

GOD POURS LIGHT

God
pours light
into every cup, and into every day
quenching darkness and bringing forth
such expectations and visions
as we are willing to have for ourselves.

The light pours into the ruined homes and into the damaged souls
of those who struggle to face each morning and who look hopefully
for those who could come to help them rebuild their homes and their lives.

We have only to face the morning with openness to the needs of
others and with hope of our own engagement and renewal.

So many of us rise without expectation or openness
and stuff our cups with yesterday's records of life...
and then critique the taste of the paper and ink...
all while God pours light into our day and our lives.

Each day the trees lift their limbs over the vacant lots
without worry of redemption, the flowers from the cracks
make every blossom a chalice in which to
seduce those withered souls
with the hope of our presence and progress.

Progress that will wet their parched lips and give
them renewed expectation and vision.

Each day we must remember that God
pours light like rain
into every empty cup, every ruined home and every battered heart
and then sets all adrift on an Infinite Ocean looking for those
with the expectation to serve others.

David Chapman May 2010
Adapted from Hafiz - Panhala
while meeting God's withered souls
in the hurricane debris of Mississippi.

Lynn Matis

I talked about it with Emily & Chris, Vicky, David and Mark-they had been thinking about it also. For me, I was aware of my judgment about how messy the yard was-broken toilet laying around along with a kitchen sink still in the counter cabinet and a sink from the bathroom scattered about, broken chairs, misc long and short warped boards etc. There were also lots of broken drywall pieces of all sizes and various broken boards, nails, electrical parts and plumbing parts-scattered all about. In the front there was a box of some good, some broken tile and old lamp, other boxes and busted toys. In general it was a mess. I was itching to clean it up. In talking with others so was Emily and Vicky.

About day three I was running out of a job until some of the grout or drywall mud dried and so I started to clean up the yard. Having Elizabeth's words in my head still, I went and got Miss Georgia, the woman whose home we were rebuilding and walked around with her to find out what she wanted to keep and what could be removed. It was amazing, just as Elizabeth said; she wanted everything except the electrical, and plumbing parts and a few of the broken drywall pieces. She intended to glue all the furniture back together, re-use the sinks and the toilet and build the kids a playhouse with the misc boards and drywall.

David, Vicky and I cleaned and raked her yard. David made many trips to the trash with the wheelbarrow and by the time we finished-her yard looked lovely. We put everything she wanted in neat piles-either under plastic or in a small building that was left on the property. As Vicky and I were walking with her one last time around, I asked her if there was anything else we could do to make this feel a bit like her home again. She looked up wishfully and said "I'd love to have my porch swing up again". She then walked back to her Fema trailer.

I went and found David and asked him if he could help put this up. Always agreeable, David said 'sure'. Once the swing was up, I went and got Miss Georgia and told her we had a surprise. I took her around front and when she saw the swing, she got tears in her eyes, and so did I. We then walked thru the house, still a bit away from her moving in but again with tears in her eyes; she said 'ya'll have done so much".

I have to say that was one of the best presents anyone had ever given me.

LESM Reflection
Sun, 20 Jun 2010

Being part of Trinity's 2010 Katrina mission gave us the rare opportunity to:

- ❖ serve as God's hands and heart to someone who unquestionably deserved our efforts and love;
- ❖ share the precious gifts of time and friendship with our marvelous team of Mark, Vicki, David, Lynn;
- ❖ enjoy Mark and Lynn's alter egos while playing hearts :)
- ❖ witness the surprising and varied talents of David and Vicki :)
- ❖ travel to a beautiful and unique part of our country and celebrate the people who inhabit it;
- ❖ gain valuable perspective into our lives as God's people;
- ❖ and lastly, strengthen our motivation and desire to serve others;

It was a life changing experience to be on the 2010 team and we consider ourselves blessed to have made the journey!

With great love and gratitude,
Chris and Emily Reed

"To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world."
Unknown

Vicki Marsh

"Building homes and building hope in a human heart" - a clear example of god living through each and every one of us.

I have taken the journey to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi for two years now; both trips have been very rewarding spiritually and emotionally.

It is in the giving that we receive great rewards.

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Rebuild Project: Georgia Charlot

Georgia Charlot is a medical nursing assistant who resides in a small, shotgun-style home, which has been in her family for over a century. Her Pass Christian home was severely damaged by the devastating forces of wind, rain and surge during Hurricane Katrina. In addition to the five (5) feet of water that flooded her home, the entire house was knocked off-kilter and left tilting to one side. Thankfully, the original foundation was salvaged, but the home had to be completely gutted down to the original wood frame.

Georgia has had several volunteer groups come through to help her rebuild her family home; however, even with the gracious volunteers she has faced some challenges with less than skilled groups ultimately creating extra work and slowing down the recovery process. Also, while she is beyond thankful for these efforts, she says that it is exhausting having strangers, however generous they may be, in and around her home every week. Georgia can't wait to provide a safe and stable home for her twelve year old son Alex. The two are currently residing in a FEMA trailer. As time has passed, the trailer has deteriorated and is contaminated with formaldehyde, resulting in her becoming increasingly ill. Furthermore, what little money she is able to provide for herself tends to be applied to the high electric bills which are the result of her FEMA trailer being poorly insulated.

Current Unmet Needs:

- Flooring for most of the rooms,
- HVAC – 2 Heat & A/C window units
- Hot water heater
- Paint for the interior
- New back steps and handrails
- 2 interior, custom doors or creative door installation (the age of the house prevents the use of standard doors)
- Various fans and electrical fixtures
- 2 sets of bunk beds (she occasionally houses foster children)
- Frame for a full bed
- Blinds



The estimated cost of the remaining repairs and rebuilding is \$7700.00

Georgia prays everyday that she will be able to get the help needed to complete her home. We hope that you will help us help Georgia, Alex and their dog, Charlot, move into their restored family home that is safe, sanitary and secure as soon as possible.