

TBM  
TODAY

STORIES OF TEXANS ON MISSION

Water wells  
deliver  
**hope**

PG. 4

# TBM mission team gives Rio Grande Valley families a CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

A nice, neat bed doesn't excite a lot of people. But when you're a child who has never had one, it's the best Christmas present ever.

A TBM mission team helped literally elevate children in unincorporated colonias in the Rio Grande Valley, building beds and giving them away during the days leading up to Christmas.

"One girl told us this morning after we put the bed together and put the blankets on it that this was the best present she'd ever received," said team member Perry Graham.

In an already impoverished area where life is often hard, inflation is crippling to families. Money is being stretched as far as it can. In the midst of it all, the TBM team sought to bring help and hope.

In addition to the beds, the TBM team of college students and experienced volunteers distributed hundreds of Christmas toys to children in multiple colonias in the Edinburg area. They worked in partnership with Hearts4Kids, an area ministry based that regularly serves the families.

"It's been fantastic, amazing," said Hannah Thornton, a University of Texas at Arlington student. "Yesterday, we were able to help 200 kids with toys and food and blankets. It was awesome."

The team shared the Gospel when possible and prayed with every family that received a bed. Each person who got a bed also was given a Bible signed by mission team members.



The church where Graham is a member, Community Life Church in Forney, donated 50 bags of toys plus a selection of children's bicycles. The team is serving long hours, but Graham said the effort is worth it.

"Just seeing the joy on the kids' faces as they get a toy knowing they otherwise may not get anything," Graham reflected. "It just lifts your heart and spirit. It makes it all worthwhile." **TBM**



## TBM Cabinet Builders dedicate 1,500 hours for ministry to Native Americans

Cabinets can seem like such ordinary parts of our living spaces, but they serve important practical tasks in helping us organize our belongings. They also can be done with quality craftsmanship.

TBM Cabinet Builders are using their craftsmanship to support a ministry to young Native Americans. In recent months the builders contributed 1,500 work hours and completed dozens of projects for On Eagles' Wings, a ministry in Harrison, Ark.

In late 2021, OEW broke ground on a leadership training center designed to provide housing, meals and education space for an intensive nine-month leadership training program that equips students to take the Gospel message back to their reservations.



TBM Cabinet Builders partnered with Volunteer Christian Builders to assist OEW in much of its extensive interior woodworking needs in the new building.

Seven volunteers built 24 wardrobe units at TBM Headquarters in Dallas. Then nine volunteers traveled to Harrison to deliver the wardrobes and complete a number of other projects, which included constructing 160 feet of cabinets, 40 feet of ADA-compliant sink counters, 12 library bookcases, 195 drawers, 256 doors and eight bathroom vanities.

TBM volunteer Jim Casten said the project was unlike any other he's experienced. "Once we arrived on-site and interacted with the On Eagles' Wings team, it gave us increased enthusiasm for what we were doing.

Cabinet Builders Coordinator Ralph Stephenson said: "It's a very underserved community. . . . Any in-roads that we can take to be a part of helping to evangelize Native Americans, certainly we need to participate. We were all very impressed with the need of the project and felt that it was really a privilege to be there." **TBM**

## Water: A gift of love



This month, everyone is talking about love. Did you get flowers, a card or a present for your valentine? Did you eat a special meal?

Gift-giving shows a person you care about them. You took the time to think about what they need or want and put them first. You sacrificially take from your resources to help someone else.

That's exactly what you're doing each time you give the gift of clean drinking water through TBM Water Impact. And it's transforming lives around the world.

By drilling water wells in countries like Kenya, Peru and Ghana, you're giving people access to clean water for the first time in their lives. It makes them physically stronger and helps them avoid waterborne illnesses that are common in these areas.

Each well also opens up conversations about life. The people you are ministering to through TBM Water Impact are astounded by your work. They're amazed that you love them enough to provide such a life-changing gift. That empowers TBM volunteers to share about an even bigger life-changer: Jesus Christ.

Each year, people like you are able to share the Gospel with thousands of people through TBM Water Impact. Many come to faith in Christ as a result of evangelistic outreach connected to the wells.

Because God loved us, you are loving others as He commanded His followers. That love continues to send ripples around the globe.

Thank you for all you do through TBM ministries.

**Mickey B. Lenamon**

TBM Executive Director/CEO



# Water wells deliver hope

**In 2017, TBM helped Frontier Missions Network in Ghana drill its first water well in the remote northern part of the West African nation. Several others have since been drilled, but the need for more wells and maintenance of wells is great. TBM is now working with Ghana Christians to develop processes for more drilling and greater well maintenance.**

Ghanian Pastor Moses Sansa Konjon leads Frontier Missions Network, which uses water projects as part of its evangelism and church planting efforts.

Since 2017, Pastor Moses said 14 wells have been drilled. “Over 83,258 people from over 33 towns and villages are benefiting from the well projects,” an FMN report states. “Over 48,200 people have heard the Gospel through the water missions and hygiene training since

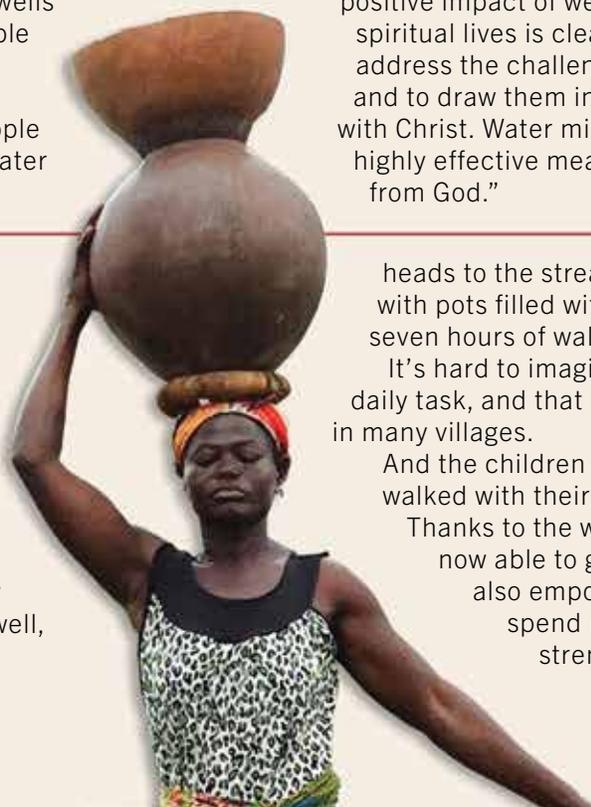
2017.” More than 30,400 professions of faith have been recorded.

TBM Water Director Mitch Chapman said the positive impact of wells on physical and spiritual lives is clear. “God has called us to address the challenges of suffering people and to draw them into a saving relationship with Christ. Water ministry is proving to be a highly effective means for pursuing this call from God.”

## More than water

**F**resh water prevents waterborne diseases, but it does much more. The TBM-drilled water well in Batamateng, Ghana, illustrates the broader social impact.

The well is close to the homes, which means the women don’t have to trek several kilometers to a muddy stream to retrieve water. Before the well, women carried unfilled pots on their



heads to the streams and then returned with pots filled with water, taking four to seven hours of walking each day.

It’s hard to imagine the difficulty of this daily task, and that is the normal situation in many villages.

And the children of these women often walked with their mothers to the stream.

Thanks to the well, the children are now able to go to school. And it’s also empowered families to spend more time together, strengthening their bonds.

## 'Thank you very much'



*"Thank you very much. You have changed the lives of my people. Thank you, thank you, thank you." – An assemblyman in Batamateng, Ghana.*

He was thankful for the work of TBM and Ghana Christians. The changed lives have come because of a water well drilled in the village. Life has changed for everyone in Batamateng because of the well and the Gospel is now being heard, as well.

TBM's partner, Frontier Missions Network, emphasizes evangelistic outreach and church planting in its projects. At each well dedication, the village hears the Gospel preached, and many have made professions of faith.

Providing the water wells "validates the Christian faith and serves as an evangelism opportunity," one Ghana leader said.

## Priming the pump with technology

Tools are important in TBM's work. TBM volunteers use chainsaws, cooking equipment, saws, hammers, and many more to get work done. High tech tools also have a place.

Mitch Chapman, the new leader of TBM Water Impact, traveled to Ghana recently to add some new technology to our efforts in drilling and maintaining water wells. He used his mobile phone to

geo-locate the wells TBM has drilled, and he installed a tracking system on one well as a pilot project for monitoring well function from TBM headquarters in Texas.

As Mitch took apart one well mechanism, men gathered around to watch as he worked to install the tracking system. He brought drills and batteries all the way from the U.S. to do the work, and he supplied the personal elbow grease to put everything back together with the electronics in place.



## Good hygiene improves life

A young woman named Grace recently stood before the people of Gbalyer, a village in northern Ghana, and led them through basic hygiene lessons. Grace does this in place after place across the Ghanaian savannah.

Clean water and soap make this hygiene emphasis possible, and women are at the center of the effort to improve life in areas where running water and electricity are generally not available.



Grace also gave her hygiene lessons during a special gathering funded by TBM in which hundreds of area villagers came together. TBM provided chairs and tents on the warm summer day. Hygiene training provided the centerpiece of the event, but participants also heard a Gospel message and received nutritional food, also provided by TBM. A church is being started in the area as Ghana Christians seek to address both spiritual and physical needs.

Good hygiene practices may be taken for granted in some places, but improved hygiene practices become essential to health in places like the savannah region that do not have running water and electricity. **TBM**



# DRILLING DEEP



In the second half of last year, TBM drilled or worked on 18 water wells, giving thousands of people access to clean drinking water for the first time in countries like Ghana, Papa New Guinea, Venezuela and Sierra Leone.

But that just begins to tell the story of what God is doing. Through these water wells, God is mobilizing Christ-followers around the globe to meet crucial and immediate health needs, build stronger communities with economic opportunities and share God's love.

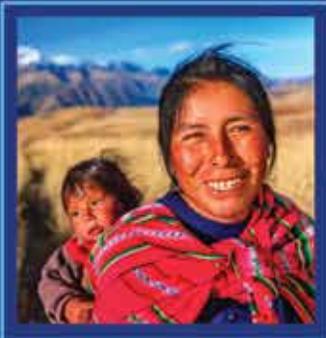
As a result, lives are being changed. Villages are being transformed. The light of Christ is shining brightly. **Thanks to your prayer and financial support of TBM ministries.**



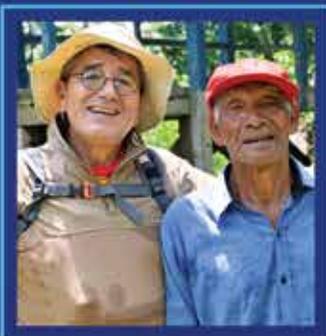
# Clean drinking water through TBM fosters:



HEALTHY  
CHILDREN.



STRONGER  
FAMILIES.



OPPORTUNITIES  
TO SHARE  
THE GOSPEL.

# TBM team brings clean drinking water, ministry to Amazon village



Even in a place surrounded by water, clean water can be hard to acquire. In October, a team of seven TBM volunteers helped drill a water well and start a church building for an Amazon River island village in Peru. It's the latest TBM effort to provide clean water and living water in the remote region.



TBM purchased drilling equipment in 2019 for a ministry called Access Water Peru. The new well in San Pedro became the first TBM Water Impact project since the pandemic and will radically change the community.

"You can see the Amazon from the village, but the river water is never clear in this area because it has a very muddy bottom," said Mitch Chapman, TBM Water director who led the volunteers. "It looks like chocolate milk."

Villagers normally get their drinking water by capturing rain from their roofs and from "what they call a lake half a kilometer from the village," Chapman said. The lake is formed by water which remains after Amazon flooding. It is





muddy and is a breeding ground for anacondas. As for the captured rainwater, it flows along metal roofs and drains and can sit stagnant for days.

The new well hit water at a depth of 26 meters and went down another five meters to determine the depth of the water sand from which drinking water is extracted, Chapman said. “We had no problems. We set up the drill in about a day and a half and drilled for 4½ hours. After setting the well casing, we flushed the well until we got clear water.”

“It was the neatest thing to watch when all of the kids and some adults were playing in the water and laughing,” Chapman said. “Most have never seen flowing water out of a pipe.”

The TBM team reached the island by flying to Lima, Peru, then taking another flight over the Andes mountain range to Iquitos, followed by an almost two-hour riverboat trip. San Pedro residents can reach the outside world only via the river.

The first water project is simply a beginning. More are planned in the area, and all TBM Water Impact projects include direct ministry to support churches and their ministries. The October team shared the Gospel with children through varied activities and with adults through preaching and teaching. Team members also began construction of a new church building, with the elevated platform floor and roof being completed by the team.

Beyond the cost of the rig, each well costs between \$8,000 and \$14,000 in supplies and ongoing maintenance across the world, Chapman said. The price varies by region and available infrastructure. Drilling rigs cost \$18,000-\$45,000 depending on the type and region.

“As TBM donors give, we are able to provide wells in places around the world where clean drinking water is needed,” Chapman said. “And as TBM volunteers step forward we are able to help provide workers for both labor and ministry through churches in those places.” **TBM**

**What's your legacy?** Did you know more than 60 percent of people don't have a will? Through a new free resource, you can. Visit [tbmtx.org/freewill](http://tbmtx.org/freewill) and leave a legacy of caring for generations to come.

# TBM responds to Hurricane Ian



Hurricane Ian gave TBM an opportunity to add a new component to its disaster response – coordinating untrained volunteers in home cleanup efforts.

Extensive flood damage and the availability of local volunteers made the new effort possible. Twenty-four TBM volunteers arrived in Naples, Fla., shortly after the storm. At the same time, hundreds of local volunteers offered to help.

About 150 employees of Arthrex, one the largest employers in Naples, showed up Oct. 7 to help their neighbors. Arthrex had given employees the option of volunteering instead of coming to their normal work.

Trained TBM and Louisiana recovery volunteers took the lead. Teams of 12 Arthrex workers went out with two experienced leaders, fanning out across hard hit portions of the city. The homes had been identified where homeowners needed and desired help with removing furniture, ripping out sheetrock and preparing the damaged portions of homes to be rebuilt.

“These Arthrex volunteers are amazing,” said Sabrina Pinales, TBM’s ministry advancement coordinator. “They responded so well to the TBM Disaster Relief experts and provided much-needed hands for this work.”

Sid Riley, a veteran of TBM’s Disaster Relief work, said: “Our trained TBM volunteers became teachers and supervisors today, showing these new volunteers how to safely do this work. Many of the Arthrex workers were young adults, and this created an opportunity for our experienced people to teach them. Plus, they were strong and stayed hard at work all day.”

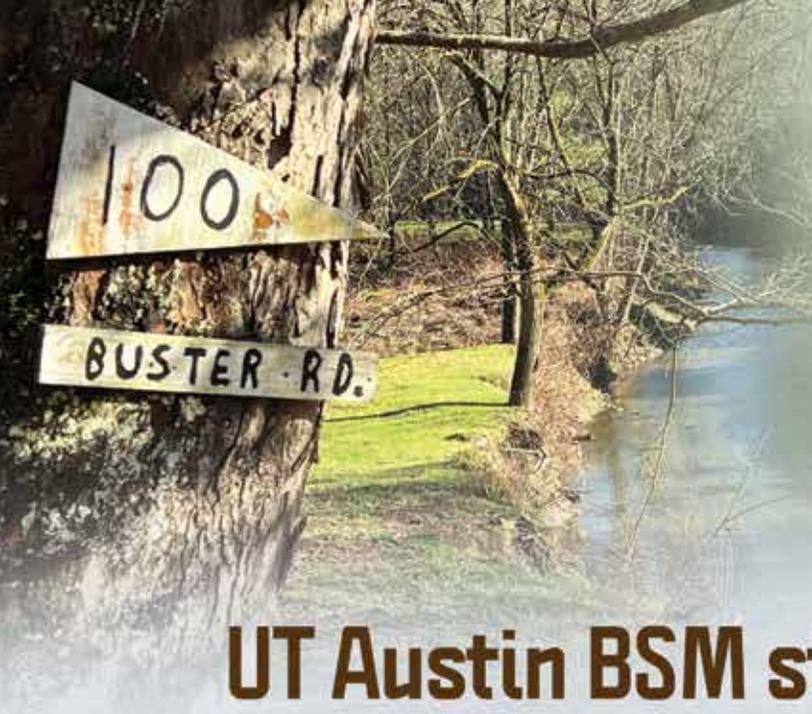
Reports had come to the TBM Command Center in Naples that businesses offered to provide similar cleanout services for \$3,000, \$8,000, and even \$45,000, which is beyond the means of many homeowners. Plus, the need was urgent.

Virtually anything not made of metal or certain plastics will be ruined by extended exposure to water, as occurred in Naples. The long-term damage is not always evident initially, but mold and rot continue to advance.

“Situations like this are really hard on people,” Pinales said. “They’ve gone through the trauma of the storm and flood, and now they have to part with items that often have great sentimental value.”

Riley said the care that TBM volunteers bring to homeowners is something money can’t buy. “We really do care about them,” he said. “We show the love of Jesus and share why we are doing this, as well.” **TBM**





Every house has a history, especially a 100-year-old one. And a history makes a home.

## UT Austin BSM students help put a home, life back together after flood



The house on Buster Road saw the birth 84 years ago of Ramona. It's in the Appalachian Mountains of far eastern Kentucky. In the summer of 2022, Ramona's son whisked his mother from the home to safety above the floodwaters of the North Fork Kentucky River.

Since the flood, Ramona has lived with her son. But in the days before Christmas, 10 students from the University of Texas in Austin became a new part of the house's history as a TBM Disaster Rebuild team.

The UT Baptist Student Ministry students and an intern leader jumped in a van immediately after fall finals and headed to Kentucky to help rebuild Ramona's home more than 1,000 miles away. The team spent four full days working in the Millstone, Ky., house. Most of them had no experience in home repair, but Rupert Robbins, TBM associate director of disaster relief, directed their work out of his years of experience as a builder.

"This flood kind of did me in," said Ramona Taylor. "But the graciousness of God and all of the people here have actually kept me sane. What they have done here is unbelievable, and I cannot thank them enough."

Taylor, a retired teacher, struggled at times with words to express her gratitude. "At this point, there is no way to say thank you," she said. "I never dreamed that I could receive this, and I know God has a purpose because I lost everything."

Still, through the devastation, Ramona said, "I gained my health, my life, and so many friends, and so many people who have been so helpful, especially this group here," referring to the TBM-BSM team. "I have never seen such

good-looking, nice gentlemen. . . . And Mr. Rupert and his staff have been unbelievable, and I cannot thank them enough, and I will never forget them."

As a former educator, Taylor knows that behind every person is a support system. "When I look at them (the volunteers), I think of each of them and what their family has reared, which has been wonderful. It's not just the boys, but I think of the background of those boys, as well." And that, she said, includes the church as a foundation.

As for the student volunteers, Adam Bardales, a senior advertising major from Waco, said he had "never been on a mission trip that involved heavy labor, so it's good to try something new. And I really like seeing progress be made."

Alex Creel, a senior classics major from Spring, noted that the trip provided a "great opportunity to be able to grow closer to other guys at the student ministry . . . and to have a shared experience of going through devotionals and doing manual labor together and growing together as one unit." **TBM**



# Though once reluctant, volunteer Mike Hale finds important role on Camp Builders team

**F**or many years, Mike Hale of River Oaks, Texas, witnessed his father-in-law volunteer as a chainsaw operator for TBM Disaster Relief. Inspired by his example, Hale signed up to volunteer with TBM Camp Builders, but his commitment came with reluctance.

“Before I went on my first trip two years ago, I was very hesitant,” said Hale, who retired from a wood floor distribution business. “I felt unqualified. My past experience has always been in business.”

Hale’s hesitancy quickly subsided as he found an important role on the team that he could master – a builder helper.

“The guys are just absolutely fabulous to work with,” Hale said. “There are going to be a lot of experienced people, but what they need more of is people who can help them.”

As a helper, Hale will often follow instructions given by the team members who have more construction experience. Under their guidance, he can participate in a wide variety of projects including painting, sheetrock work, flooring installation, caulking, deck building, etc.

In the summer of 2021, doctors informed Hale that he has Parkinson’s disease, a progressive condition that affects the nervous system. The diagnosis turned into



another driving force for Hale to continue his volunteer work.

“One of the things medical personnel told me was that I need to stay active,” he said. “Being a Camp Builder has been good for my health and my strength. . . . Not that it’s a cure, but it gives me opportunities to keep my strength up.”

Unlike many of his Builders companions, Hale does not travel with an RV but says he has no trouble finding a comfortable place to stay.

“The camps are very good about accommodating volunteers to come in that don’t have a place to stay,” he explained. Hale typically stays at the campsite during the week, then goes home on weekends.

To people who are considering volunteering with TBM Builders but are reluctant, Hale says, “Just give it a try and see if you like it. Pick up the phone and call. Stay with us one day. You really don’t know if you’ll like it until you try it.”

*TBM Builders ministries – including Church, Camp and Cabinet Builders – empower churches, camps and other ministries to accomplish their God-given visions of expanding the kingdom of God. **TBM***

