

>From Harold Rhodes, pastor of the Mobile and Geneva, Alabama, and Pensacola, Florida, congregations:

I wanted to give everyone an update on this area of the Gulf Coast and what's going on with the brethren we have assisted due to Hurricane Katrina.

Beginning with Biloxi, Mississippi, we helped one family who lost their apartment to storm damage relocate to Augusta, Georgia, where her brother is in real estate and is helping them get settled in a house. Moving east to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, we have one family who received some damage to their home, but it is livable, and they have the situation under control. Many if not most homes in this area were destroyed, but God spared these brethren. The same is true a little further east in Gautier, Mississippi. We have one couple there who also escaped major damage for which they are very grateful.

Mobile, Alabama, experienced its worst flooding in many years. As a result, we have two families who lost everything. We are in the process of relocating these brethren to the Cleveland, Tennessee, church area. One of our members there has a second home on Signal Mountain, Tennessee, and has offered this home to them until they can get reestablished. It is truly heartwarming to see how the brethren from everywhere have opened their arms and homes to our brethren in need.

We also have a family in Gulf Shores, Alabama, whose home received further damage from Katrina. They had just barely completed repairs from Hurricane Ivan a year ago and now this.

Most of the members had some damage to their homes and property in this part of the Gulf, and some had non-member relatives who lost everything. Everything considered, God was very merciful again and spared our lives. All of the members who are receiving help through the Church's "Katrina Disaster Relief Project" wish to express their heartfelt thanks to their brothers and sisters in Christ!

Everyone's continued prayers on behalf of the affected brethren are very much appreciated.

Warmest regards,

Harold Rhodes