

September 1, 2017 Update on IDW outreach to Houston

Dear Members of IDW churches,

Some of you have contacted me and asked how you can help and what IDW is doing to reach out to help with the devastation in Houston.

I have been on the phone the last several days working to 'fit the puzzle' together to work out a way that we can extend a helping hand. .

One thing you can do is to physically go to help. At this time four people have contacted me with an interest to go to Houston to work. If you are interested, contact me and we will see how that develops.

In a disaster, we ca not help everyone, but we can each do something to help others. My goal is always to establish contact with a Lutheran church or school in the affected area that we can focus on and assist.

To collect and deliver needed items, three big puzzle pieces need to fall into place before we proceed. One piece of the puzzle is to establish that contact with a church or school. Then a collection site needs to be located and thirdly, find a trucking firm to deliver the collected items. After numerous phone calls and God's guidance in the search, we are going to help Lutheran South Academy that has 800 students (Pre-K to 12th grade). The CEO is Gregg Pinick, who some of you may know.-

Gregg sent me this link from a TV coverage that was filmed and aired last night. It will give you an idea of the situation.

<http://www.khou.com/mobile/video/weather/hurricane-central/houston-schools-start-flood-cleanup/285-2706432>

I learned about the school because Pastor Max Phillips (Pastor of Christ Lutheran in Bouton, IA and Executive Director of Lutheran Family Service and CEO for Perry Lutheran Home) has two daughters and two son-in-laws involved with the school.

Secondly, through Bobby Dofner, who we work with to help the homeless in Omaha, I was led to Dennis Ramthun with Ramthun Trucking from Fort Dodge. He generously has agreed to offer their truck and driver to take a load to Houston. In one of our many conversations to work out details, he shared that he is a member at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rockwell City.

The third piece of the puzzle was solved by a call to Pastor Nathan Peitsch at St Paul Lutheran in Fort Dodge and they offered their basement as a collection point. (Not needed now for this first part of our outreach)

Our plans were to get a needs list from Mr. Pinick, share that with all our IDW churches and collect the items at St. Paul's. That plan changed at least temporarily. In visiting with Mr. Pinick last night, I asked what his greatest need is and he said SHEETROCK! That surprised me! Everyone there needs sheet rock to rebuild and sheet rock is gold!! On their campus, there are five buildings that got flooded and need to be repaired. Their contractor said they will need 5,000 4' X 8'- 5/8 "sheets of sheet rock. Yes 5,000!!!

I learned a lot today about sheet rock and trucking. A 53' semitrailer will hold 44,000 pounds which equals to approximately 600 sheets. The contractor requested the following supplies:

250 boxes of sheet rock mud—all purpose

100 bags of 45 minute quickset

6 boxes of 2" sheet rock tape - 12 rolls per box

5 boxes of 8' paper corner beads - 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" - 45 pieces per box

Lee Dreyer contacted National Gypsum in Fort Dodge and I visited with the contact Lee gave me. I was hoping to hear back from them today, but didn't. The person I contacted is checking to see what they can do for us for pricing.

Things I need your help with:

1. Do you know of another trucking firm who would be willing to take a second load of sheet rock and supplies to Houston? If we need to hire a trucking firm to take a second load to Houston, the cost will be approximately \$2,500, which should be no problem with 170 IDW churches.
2. Do you know where we can get the best pricing on the sheet rock supplies? (I have priced Menard's)
3. Please consider making a donation for this venture to help the school in Houston. Make a check payable to Iowa District West--Houston School and mail to:

Roger Curtis
Iowa District West
409 Kenyon Rd Suite B
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

We hope to get the loads out next week so the children can get back into school as soon as possible. Later, we will share a list of needs for the families connected with this school who have lost their homes.

I am always so thankful for the generosity of God's people in IDW churches. Maybe we can send 3, 4 or 5 loads of sheet rock to God's people in Houston.

Thank you. God's blessings,
Ellie Menz
IDW Disaster Response Coordinator