

THANK YOU

FRIENDS AT KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES

FOR HELPING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HELENE



*You were there to support those
who were hurting.*



MASSIVE DESTRUCTION ACROSS SIX STATES

September 26, 2024—Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane, unleashing devastation across Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee, and Florida. Helene claimed more than 230 lives across these six states.

More than 400 roads were closed and deemed impassable due to mudslides, downed trees, and raging rivers. This situation isolated residents and complicated rescue efforts. Survivors of the hurricane found themselves lacking access to food, electricity, cellphone service, clean water, and more. Many lost their homes or businesses. Helene left an unimaginable 500-mile path of destruction in the Southeast.

Fortunately, you were there to help bring comfort and aid to the afflicted.

YOUR PRAYERS GAVE DIRECTION

Facing the immensity of this disaster, we depended on your prayers as we sent our teams to assess the situation and determine where and how we could most effectively help the families struggling with the aftermath of the hurricane. Thanks to your faithful giving, we were on the ground even before the storm hit. Through your support, we were able to implement an unprecedented God-given strategy.



For the very first time, we deployed both our U.S. and International Disaster Relief teams to respond together to the same disaster. We collaborated with local churches, faith-based organizations, and corporate partners, and established our bases of operation in two main locations: Valdosta, Georgia, and Asheville, North Carolina. These strategic alliances and the support of our partners have been essential in responding to the second deadliest hurricane to hit the U.S. in 50 years.

"It's our turn to give back to the people who bring hope internationally, the people that allow us to go all over the world. We're here to help, pray with you. We're here for you."—Jorge Pratts, Operation Blessing international disaster relief team member from Latin America. He is part of the team that responded to various disasters including the Morocco earthquake, conflicts in Ukraine and Israel, among others.



Jorge at the center, with teammates

Simultaneously, our dedicated tractor trailer drivers were on the road distributing relief supplies across Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, and North and South Carolina. Thank you for your willingness to be used by our compassionate God who orchestrated everything, in order to provide essential items to families in need.



YOU GAVE WATER TO THE THIRSTY

“It is unreal to be in the United States and see people begging for water. It is something that I thought I would never see,” Diego Traverso shared on the ground in North Carolina. As our Director of International Disaster Relief Field & Deployment Operations, Diego has led multiple disaster relief responses and has seen the suffering of victims after wildfires in Chile, earthquakes in Turkey, and the current war in Israel.

Hayley Henson, our very own Media Liaison could not believe her eyes as she saw homes and buildings go underwater in her hometown in Asheville, North Carolina. She was right there, riding out the storm. “It hasn’t been this bad since 1916,” she reported, “We couldn’t get a hold of emergency officials, police officers, firefighters for nearly 40 hours. Most people are without power, without water, it’s really hard to get resources.” She experienced firsthand how our team made a difference. “The way they love on people, pour out resources, prayers...” Hayley was teary-eyed with a deep sense of gratitude.



Operation Blessing’s response included delivering relief goods by air, like water purifiers and food boxes, and installing water tanks.

Thanks to your support, we were able to partner with Air Mobile Ministries and used a helicopter to reach an area along the river where homes were isolated due to road closures. We delivered emergency food boxes and other critical supplies. **“This is the first organization that’s been on this side of town,”** Melissa, one of the residents, told us.

With no access to clean water, they had to conserve whatever potable water they had for drinking. The residents had to use creek water to flush toilets—bathing and washing were not a priority. As they were running out of options, you came to the rescue. You helped provide a portable water purification system that could convert the murky creek waters to clean drinking water! Can you imagine the joy and relief you brought to this community?

In addition, **you provided about 105,400 gallons of clean drinking water** to families badly affected by Hurricane Helene. This number increases every single day.

YOU FED THE HUNGRY

Operation Blessing partnered with The Home Depot Foundation to set up our base of operations outside The Home Depot in Asheville. We also set up a second mobile kitchen downtown run by a faith-based partner organization, YWAM (Youth With A Mission). With two feeding sites running, we served **over 20,000 hot meals and sandwiches**. Our teams on the ground reported many instances of grateful people saying **it was the first real meal they'd had in days!**

Your generosity also provided **over 3,800 meal kits across several states** affected by Hurricane Helene. These boxes contain non-perishable food items that are easy to prepare at home, even without electricity. A box can feed a family of four, three nourishing meals and snacks, for three days. Thank you so much.



Emergency Meal Kits



Food line in The Home Depot lot

YOU SENT RELIEF AND STRENGTHENED THE CHURCH

Partnering with Anchor Faith Church in Valdosta, Georgia, our team reached out to communities struck by the hurricane. We worked with the church's **151 volunteers** and served **over 3,600 hot meals and sandwiches** out of our mobile kitchen. We also distributed drinking water, hygiene kits, cleaning supplies, and emergency meal kits to people in need. The passionate volunteers helped clear debris from homes and properties and tarped damaged roofs in the surrounding areas. They welcomed every chance they had to pray for their hurting neighbors.

Your gift made it possible for the Operation Blessing team to stay in Valdosta for 19 days. The deployment provided an open door for its members to welcome and nurture new believers into the church, strengthening its presence in the community. Mark Brady, Pastor of Anchor Faith Church said, **"Being able to partner with Operation Blessing to serve our community ... being able to set up base here in our church facility, it's been exciting. It's been an awesome opportunity!"**

We were also able to work with churches and faith-based partners in North Carolina. Thank you so much for your support!



YOU HELPED MAKE THEIR HOMES LIVEABLE AGAIN

You helped fill over **3,000 buckets** with **cleaning supplies** which volunteers distributed to grateful residents in Georgia and North Carolina. Items like garbage bags, gloves, goggles, scouring pads, and paper towels were a big help in scrubbing walls and clearing their flood-damaged homes.

Over 550 volunteers have showed up so far in **Valdosta and Asheville** to lend a **hand**. They assisted in tarping damaged roofs, worked chainsaws to cut fallen trees, and grabbed rakes and shovels to clear storm debris from many houses.



YOU PRESERVED THEIR DIGNITY

Your presence was strongly felt by the families struggling to bring a sense of normalcy back into their lives. Without electricity, running water, or a home, one can easily lose access to basic things like hygiene items and the ability to bathe or brush your teeth.

You helped provide **4,320 hygiene kits** in Georgia and North Carolina. Each one is filled with toiletry items that improved the well-being and health of every individual. Every kit that you provided was lovingly packed and prayed over by caring volunteers.



YOU HEARD THEIR CRIES, AND BLESSED THEM



Matthew and Tania Thomas, with their kids, stand in front of the wreckage where their family business once stood.



Like many families in the area, the Thomas family was grateful to be alive, choosing to focus on their blessings rather than what had been lost in the flood.

Matthew and Tania used nearly everything they had to set up their new business in the basement of their home. Artisans at heart, they were excited about crafting unique, exceptional pieces. They built a website and began formalizing their dream, naming it Windfall Workshop.

But then the hurricane struck and flooded their basement. The family did their best to save whatever they could, but the destruction was just too much. And they had no other source of income. **As we listened to their story, we sensed that this was where God had led us.**

The following day, we went to The Home Depot and bought high-quality tools: a wood planer, a table saw, an air compressor, a nail gun, a router table, and more. The Thomas family also received a water filter from Air Mobile Ministries, allowing them to drink water from the creek beside their home.

“All the gifts are amazing,” Matthew said, **“but water is the biggest of them all. Water is life. God is love, and work is worship.”**

He added, **“Operation Blessing has changed our lives.”** This family was all smiles and could barely hold back the tears.

Thank you for helping Matthew and Tania provide for their family again. Your gift reminded them that God is their ultimate Provider.

YOU ARE HELPING THEM GET BACK ON THEIR FEET

God is doing something big in Asheville, and you are a part of it.

Our COO, Drew Friedrich, was on the ground and described the situation, **“The devastation is tremendous when you see it in person; it’s different than when you see it in pictures and videos.”**

Because of your incredible generosity, we’re not done in Asheville and won’t be for quite a while! We are helping rebuild the arts district by investing in temporary workspace for a woodworking co-op to help restore the livelihoods of 20 artisans so they can once more provide for their families.

We have also formed a coalition with two other Christ-led organizations—World Vision and Excel College. Together, we have the goal of rebuilding 175 homes! **“There’s going to be some major life changes that will come out of this,”** Drew excitedly announced.

Hand-in-hand, and because of your faithful generosity, we are committed to stand with the survivors of Helene in Asheville for the long haul.

“The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.” Deuteronomy 28:8 ESV



3-yr-old Soma Nea says thank you!



We are restoring livelihoods in the devastated arts district and rebuilding 175 homes!





FRIENDS AT KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES
THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING THE SURVIVORS
OF HURRICANE HELENE!

