject areas

- Safety
- Health
- Inspiration
- Counseling basics
- Prayer – why & how
- Bible study – why and how
- Parenting aids
- Finding a job
- Evangelism
- Discipleship

# Phase 2 - Ground Zero

## June 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>

- Go to Ground Zero as soon as it is safe
  - take LOTS of pictures
  - interview all kinds of people
  - note what they need and want
  - collect specific and general prayer requests
  - begin relationships with Christian leaders to follow up with email and phone
- Publish on the web site
  - LOTS of pictures
  - Simple news summaries
  - Testimonies
  - Prayer guidelines
- Syndicate news and Christian analysis to Christian radio and TV stations
- Put the best of these on the next quarterly CD

# Phase 2 – Surrounding Areas

## June 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>

- Visit surrounding areas
  - see, hear and interview
    - evacuees
    - relief workers
    - volunteers
    - Christian leaders
  - take LOTS of pictures
  - note what they need and want
  - collect specific and general prayer requests
  - begin relationships with Christian leaders to follow up with email and phone
  - publishing this online

- Study what works and does not work in the evacuee setting
- Offer the host family leaders manuals on CD and online
  - Guidelines for
    - screening evacuees
    - screening host families
    - training host families
    - matching 1 screened family to 4 host families
    - monitoring the relationship
    - enrolling on-going prayer support

# Phase 3 – Evaluate and Improve

## December 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> 2007

- Pray earnestly seeking God for direction
- Evaluate Phase 1 & 2
  - What worked?
  - What did not work?
  - What needs improvement?
  - What needs elimination?
- Design and develop ways to better
  - Serve those we met this season
  - Equip them for the works of their ministry
  - Enroll more intercessors, advisors and donors

- Gear up to do a better job covering hurricane relief, recovery and rebuilding
- Consider ways to adapt the Four Bridges system to also serve include
  - other disasters
    - earthquakes
    - floods
    - mudslides
    - wildfires
    - tornados
  - international disasters
  - poor and needy
    - disabled veterans
    - handicapped
    - orphans and widows