

**September 25, 2021**

**Local Conference Advance**

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey left thousands of people homeless. Many were without food. Others could not return to their homes because of mold and mildew.

Across the United States, something special happened. Many of our colleges and high school academies organized mission trips for volunteers to go to Houston and help with the reconstruction phase.

The Houston area churches collected addresses from their local communities of those who needed help. They assigned the volunteers to work in teams.

One entire school of volunteers took responsibility for a single home. They removed all the sheetrock, rugs, and other items saturated with moisture. In a single day, they gutted the entire home. They placed all damaged items curbside for FEMA to collect. The house was ready for the contractors to come in and restore the home.

They sent other crews to homes that needed yard cleaning, painting, and other cosmetic repairs. Still other teams visited homes with food baskets to give to those who needed food.

Most of those who received help were not part of the church. But they were part of the community where the churches ministered. Through the help of the volunteers, Houston churches met the needs of their neighbors.

Let us not forget our youth and the impact they can make when guided in the right way. "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12