

The Exchanger

Volume 05, Issue 10

October, 2005

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

**The Mission of
FBCWR:**
*Connecting People to
God's Life-Changing
Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

*"For I was hungry and
you gave me something
to eat, I was thirsty and
you gave me something
to drink, I was a
stranger and you invited
me in."*

Matthew 25:35

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Spell Relief Like This—"FBCWR"

Our church definitely stepped up to respond to the Katrina crisis! I can tell you, many evacuees are very blessed and grateful for our help. There are many neat stories which I want to highlight to you. Sorry if anyone "loses their reward" by being thanked in this article, but Paul the apostle specifically thanked people in several of his New Testament epistles. I'm following his lead.

Special thanks to:

* Lilly Maxwell, third grader, who along with her parents Robyn and Stewart, spear-headed our socks and undergarment drive (I am happy to report all donations were brand new).

* Andy Rouse, has been on the front lines of helping evacuees in her job with the Westin and Sheraton Hotels (owned by the same company). Employees and families of the New Orleans Sheraton were transported to the Dallas Sheraton to stay free for a month. As Andy helped them begin to adjust it became apparent the greatest need of so many evacuees was their inability to contact or even locate families and friends. So we geared up a crack team of internet savvy locators, Stewart Maxwell, Robyn Maxwell, Celia Bills, Jill McPherson, Nancy Bludworth and Frank Cook. The team located at least 40 family members and friends that had scattered all over the region. A Sheraton employee told me she often heard guests commenting on how grateful they were for us.

* We found one woman's 3 sisters and bought her a bus ticket to join them where they had relocated in Arkansas.

* One frantic woman was driving from shelter to shelter throughout the region to locate people. She said she had already logged

hundreds of miles. We "made" her wait while we searched the locator websites and immediately found one of her relatives.

* One woman who had been recovering from heart surgery was so distraught at not being able to find her brother that she suffered a relapse requiring hospitalization. She almost refused to stay at the hospital because she said "I have to find my brother". We found him. When he called her at the hospital, she was overwhelmed with joy and her ticker got a much needed break.

* Another woman told us she hadn't slept and her brother hadn't eaten for 8 days because they were separated and feared the worst. We found him. When she called him she reports she couldn't understand him for the first 10 minutes of their conversation because "he was crying like a baby".

* Cash donations to the church allowed us to give \$2100 of retail gift cards to help several relocating families buy furnishings and groceries.

* Lastly, I don't want to lose my own reward but I made the very deep personal sacrifice of recruiting several of the New Orleans guys to play some pick up basketball. You know me, anything I can do for the Lord... Naaah, I love hoops so I doubt any reward is coming my way but it has definitely been a personal blessing to get to know our new friends.

Let's all keep finding ways to connect with people - to connect them to the life-changing power of God.

-Joe Fornear

