

Journey Enews

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SLUDGE SHEETS

By Bobby Duncan

Have you tried sludge sheets? They're also known as laundry detergent sheets. You put them in your wash water. I had never heard such a thing until we became involved in helping clean up mud and muck in Western North Carolina. A couple Journey volunteers who have been on the ground helping in the clean up brought back reports of hardships, recovery and innovation.



We heard stories of people washing clothes the old fashion way, like pioneers washing clothes in a moving stream. Some remote areas of Western NC still had no electricity. They are putting their clothes in a five-gallon bucket and swishing them around in detergent to get the dirt out. Something like what our grandparents did before modern washing machines; using lye soap, a washboard and a tub, rubbing their clothes clean by hand.

In the process of helping those who are still without homes or power, we discovered this new product called sludge sheets. They supposedly work great, even in a bucket of water. You can cut them up to fit whatever size of bucket you are using. We are handing off these sort of resources and more to help these folks who have lost so much. It's nice to be nice. Kindness is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Go God!

Our Journey volunteers (a husband & wife team) have been "deputized." We are sending them back again as Christ ambassadors to make things better (2 Corinthians 5:20-21). How can you do that in flood relief? Just tell them about Jesus, who is for everybody, then help them clean up the muck and mud. Wow, God!

Journey Church has collected over \$2,000 in emergency funds so far. The needs are huge and it will take years to fully recover. However, the immediate need we've discovered is cash for food and essential survival supplies. So, we entrusted our Journey representatives to give away cash to those most in need. We would give cash to everyone if we could. We have met four deserving families with stories of struggle so far. If you want to know more or send a card, let me know.

This is how you do it. The Church Jesus started isn't that complicated. Tell everyone about Jesus and The Cross. How His mission is to rescue people like us from sin and death (Romans 3:23; 6:23). And then talk about the mud everywhere. Jump in and help make someone's day better tomorrow than it was today. Buy someone lunch. Send a gift card. Sponsor their rent for a month. Go in person and help clean up mud, inside and out. If you live nearby, offer a dry place to stay for a while. Pick up some cleaning supplies. Roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty. Then just pray a lot. God will take care of the rest.

P.S. Don't wait for the next hurricane. Be the Church Jesus started. Do something nice today. Jesus "deputized" us all. Go God.