

# Lott Carey

## Baptist Foreign Mission Convention

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### One Year after Hurricane Katrina The Lott Carey Network Continues ***Helping People Rise Again!***

In response to Hurricane Katrina that produced extraordinary and unprecedented devastation in the Gulf Coast region of the United States during August 2005 and the added destruction of Hurricane Rita in the weeks following, the Lott Carey family committed itself to immediate relief and intermediate term support to help individuals, families, and communities to rise again. This partnership with churches in the Gulf Coast states included:

1. Connecting Lott Carey constituents to Hurricane Relief Centers in the Gulf Coast states to help supply temporary shelter; provide emergency relief items; and facilitate transitions to temporary and permanent housing for people evacuated from their homes;
2. Collaborating with churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to transition select Hurricane Relief Centers into Resurrection Resource Centers that assisted evacuees to access local, state, and federal resources available to them, cope with mental health distress, process questions and challenges to faith, and help children through tutoring and survivor talk;
3. Providing legal counsel to families that needed help negotiating contractual difficulties in the aftermath of the hurricane; and
4. Facilitating church and individual volunteer contributions for ministries of support, volunteer labor, and networking to increase impacts beyond Relief and Resurrection Center capabilities.

Lott Carey has collaborated with the National Baptist Convention of America, the National Missionary Baptist Convention, Baptist World Aid, the Louisiana Home and Foreign Mission Baptist State Convention, and the African American Catholic Congregation to help people rise again. This network generated more than \$1 million dollars in ten (10) months from churches and individuals committed to providing pastoral care ministries, social service support, mental health counseling, and child development services toward helping people rise again.

The network has employed scores of survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and served tens of thousands of people with immediate and intermediate term programs and services. Collaborating partners in the region have been able to leverage the network support to extend their reach and impact through accessing additional relief supplies, launching community development projects, and creating new synergy to continue their momentum toward helping people rise again. Some examples of additional impact follow:

- The Resurrection Centers have distributed 27 black 25.3 cubic Whirlpool side-by-side refrigerators.
- The Resurrection Centers have distributed 1,172 sets of mattresses, box springs and frames to 14 churches in Louisiana and Texas.
- The Resurrection Centers have distributed 577 sets of mattresses, box springs and frames to individual families.

- Greater St. Mary Community Development Foundation has partnered with a local Lake Charles Tax Credit Developer in collaboration with the B. J. Maxon Community Development Corporation and the Resurrection Center and has been approved to build 200 houses in the Lake Charles area.
- United Way awarded the Lake Charles Resurrection Center a \$30,000.00 grant to operate “Camp Peace” which serviced over 375 young people this summer.
- New Salem Baptist Church, Columbus, OH sponsored a Spring Break Camp with a \$20,000.00 grant for more than 100 children in Lafayette, LA.
- Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA provided more than 1,000 school uniforms (“from skin out”) and tennis shoes, school supplies and gift cards to children in Lafayette, LA.
- Some regional collaboration partners have included:
  - B. J. Maxon Community Development Corporation
  - United Way Summer Grant Program
  - Florida Family Grant
  - National Emergency Grant Program
  - The Fountain Project
  - Louisiana Missionary Baptist Convention
  - Leland College
  - Resource Development Coordination
  - Disaster Preparedness Plan
  - Friendships Disaster Preparedness Training
  - Capital One Project
  - Trade Union Partnership

Through an unusually generous grant of \$1 million dollars from the Fountain Baptist Church, Summit, NJ where Lott Carey’s immediate past President, Rev. J. Michael Sanders, serves as Pastor; the Lott Carey network is implementing ***The Fountain Project*** that is nourishing families, churches, and communities in the Gulf Coast region. ***The Fountain Project*** is providing life skills and job skills training, post-Katrina church ministry consultations, and contributing to projects designed for sustainable community development efforts in Louisiana.

While many are lamenting the failures of government, the missteps of large scale relief organizations, and criticizing the predator-like behavior of the desperate and misguided few, we rejoice in what we are doing in the name of Christ—feeding, clothing, giving water, providing housing, visiting, and empowering for sustainable living. There is still much more to be done. We choose to light candles than to curse the darkness. On this anniversary of Katrina, Christian churches and people in the Lott Carey network renew its commitment to helping people rise again.

Attached is a list of supply needs for our partner Resurrection Centers in Louisiana and Mississippi. We invite you to respond as the Spirit leads you. To assist volunteers with the management and distribution of donations, all items should be new and neatly packed in sturdy small (1.5 cubic feet) or medium (3.0 cubic feet) moving boxes. Each box should entirely contain the same item (e.g., a box full of soap, or a box full of T-Shirts) labeled to describe the contents. Further, contact the Hurricane Relief Center that you plan to support in advance of shipping to arrange the kind of support needed as well as the best method for shipping.

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry.

*David Emmanuel Goatley*