

# Four Bridges Narrative

## Start unto the Shelters

During the hurricane season we are paying close attention to the developments of the weather. We especially use the National Hurricane Center reports <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> and other online hurricane warning services like it.

There comes a time when a hurricane is about to make landfall in the USA.

A special squad of intercessors is alerted. Each member has volunteered to pray often for the ministry of Four Bridges as we are serving in the early stages of relief and recovery. They already have detailed prayer guidelines that let them know generally what each phase of the initial operations is like. Therefore they can pray much without needing to get additional instructions or updates. They know about the various ways that information will be made available as events unfold. There will be simple summary prayer guidelines on the public web site for anyone. There will also be daily and weekly confidential requests online behind a pass code they were issued.

The core Front Lines Team is alerted. They are told where and when to meet. They go over their checklist to make sure that they have packed all the things that will be needed. This includes the audio and video recording equipment as well as an appropriate set of personal items for the kinds of conditions that will be faced. Previously they had gotten all the needed shots, signed the waiver, completed the Red Cross (and other) disaster training, practiced as a team, made arrangement with their family plus employer and otherwise gotten ready to leave on short notice. Some had obtained press passes and gotten security clearance.

(There are volunteers who serve with the Red Cross at disaster scenes. And the Red Cross has learned how to prepare and train such people. We will adapt their system.)

Most of the Front Lines Team will likely come from the Dallas area. But in the coming months and years Four Bridges might meet others at hurricane aftermath settings that will joins us too. The Dallas people meet at a designated location and time. We travel as a caravan. We keep up with the weather reports. Our initial objective is to go to the shelters where the evacuees have fled. At no time do we intentionally put at risk our people or the equipment. We are in no rush to get to the site. We wait until the winds die down and floodwaters recede. We do not enter areas where there is looting or rampant criminal activity. Our concern is the long-term service to the people and not the immediate rescue. We thank God for the valiant rescue work done by the police, fire department, Coast Guard, National Guard and State Guard.

Due to the previous adventures in serving evacuees and those rebuilding, Four Bridges has developed healthy relationships with the leaders of various organizations that will be at the disaster zone. While the caravan is rolling toward the region where the hurricane will make landfall, we are in phone contact with the key people that are going there too.

The Four Bridges Behind the Lines Team is involved in email and phone contact with key people throughout the region and the leaders of the major agencies like Red Cross, Salvation Army, World Vision, Samaritans Purse, Texas Baptist Men and others who have been doing this for years. FEMA and the National Guard have all kinds of detailed data and contingency plans. Before hurricane season 2006 and between hurricanes Four Bridges has made these contacts and nurtured these relationships.