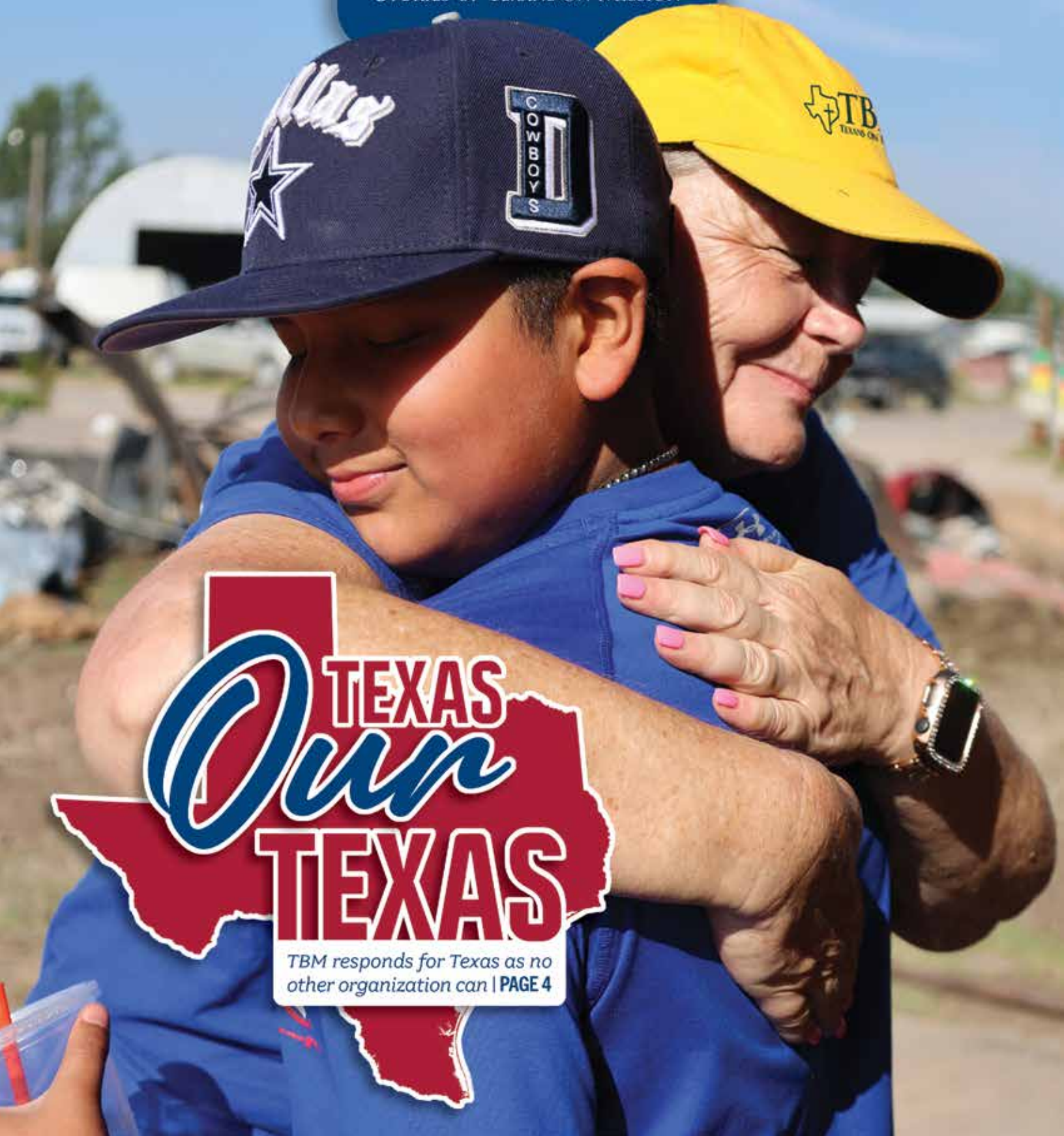


# TBM TODAY

STORIES OF TEXANS ON MISSION



**Our** TEXAS  
TEXAS  
**TEXAS**

TBM responds for Texas as no other organization can | PAGE 4

# MOTHER'S DAY DIAPER DRIVE HELPS MOTHERS IN CRISIS



**T**BM distributed more than 175,000 diapers to 24 ministries around the state as a result of donations made during its Mother's Day emphasis.

"We are blown away at the response," said Leslie Snyder, TBM donor relations officer. "Because of these gifts, thousands of families across Texas are being blessed."

TBM delivered the diapers to crisis pregnancy centers, foster/adoption ministries, border ministries and family aid organizations. These ministries had seen their stock of diapers depleted as rising costs forced parents to seek help.

TBM set out to collect and distribute 50,000 diapers in honor of Mother's Day. As word spread about the drive, a continuous flow of Amazon boxes, diaper deliveries and donations streamed into TBM headquarters. Churches, Bible study groups and businesses pitched in to help families in crisis

"Due to the effects of inflation, there are families in our midst that have to choose between buying food and buying diapers for their newborns," Snyder said. "We decided that wasn't OK and asked our TBM family to step up and help." They did.

The economic situation created a run on diapers at many ministries, crisis pregnancy centers and church outreaches, Snyder said. "As soon as they're donated,

people are picking them up. Through the diaper drive, TBM friends, supporters and volunteers made sure families had what they needed."

She said buying diapers may not seem like much, but "we believe there is no small act in the Kingdom of God and that He will use this to impact lives in ways we may never know.

"From the bottom of our hearts, we thank everyone who gave for being the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need." **TBM**



# Texas pastors, spouses pursue disaster relief training in Israel

TBM sends volunteers to Israel each month to develop capacity alongside the nation's Emergency Volunteer Project in the event of future disaster relief needs. In May, a group of Texas pastors and spouses became the newest kosher-trained TBM volunteers.



"These Texas church leaders were already involved in TBM ministries, but they wanted to experience what we were doing in the special effort in Israel," said John-Travis Smith, TBM associate executive director.

In a disaster or emergency, TBM volunteers would serve both Jews and non-Jews. Kosher food is required for the Jewish segment of the population and requires special training to prepare.

"Learning some of the primary differences in the context of kosher food was fascinating," said Rolando Aguirre, of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas. "Also, having a rabbi on site to supervise our work was a remarkable experience."

Kevin Walker, of Southcliff Church in Fort Worth, noted the "amazing partnership between TBM and EVP."

Although TBM has had a worldwide reach for some time, just to know that TBM volunteers have the opportunity to impact the people of Israel when they have need ... is a real blessing."

If you would like to know more about becoming a volunteering Israel, go to [tbmtx.org/israel](http://tbmtx.org/israel). **TBM**



# What are you made of?



As I write, it's 103 degrees. The heat index is over 115 degrees. I'm sweating just thinking about it. TBM volunteers aren't just thinking about the weather. They're ministering in it.

Chainsaws in their hands, they're cutting and removing trees that have fallen on homes and cars in East Texas. An hour down the road, they're leaning over hot outdoor skillets as they provide thousands of meals a day. On the other side of the state, volunteers are helping people search through debris for their belongings. Nearly 180 miles to the south, TBM is powering up a church building in a city that has no power.

Why are they doing it? Because they're driven by their faith to help hurting people. And there are a lot of hurting Texans right now. In one week, Texas was hit by two tornadoes and winds over 100 mph that knocked down trees and shut off power to more than 160,000 people across East Texas.

Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

This definitely qualifies as a time of challenge.

This summer, the TBM family is showing what it's made of: toughness, determination, compassion and grace. That character stands up to any heat. TBM volunteers from every discipline are serving right now: chainsaw, feeding, shower, laundry, chaplaincy, asset protection, incident management, child care and more. They're stepping up to help Texans take their first steps of recovery after disasters.

As a result, you're changing lives across this state. Because of you, people have the help they need, the hope they're searching for and the eternal healing we all need.

**Mickey B. Lenamon**  
TBM Executive Director/CEO



# Our TEXAS TEXAS

*TBM responds for Texas as no other organization can*

**T***exas has been pummeled by violent weather in recent weeks. And when Texas is blasted, TBM volunteers step up.*

They've brought the full TBM Disaster Relief toolbox to the scenes of various storms — a toolbox like no other organization. Chainsaw crews, feeding units, child care teams, shower/laundry facilities, security systems, power generators, incident management and a willingness to work hard for others have all been deployed by TBM across Texas.

Trained volunteers are the key to TBM Disaster Relief work. Before the end of June, TBM volunteers already logged 4,734 days of service in 2023. That's 39,560 volunteer hours of work. And 51.8 percent of those hours occurred in Texas as ice storms, tornadoes, straight winds and floods took their toll.

Much of the volunteer work involved physical labor to deal with the aftermath of destruction. But TBM deals with the spiritual devastation left in the wake of tragedy, as well. Volunteers recorded 1,453 personal contacts, including 123 opportunities to share the Gospel with victims.

"Our volunteers are amazing," said David Wells, director of TBM Disaster Relief. "The storms have come one after another and uprooted lives, and our men and women have been faithful to respond. It's not easy when one disaster follows another, but our volunteers keep stepping up."

This is a hard time of year to work outside in Texas, and this year



summer weather set in early. Heat and humidity made life difficult for TBM volunteers as they sought to help storm victims.

Disaster relief volunteer Carol Simpson had flood victims in mind when she told KFDA in Amarillo, “Every drop of sweat was worth it because that might save them one tear.”

Still further north in Perryton, a tornado wiped out the north side of the town.

Monica Ramirez worked upstairs in her home altering a wedding dress when the hail started. She picked up her phone to record a video. The video revealed a moment of terror as the tornado formed a block away and destruction of the storm shook her home. There was the sound “like an explosion” as windows shattered from the pressure. Then the video went black.

A few days later, a TBM crew helped her locate and retrieve her belongings. They did so with care and compassion. It’s an experience Ramirez will never forget.

“They are very, very, special,” Ramirez said of the TBM team. “I feel like I have another family.”

One of her neighbors, Octavia Uribe, surveyed what was left of her 100-year-old home. Only part of the stucco structure survived, and what remained would have to be destroyed.

“TBM helped us finish taking out everything we had, because we lost everything,” Uribe said.

“They made me feel like I had someone to help me take out my things – my memories – and they made me feel like I had someone to count on.”

TBM volunteer Missy Mehringer, a member of First Baptist Church in Saginaw, was among volunteers who helped Uribe clear her home.

“It’s a daunting task, and you don’t know where to start. You’re in shock,” Mehringer recalled. “We had boxes, paper and tape. She made the hard decisions” about what to salvage.

“At a moment like this,” Uribe added, “You’re grateful for the help and grateful to be alive, and there are people who volunteer to help you for nothing. It makes you realize how to appreciate the small things in life. Today it’s you; tomorrow it may be you helping others.”

Jim Lawton, of First Baptist Church in Waxahachie, led the early TBM response in Perryton. Each evening the volunteers shared their experiences.

“The stories last night were wonderful,” Lawton said. “They talked about the children ... Many people don’t realize children are devastated, just like adults are. So we had some



school teachers deployed, and I firmly believe God puts these teams together, ... and He put school teachers on this one to respond to the children.”

More than 500 miles away, 100 mph winds knocked out power to about 150,000 East Texans and toppled large trees. TBM teams converged on the area north of Tyler and Longview to help – removing fallen trees and feeding families without power.

Melissa Bernal lived through the storm. She huddled in her closet and prayed for protection as the storm blew a large tree over on her car. Shortly afterward, a TBM team showed up to clear away the downed tree.

“We have these beautiful people that are out here helping to clear it all up, and we’re so grateful, so grateful,” Bernal told KLTU in Tyler.

TBM volunteers fought heat indexes above 110 degrees. They ate breakfast at 5 a.m. so they could start sawing earlier and still work full days.

“It’s incredibly hot. It’s dangerously hot,” said Rupert Robbins, associate director of TBM Disaster Relief. “We’re hammering people to stay hydrated. They’re standing up to the task to get it done.” **TBM**



# A heart



This year's TBM Disaster Relief deployments look like the lyrics of Johnny Cash's "I've Been Everywhere." Hereford. Amarillo. Silsbee. Perryton. Gladewater. Gilmer. Matador. Houston. And that's just a few.

All took heavy shots from nature as Texas weather ripped through homes, trees and cars. Tornadoes, straight winds and floods gashed people's lives. In every case, TBM teams rolled out to deliver help, hope and healing.



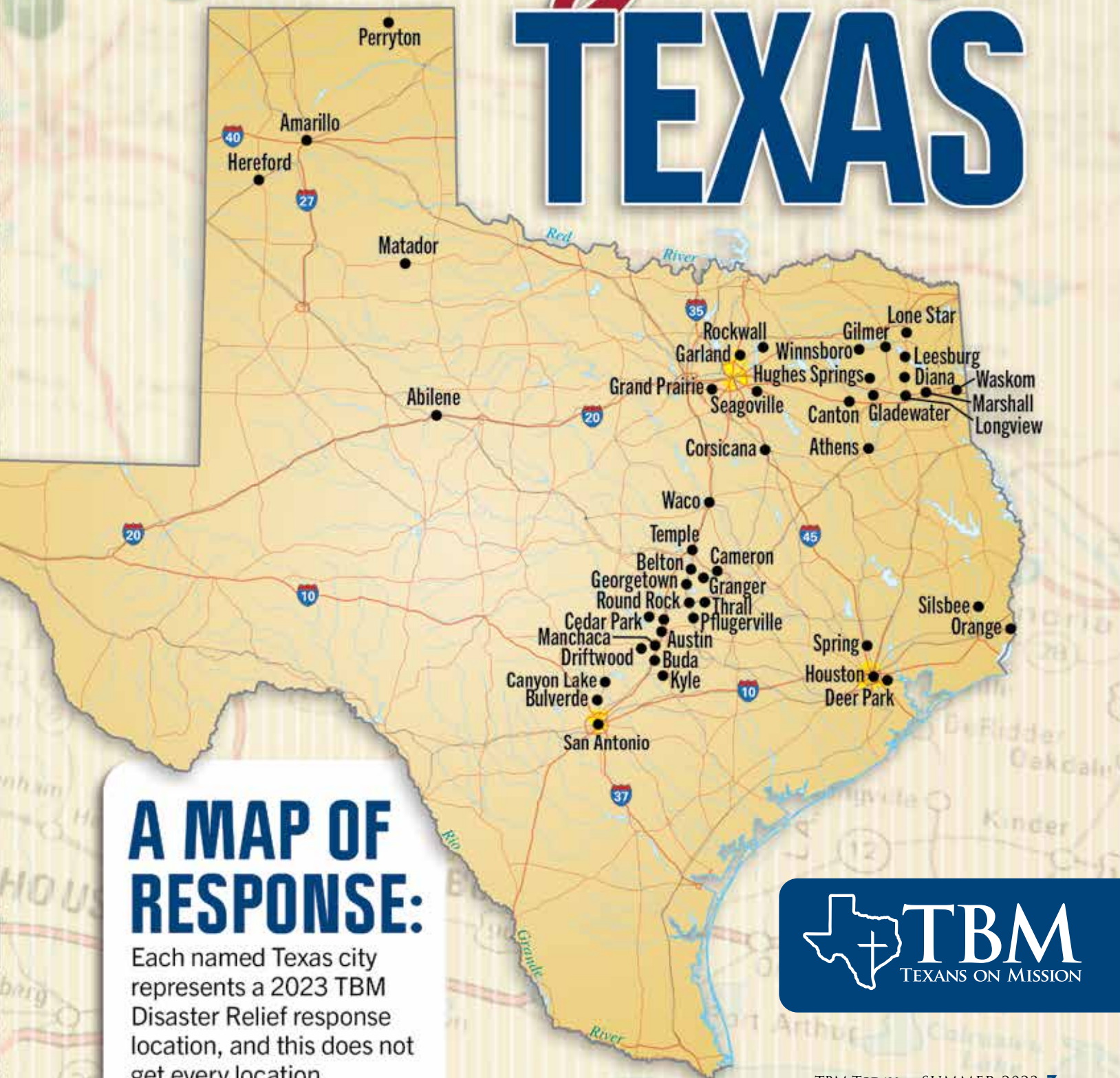
### That's what you do for family.

"Texas is our home," said Mickey Lenamon, TBM executive director/CEO. "Our fellow Texans are our family. So when someone in our family is hurting, the rest of us step up to help them. In 2023, you have done that time and again. You are transforming the lives of Texans with the love of God."



# as big as

# TEXAS



## A MAP OF RESPONSE:

Each named Texas city represents a 2023 TBM Disaster Relief response location, and this does not get every location.



# A NEW CHURCH PANGUITCH, COURTE

TBM BUILDERS

**M**OUNTAINS SKIRT THE HORIZON. A RIVER ROLLS WIDE ACROSS THE WIDE VALLEY, OUT OF ITS BANKS FROM THE THAWING WINTER SNOW. ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF TOWN, A WHITE STEEPLE MARKS THE SPOT OF A THREE-MONTH TBM BUILDERS PROJECT.

Valley Christian Fellowship is a Baptist congregation that welcomes 30-40 worshippers each Sunday. It is the only evangelical church within an hour's drive of Panguitch in southern Utah.

TBM Builders rolled into Panguitch in late April to begin a project that is nearing completion. They helped Valley Fellowship build a parsonage, with Sunday school space in the basement. The church provided the materials; TBM Builders provided the expertise and labor.

Valley Fellowship has no pastor; they've been without

for three years. The church has interviewed a number of potential pastors, said Tammi Newsted, church clerk, but each has responded similarly. "I looked, and there's nothing to rent. Where am I going to live?" And they can't afford to buy a house in the inflated housing market, she said.

Tourism has driven up housing costs. Panguitch is in the Grand Circle of National Parks, with Bryce Canyon, Zion and Grand Staircase all nearby, not to mention state parks and other recreational opportunities.

As with many smaller towns near popular travel



# PARSONAGE FOR SY OF TBM BUILDERS





destinations, the short-term rental market has led to homes being bought, renovated and rented for a few days at a time.

The rental property market “has taken over all of the homes out here,” said Newsted, referring to a popular vacation rental website. The people who already live in Panguitch “can’t even rent, let alone someone coming into the community. And we certainly can’t expect them to come in and buy a home.”

Dan Maruyama is director of Henry’s Place, a nearby Christian camp and retreat center for at-risk youth. He’s helped Valley Fellowship by preaching and securing pulpit supply for the church since their pastor left. Tourism has created a housing challenge, Maruyama said, but it also has presented an opportunity.

“There’s a huge amount of summer tourism traffic that comes through here, and we regularly have people show up that are looking for something and they end up in this

church, and they hear the Gospel ... and are encouraged in their walk,” he said. “It’s just a great opportunity for outreach.”

The large Mormon population of the area creates an opportunity, Maruyama said. “A lot of people are coming ... out of the Mormon church and go into atheism because they’re disenchanted with religion.

“If you’ve got someone standing there and saying, ‘Don’t give it all up. God is real; you were just taught some stuff that wasn’t quite right. There is a real Jesus, and He really does love you.’ That’s a great opportunity, and folks need to hear that.”

Valley Fellowship discovered TBM through a “very long process,” Newsted said. “When we decided to build the parsonage we knew that we were going to have to have volunteers to do the labor part of it.”

Newsted searched for West Coast ministries that would do the project, but “building a parsonage is not on the list



of what most ministries want to do,” she said. “If we were building a church, it would be no problem.”

Then she connected with TBM and got a different response. “I was very grateful when Texas Baptist Men contacted me, and they said, ‘This isn’t what we normally do, but we can see that this is so important that we want to be part of it.’ And that was one of the greatest days. I was so happy. I think I was probably smiling for a week after that because I finally had a yes.”

Wayne Pritchard leads TBM Builders, which includes Church, Camp and Cabinet builders. He has coordinated the TBM effort working with other leaders and task experts in the three groups. Pritchard, and his wife, Annette, have been in Panguitch throughout the project.

“When I was first contacted by Tammi,” Pritchard said, “I was thrilled because I had a vision from God that our Builders programs could take on a start-to-finish project

utilizing all of our groups.

“God provided everything we needed to come and serve Him in such a mighty way,” Pritchard said. “This church is in an area that is wide open to reach lost souls, and I have no doubt that He has something big planned for them. Our entire Builders group that is participating shares the same feeling.”

Newsted said the Panguitch project has required the expertise contained in all three TBM Builders groups, and she communicated with the various leaders, with Pritchard coordinating.

“One of the best things about this,” said Newsted, “is that I am grateful that there are still Christians out there that are willing to give of themselves, not just financially, but they’re willing to give of their time, willing to travel 1,400 miles across the U.S. to come out here not knowing really what to expect. That has been amazing; it’s been awesome.” **TBM**

**“I WAS VERY GRATEFUL WHEN TEXAS BAPTIST MEN CONTACTED ME, AND THEY SAID, ‘THIS ISN’T WHAT WE NORMALLY DO, BUT WE CAN SEE THAT THIS IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE WANT TO BE PART OF IT.’ AND THAT WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST DAYS. I WAS SO HAPPY.” – Tammi Newsted, Valley Christian Church**



Photo support by Annette Pritchard

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# WILSONS SERVE TOGETHER THROUGH CHURCH BUILDERS 'Come on your first trip, and you'll be hooked.'

**W**hen the chance to retire finally came in 2018, Steve and Darlene Wilson knew exactly what they wanted to do: buy a camper and use their skills for a greater purpose.

As a former maintenance electrician, Steve spent decades honing his expertise in electrical wiring. As a former church secretary, Darlene dedicated many years to the church and became familiar with common needs churches face.

Their combined knowledge and skills, coupled with a love for serving others through missions led them to become volunteers with TBM Church Builders.



On the jobsite, Steve focuses his time on building and electrical work while Darlene can be found wherever she is most needed. Whether it's hauling wood and using nail guns or keeping the space clean and the volunteers hydrated, she's ready to serve however she can.

The couple almost never misses a Builders trip. "Come on your first one, and you'll be hooked," she said. "Even if you don't think you have any skills, you can learn. If you have a willing spirit to learn, then you're in. ... When you spend two weeks together, you build camaraderie, you build a family." **TBM**

