

Hurricane Katrina

Hurricane Katrina crashed ashore at 5 am on August 29, near Buras, Louisiana, as a Category 4 storm. With 140 mph winds, it engulfed thousands of homes in one of the most punishing storms on record in the United States.

Katrina's destruction came to one of the nation's poorest regions. Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana all have high poverty rates. "These are the kinds of people who don't have access to insurance, the kind of people who, when a catastrophe hits, don't have a safety net," says Susan Glisson, at the University of Mississippi.

In New Orleans, which is under sea level, two flood walls and a levee failed, covering 80 percent of the city with as much as 20 feet of water. Once the massive pumps are repaired, it could take months to pump the city dry.

Katrina was "like our tsunami," said Vincent Creel, a Biloxi, Mississippi city spokesman. He expects the city's death toll to be in the hundreds. One man in Biloxi told CNN he believed his wife was killed after she was ripped from his grasp when their home split in half. "I held her hand as tight as I could," the unidentified man said. "She told me, 'You can't hold me.' She told me to take care of the children and the grandchildren . . . we ain't got nowhere to go. I'm lost. That's all I had."

In New Orleans, rescue workers found Hugo Mejia and his wife (with thousands of others) crouching on rooftops or clinging to trees. The less fortunate ones had been swept away or drowned in their homes. The Mejias had planned to evacuate, but their car broke down and they were unable to get a rental vehicle.

In Gulfport, Mississippi, which got the brunt of the hurricane, Mike Spencer spent a horrifying night clinging to a tree outside his house. "The house just filled up with water. It forced me into the attic, and then I ended up kicking out the wall and climbing out to a tree."

"All I found that belonged to me was a shoe. There's nothing left," said Suzanne Rodgers of Biloxi.

It is CAM's goal to raise **\$1,000,000** to help rebuild homes for needy families. We will also look for ways to bring hope, cheer, and the Good News of the Gospel to hurricane victims. Any extra funds will be used in other DRS projects. CAM also has a need for personnel to help coordinate projects and manage volunteers. If interested, please call **330-893-2428** and ask for Dave King.

God bless you!

Christian Aid Ministries . . . *he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow. Psalm 147:18b*
September 2, 2005

To insert coupon in envelope below, please tear along dotted lines.

Is Katrina the worst disaster in US history?

I would have to say this probably is.
—Bill Lokey, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

This is going to be the most expensive natural disaster that's hit the United States. It's really quite phenomenal.
—Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran

This is a tragedy of great proportion, greater than any we've seen in our lifetimes.
—Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco



Contribution Coupon

Hurricane Katrina

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$5000 Other \$ _____

Receipt will be sent to address on reverse side.
Please mark changes there.

Check here if you DO NOT wish to have a receipt.