

DBA Disaster Unit deployed to Bastrop

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink . . . Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?"

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

- Matthew 25:35-40



Texas Baptist Men has been in existence and serving communities all over the world for

the past 43 years. When most people think of TBM they think of Disaster Relief, but this is just one of 18 areas under the umbrella of TBM. Agriculture, Royal Ambassadors, Men's Ministries, Church Renewal, Builders, and Restorative Justice are just a few of the examples of ministries that are connected with Texas Baptist Men. Denton Baptist Association is connected with TBM through the area of Disaster Relief. Under this umbrella there are a number of individual units that serve in several capacities. Currently DBA has a chainsaw unit, shower unit, and a box unit. Volunteers from the DBA Disaster team are also trained to help with the feeding unit, security unit and mudout unit. Many times individual members are deployed to help with neighboring disaster teams. Such was the case in September when members of the DBA Disaster Relief group were deployed to work with the Tarrant Baptist Feeding Unit. Judge Camp, one of the coordinators for the DBA Disaster Relief unit, served as the Blue Cap (a blue cap is the person in charge) for the feeding unit which was asked to prepare around 5000 meals a day. The feeding unit was asked to go to Bastrop, Texas to provide meals for the responders fighting the wildfires in the area.

The unit was sent to Camp Swift, which is north of Bastrop.



Normally when a feeding unit responds to wildfires it doesn't see any of the smoke from the fires, but this was not the case this time. As the group approached Camp Swift large plumes of smoke could be seen which were similar to smoke coming out of a volcano.

Feeding Unit Gets Busy

Once the feeding unit reached Camp Swift they immediately set up the kitchen and began preparation for serving breakfast the next morning.

To insure breakfast was ready to be served at 6 AM



volunteers began cooking at 3 AM. The serving line stayed open until 1 PM allowing different shifts time to eat.

Lunch for the fire fighters consisted of Hoagies, chips, snacks, fruit, & cookies. The sandwiches were prepared by FBC Elgin each afternoon. After eating breakfast, the fire fighters who were going into the field, picked up their hoagies and snacks before leaving for the day. Dinner preparations began at 3 PM and meals were served from 6:30 PM - 11:30 PM to insure all firefighters coming in from the field were fed.

Yellow Cap Loses Home

One of the Yellow Caps (a yellow cap is the term used for trained volunteers) that helped cook the meals lived in the area of Bastrop where the fires were burning. His

house and his daughter's house were destroyed in the fires. The only thing he was able to save was his truck and his dog.

The day before leaving the area, the yellow cap was allowed to go check on his property. He came back amazed that the chicken coup in his backyard had not burned and his chickens were still alive. He said the fire burned right up to the chicken coup then stopped and went around it. He was happy that at least he still had his dog and chickens.

Alaskan Firefighter grateful

One of the Yellow Caps talked with a firefighter from Alaska. The firefighter served as head command leader. Part of his responsibility was to find and provide food for his men during the day and night. When he found out TBM was providing meals, he wanted to know how much it would cost because he was willing to pay. He was told *"nothing my friend. It's paid in full"*. The big man began to cry and walked away thanking the LORD.

There are many more stories just like these from grateful people blessed by the efforts of Texas Baptist Men and the DBA Disaster Relief Units. There is always room for additional volunteers.

If interested in knowing more contact

Judge Camp at:

jcamp460420@hotmail.com.

Note: As this article went to press, the DBA Chainsaw Unit was serving its second week in Bastrop helping with the cleanup.

To make a donation to DBA Disaster Relief mail your check to:
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Corinth, TX 76208