

INSIDE: HURRICANE IN JAMAICA | BAPTISMS IN SOUTH SUDAN | VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

# TEXANS ON MISSION™

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Here for the  
whole journey:

Rebuilding homes in Kerr County

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# TXM Volunteers bring Christmas joy to the Rio Grande Valley

**T**exans on Mission volunteers celebrated Christmas in the Rio Grande Valley by distributing toys, hygiene kits and blankets, holding medical and dental clinics, and constructing and distributing beds to families in need.

The annual effort was intended to “share Christ with everyone that we encountered,” said TXM Missions and Discipleship Director Sabrina Pinales. “We served at multiple locations alongside local churches.”

The team of volunteers included a medical/dental team from Watermark Health in Dallas, Go Now student missionaries and students from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Ryan Welch, TXM missions and discipleship coordinator, said the trip sought to meet both the spiritual and physical needs of families in the area during Christmas.

“We strive to meet the spiritual needs, but with all of the trips we do, we want to look for those opportunities to meet physical needs too,” he said. “In this economy, there are great needs and that’s very clear every time we go down to the Valley to serve the people in South Texas.”



# Full speed ahead



**T**ogether, we're starting 2026 full speed ahead. You're rebuilding homes after last summer's tragic flood in the Hill Country. You're ministering in the Rio Grande Valley. You're meeting needs and sharing God's love in Jamaica after Hurricane Melissa. You're leading people to faith in Christ all the way in South Sudan.

The sun never sets on Texans on Mission's ministry. It's beautiful to see. As I start my 11th year of serving as chief executive officer, I've seen you meet needs and share God's love in the midst of heart-breaking destruction.

The last decade has been filled with growth and ministry beyond anything I could have imagined. Ministry happens continuously in Texas. But also in Israel, Peru, Uganda and South Sudan, as well. Our chainsaw, shower/laundry, fire and flood recovery, and chaplain teams have expanded significantly.



***"In the middle of it all, one constant drives Texans on Mission ministry: God's people responding to God's call to do God's work. He works through you as you live on mission with Christ."***

In the middle of it all, one constant drives Texans on Mission ministry: God's people responding to God's call to do God's work. He works through you as you live on mission with Christ.

Thank you for your faithful service and support. You consistently put the needs of others in front of your own, giving of your time, talents and resources to meet needs and share God's love. As a result, Texans on Mission volunteers have ministered for more than 1 million hours on six continents in the last decade. More than 20,000 people have made professions of faith in Jesus. That's a God-sized impact.

Thank God for all He has done in the last 10 years. I prayerfully look forward to what He has in store for the next 10. Together, we deliver help, hope and healing in the name of Christ.

**Mickey B. Lenamon**

Chief Executive Officer  
Texans on Mission

The group met physical needs by providing toys, blankets, medical clinics, teacher appreciation lunches and gifts, as well as building beds.

"In many, many cases, a lot of children don't have beds," Welch said. "They're sleeping on the floor. So we had students go into the homes, assemble these beds and pray with these families."

In addition to serving hundreds of families, the team also served the families of about 75 local pastors. "Often, the pastors are the ones giving back to their communities, and they do that with such a heart they often can't provide for their own families. So we prioritize them as well, doing a specific distribution for them and their families." 🇹🇽





# Volunteers respond

**to hurricane devastation in Jamaica**

When Hurricane Melissa hit Jamaica on Oct. 28, it had reached its peak intensity, becoming **the strongest tropical hurricane of 2025** and the strongest storm to ever hit the country.



In Melissa's wake, a team of Texans on Mission volunteers was on the ground in just a few days, assessing damage and planning TXM's broader response.

Within a week, a full team arrived in the heavily damaged

port town of Montego Bay, providing temporary roofing and food relief to churches, hospitals and communities in the area.

Wendell Romans, who served as Incident Coordinator for the first response, said the hurricane's devastation was immense.

"I've been through a lot of disasters, I've served after a lot of disasters," he noted, "and this is absolutely the worst one I've ever seen."



**“A lot of people lost their homes, and the road and other infrastructures are badly damaged. No power, no water from that day until now.”** –Renoy Farquharson, local resident and survivor of Hurricane Melissa



“There are so many houses that are gone, are uninhabitable, roofs gone, and our purpose here is to witness to those people as we get a chance and to help them try to get a little bit of comfort back in their lives.”

Local resident Renoy Farquharson was among the survivors of the storm. He said Melissa “devastated the community. A lot of people lost their homes, and the road and other infrastructures are badly damaged. No power, no water from that day until now.”

John Hall, TXM chief mission officer, called the Jamaica response “our biggest international relief effort since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

“We have had teams serving in Jamaica since Hurricane Melissa hit, providing temporary and permanent roofs and distributing about 120,000 meals to people who have not had any food in two weeks or more,” he said. “We are providing crucial care to the most vulnerable, including the elderly and the physically challenged.”

With the scale of the damage so broad, TXM continues its efforts and is working with collaborative partners On Mission Network, North Carolina’s Baptists on Mission and the Baptist General Association of Virginia’s Impact Missions.

Dennis Mahoney of On Mission Network put the scale of the hurricane’s damage into perspective: “A third of Jamaica has been affected by the storm. So imagine if a third of the

United States had lost their house, their food, everything they own. That’s almost incomprehensible, right?”

He said the hurricane left Jamaicans with destroyed houses, sewage in homes, waterborne diseases, mosquito bites and massive food shortages.

“And if you think about the trickle-down effects, a lot of these folks were farmers, so all the agriculture has been destroyed, all the coconuts are out of the trees, all the pineapples have been destroyed. What’s that going to mean two months from now, a month from now, three months, six months — when they don’t have a source of income?”

Among the tasks taken by TXM responders was providing temporary and permanent roofing for “infirmaries,” facilities that combine medical, senior care and mental health care, to Jamaicans in need.

Hall said TXM teams will continue to provide disaster relief, then change its mission to working with its partners to build 12’X8’ “tiny homes” to house families in some of the most hard-hit areas in the country.

Howard Nelson, district overseer and pastor of Riverside New Testament Church in Dias, Jamaica, emphasized the hope and encouragement volunteers brought along with the work and aid.

“I believe that there are persons now, based on where they are, they are feeling hopeless, and they are also feeling helpless. Some persons might feel lost, and they need to know that they don’t have to be lost, because God knows them, and he knows who they are.” 🇯🇲



# When all paths are blocked and the days are darkest, *you make the way* for hope to shine through Texans on Mission ministries.

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a life

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Deploy multiple teams throughout the year to meet extensive needs. You make the deployment of one team possible in a major disaster.



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**TEXANS  
ON MISSION™**

## REBUILD

# Here for the whole journey: Rebuilding homes in Kerr County

**T**he floodwaters that tore through Kerr County last summer are long gone, but the work of rebuilding is not.

Across Kerrville, Hunt, Ingram and surrounding areas, Texans on Mission volunteers continue to show up week after week repairing homes damaged by the July floods and walking alongside families navigating the long road to recovery.

"We're serving at more than seven homes this week alone," said Ryan Welch, TXM missions and discipleship coordinator. "Disasters happen fast, but recovery doesn't. A lot of groups move on. We don't."

Crews are tackling everything from roofing and fencing to painting and finishing work, the kind of repairs that often come after emergency response teams leave and insurance timelines slow.

At one home, volunteers rebuilt a fence completely washed away by the river. Inside, others worked to finish painting so the homeowner could move forward.

"God tells us to love one another, and when you see a need to meet it," said Makenna James, a Texas A&M University student volunteering with Revive Kerrville. "Being here is a way to live that out."

James said serving months after the flooding has been especially meaningful.

"Right after a disaster, everyone wants to help," she said. "But later on, when the attention fades, that's when people are really left dealing with what happened. That's when it matters most."

College students from across the state are working alongside experienced volunteers, learning construction skills on the job while building relationships with homeowners and one another.

"We're helping rebuild a shed that was damaged in the flood," said Isaac Garcia, a Texas A&M - Kingsville student. "This kind of work costs money. To be able to give our time and skills and help someone who's already lost so much – that's



Isaac Garcia,  
TXM Volunteer

Makenna James,  
Revive Kerrville & TXM Volunteer



**TXM volunteers continue to show up week after week repairing homes and walking alongside families navigating the long road to recovery. “Disasters happen fast, but recovery doesn’t. A lot of groups move on. We don’t,” said Ryan Welch, TXM missions and discipleship coordinator.**



how we show Christ’s love.”

For homeowners, the steady presence of volunteers has brought progress and encouragement.

“It’s been a real blessing working with a Christian organization,” said Debbie Dossey, a Hunt resident whose home was damaged in the flooding. “They pray with you. They care. And the quality of work has been incredible.”

Dossey said returning home brought moments of joy and reflection.

“Every day, I find something that survived that I didn’t even remember we had,” she said. “Being back home lets you finally breathe and also start processing everything that happened.”

Brian Keeper, who lives along the river, said the emotional toll of the flood didn’t fully set in until the cleanup began.

“The trauma wasn’t just that night,” Keeper said. “It was realizing neighbors were gone, and that the history of my family was stored in this house.”

Working with TXM, he said, made a difference.

“They show up smiling. We pray in and pray out,” he said. “In the middle of all this loss, it’s been people who have given me hope for the future.”

For students Jonathan Wolf of Texas A&M and Clayton Hargrove of Texas State University, the experience has strengthened both their faith and their understanding of community.

“It shows people they haven’t been forgotten,” Wolf said. “That God hasn’t given up on them.”

Hargrove agreed.

“We’re not just here to clear things out and leave,” he said. “We’re here to help rebuild and keep walking with them.”

As recovery in Kerr County continues, Texans on Mission leaders say the work is far from finished and neither is their commitment.

“This is long-term,” Welch said. “We’re here for the whole journey.” 🇺🇸

# Hope restored through well rehabilitation in South Sudan

**T**wo years ago, Abuk Garang Aleu's small business growing and selling vegetables came to a halt. The pump on the water well had stopped working.

"When the borehole broke down everything came to a halt," Aleu said. "Without water for irrigation my crops withered, and I had no choice but to abandon the business that sustained my family."

Mechanical devices, by their nature, require service and repair to keep them operating. Across Africa, hundreds of water well pumps sit idle, no longer able to bring clean drinking water to the surface.

South Sudanese on Mission, a new ministry of Texans on Mission, is rehabilitating unusable water pumps, including the one Aleu used in the Auchier community.

"I want to thank South Sudanese on Mission for rehabilitating this borehole," Aleu said. "This borehole is not just a water well, it is a source of hope, life and opportunity for me, my children and my community."

Mitch Chapman, director of TXM Water Impact said the water efforts in South Sudan are leading to more and more Bible studies, professions of faith and baptisms.

In late 2025, SSOM organized a "second baptism of Muslim converts at Nyamlel River. God is at work through our partners in South Sudan, and we are joining Him in it."

The professions of faith are the result of drilling new wells, rehabilitating existing wells like the one in Auchier, forming water-user committees and starting Bible studies.

Chapman noted that TXM fully funds the work in South Sudan. "I'm so thankful that Texans on Mission has stepped up to provide this important ministry in a place where the need is greater than anywhere else I've been.

"They need us on so many levels," Chapman said, who has been a longtime bivocational pastor. "It thrills my pastor's heart to see people cared for in the name of Christ and to have opportunities to give their lives to Him. It's a reflection of what Jesus did during His own ministry."

Aleu is one of those benefiting from the water well work. "Two years ago, I was running a small but thriving vegetable business around this very borehole in Auchier," she said. "I grew vegetables such as okra, tomatoes and greens, and I sold them at the local market. This income supported my children's education, provided us with food and gave me a sense of dignity and purpose as a mother and entrepreneur."

Aleu said the breakdown of the well affected three villages that depended on it. As a result, she said, "Every day, we had to walk nearly 5 kilometers to fetch water from Anyuop Jang village. It was exhausting, time-consuming and dangerous, especially for women and children.

"My children were the most affected," Aleu continued. "Without the income from my vegetable business, I could no longer pay their school fees or buy them uniforms, and they had to drop out of school. As a mother, it broke my heart to see their dreams interrupted because of something as simple and basic as clean water."

Aleu said when she heard "the news that South Sudanese on Mission was coming to rehabilitate our borehole, I was overwhelmed with joy. I felt a new energy, a new beginning.

"I knew immediately that I would restart my vegetable farming and that my children's future could once again be secured," she said. "With water flowing again, I can plant vegetables, sell them at the market, and generate income to support my family." 🇸🇩





**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

## Passion for missions drives Helen Decker

**A**t 83 years old, Helen Decker still kneels on muddy floors pulling out waterlogged sheetrock, hauling debris and encouraging weary homeowners who have lost nearly everything. For her, volunteering with Texans on Mission isn't about slowing down in her later years, it's about living out a lifelong calling to serve.

"I grew up the daughter of missionary parents," Helen explained. "Missions has always been a passion with me, and I've always worked in some area of missions my entire life."

That passion led her first into nursing, where she served faithfully for 42 years and later into international medical mission trips across South America and Africa. From Bolivia to Belize, Helen and her longtime friend Deborah Green have carried both medical aid and the message of Christ to those in need.

But Helen's service doesn't stop overseas. For more than a decade, she has answered the call to disaster relief through TXM. Whether mudding out homes in San Angelo after devastating floods or supporting families in Louisiana facing mold-ridden houses, she sees each task as more than manual labor.

"It's heartbreaking to walk into a home and see the damage," she said, "but the great part is being able to talk to people, share Jesus with them, and let them know that people who've never even met them are praying for them."

Her commitment is as practical as it is spiritual. Fellow volunteer and team leader, Bruce Slaven, calls Helen the "go-to" person on flood recovery sites, known for her eye for detail and relentless work ethic.

"We're not gonna leave this house until Helen says it's ready," he laughed. "She makes sure nothing is left behind — not a nail, not a scrap of sheetrock. The house is ready for rebuild the moment she's done."

Helen shows no signs of stopping.

"As long as I'm able, I want to keep doing it," she said with a smile. She jokes that when she and Deborah are on the team, the men work harder. "If we take a break, they take a break," she laughed, "so we just keep working."

Even after decades of service, Helen's vision remains simple: To serve the Lord with excellence, whether in a mud-soaked Texas home or a makeshift clinic in South America.

"If I'm doing this for the Lord, and He were to walk in the door, I'd want Him to say, 'Well done,'" she said. "So I think it needs to be done just as clean and neat as possible."

For Helen, the work is about more than fixing homes, it's about restoring hope.

"It's one of the most wonderful experiences of your life to be able to help someone, to see them smile again, to know their life has a little more hope. Once you've done it, you're hooked." 🇹🇽

