

Moore, Oklahoma Trip Summary

What an amazing launch to the spiritual side of First Responders International. When the Tornado came through Moore, Oklahoma on May 20th, 2013 my heart was moved like most of the country. As I prayed about going, I felt like this was my time. I put a fleece out and God answered clearly, GO ... truly a miracle! Not only did the provision come in, but I was able to accomplish the large amount of work I needed to (in the less than 36 hours before my plane left).

As I settled into my seat on the airplane I felt God's love for the people of Moore completely overwhelmed me... What an opportunity to partner with an amazing organization called Crisis Response International.

My first assignment was to help out at the "tent" where the people would come to get supplies. We gathered needed items for them and then simply asked, *How are you doing?* Or, *Where were you when the storm hit?* Allowing them to process is a very important step to their healing. It impacted all of us as we heard story after story of God's miraculous interventions (no less than 100 over the 9 days). The fullness of His love poured out as we listened. They told stories anywhere from being in the only room left standing to huddling in a bathtub and literally feeling a hand hold them down when the roof was torn off!

One of the highlights for me was a man who came in very heavy hearted. As we prayed, he felt peace transform his perspective... Then God gave him a bonus! I noticed he had a brace on his thumb and asked if I could pray for God to heal it. And of course God did. His love is amazing!

The Church Unified

It was such a joy to work side-by-side with many other flavors of Heaven. There was an amazing Baptist team washing everyone's clothes and providing hot showers. The Pentecostal Holiness church served hot lunches and dinners every day, and many different churches represented the Crisis Responders International team. Nobody worried about differences. We were only seeing *His* likeness in each other. Over and over we heard how truly beautiful His creativity was expressed in unity.

The Abundance of His Love

Both the amount and quality of provisions were outrageous (fruit, vegetables, organic meat, and LOTS of M & M's, Hallelujah!) Supplies were constantly coming by the truckload from all over the country—to the point we had to pass on some—just to be able to sort through what we had. Repeatedly, people in the devastation zone would express their heartfelt gratitude for the constant flow of food that many organizations offered. Many felt His abundant love.

Our Own Storm Experience

The biggest storm/tornado on record (at 2-1/2 miles wide) happened while we were there. The day started off with a feeling that something was coming against us. Not sure what I

was sensing, I started to declare His goodness and faithfulness. Not long afterward, I heard someone else say, "man something is seriously challenging His authority." Confirmation! Soon we got the weather report about the storm brewing. That ushered us into a time of prayer and worship. We planned as the storm approached, but God had a better plan. The FEMA shelter closed due to the inclement weather so we headed back to the church—which quickly became a refuge for many in the community. There were approximately 95 people crowded into two bathrooms for 3 hours. One was full of worship and the other got a great preaching time! During that time I met and shared with a young girl who has an amazing destiny... Long-story-short, she encountered Jesus in that place of shelter.

It was such a privilege to be His hands and feet. To listen to God reveal Himself as I prayed with people. There were many heart rededicated to the Lord!

A comment I heard more than once is a good way to summarize this deployment: "There were many great distribution sites, but ours had the one thing that truly made the difference: PRAYER—the thing they needed most of all!"

Throughout the week, we felt peace at the center of His will. He fully developed His plan for First Responders International in Moore. So thank you for being part of this journey, we were never alone because of your prayers, encouragement, and support.

Kim Barry, First Responders International