**AUGUST 2024** 

## WHEN THE STORM PASSES OVER

### Prayer

- Please pray for this next semester. May our students persevere and may our professors have the wisdom to teach them what is most important as they prepare for vocational ministry.
- We are also grateful if you would pray that the Lord brings unity and understanding to our church.

#### **Praises**

• When the waters subsided and we were able to visit the affected areas, it was heart-breaking and overwhelming. We praise the Lord that he sees beyond our human eyes. We have been witnesses to miracles that prove his faithfulness and goodness. An example of this is when, after a month, one of the dogs of our church planter was discovered alive in the neighborhood where he lived; we thanked the Lord, together with Ricardo and his family. Originally, he had taken his family to safety and when he went back for his three big dogs, he was stopped by the police because the waters were rising too fast. He grieved, cried, prayed, and blamed himself for a month. But God heard his prayers! Only the Lord knows how that dog survived in the high waters for so long. His other two dogs were taken to a shelter. He still has not found them, but knowing they are alive brings relief. The Lord reminded us that he is in control and tangibly demonstrated his love.

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge.

I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

PSALM 57:1 (NIV)

#### FLOOD UPDATE

We are grateful for the many prayers for those affected by the catastrophic floods. We are also thankful for all of you who have contributed to our disaster relief fund. Here is a list of the main projects we have been working on from the beginning:

- Financial support for all the Baptist churches sheltering displaced people. That includes buying mattresses, water, food, hygiene items, a wheelchair, and medicine.
- Financial help for churches making warm meals that were delivered to shelters.
- Financial support for pastors on the ground since the beginning taking water and food

baskets to stranded families, as well as to those hosting displaced people.

- Financial help for our seminary secretary, a student, four alumni, and two church planters whose houses were flooded – to help them rebuild, renovate, and buy appliances and furniture.
- Cleaning kits, for several churches in affected areas, that include power washers, rubber boots, gloves, brooms, brushes, and steel wool.
- A large tent to house multiple people receiving hot meals from a local YWAM team.
- School kits that include a backpack with school supplies for the entire student population of a grade K-9 school that was flooded. These will be delivered during a program on their first day back to school after the floods on August 5, where we will also have the opportunity to share the Gospel.
- A library resource kit for all the pastors and church planters who lost all their books in the floods. This is an ongoing project that is still being developed.
- The purchase of pre-fabricated houses (around \$5,000 USD each) for at least two families who are members of a Baptist church plant living in extreme poverty (this photo is of



one of the homes we will replace).

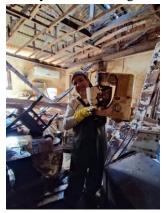
These projects do not include the emergency help that was given to individuals in dire need. As funds permit, we continue to ask the Lord to lead us to the people who most need these funds.

#### SEMINARY NEWS

On August 12, our new semester gets going. It will start with an intensive class on Christian Leadership taught by yours truly. Then our regular semester classes start. At the end of the semester, we are excited to host Rev. Dr. Dana Goodnough and his wife for two weeks as he once again teaches Pastoral Ministry.

#### **CHURCH NEWS**

Our distribution center has been moved to our church plant, which was in the middle of the flood zone. It took two weeks to move everything, but now it is in the best place as people go back to their homes to start all the clean-up, renovations, and rebuilding. Our church planter, Ricardo, and his family are still living at our church, as their home



was severely damaged. This has caused a bit of tension as some of the people are eager for things to get "back to normal." However, it will take a long time before the people whose homes were buried in flood waters for over a month will feel like things are normal again.

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