

## Nebraskans in Motion for Mission

Presbyterian Churches across the state of Nebraska sent 9,000 pounds of emergency goods to DeRidder, LA for clean-up and recovery from Hurricane Laura. The items included clean-up buckets filled with cleaning materials, hygiene kits and light blankets. The prepared items will provide the necessities to families who are starting to put their lives back together. Rev. John Sloan, Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Omaha spearheaded the effort to build a local supply that could be deployed immediately. According to Sloan, the effort of the churches is “to help a community devastated by natural disasters with the rebuilding and recovery process.”

The supplies were driven down to Louisiana by Ron and Julia Thomsen, members of Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Minden, NE, just four days after receiving word of the need. First Presbyterian Church in DeRidder, LA, under the leadership of Rev. Jerald Egbert, received the supplies for assistance in the immediate area and further dispersal to the devastated Lake Charles area thirty miles south. A former Master Sergeant and Paratrooper in the U.S. Army, Rev. Egbert explained that “the level of destruction is not unlike that which I have seen in combat. I am not familiar with the people in my community experiencing the same pain as that experienced in combat.”

While the toll of a hurricane is incalculable, there is a joy in receiving emergency supplies from people in another state and another place. Rev. Sharon Rees in Minden, NE commented, “Participating in this disaster relief reminded my congregation in Minden just how much impact they could make for good. Their efforts have helped turn a path of destruction into a journey of hope.”

*Nebraskans in Motion for Mission* will continue to gather supplies in times of plenty and disperse them in times of need. Financial contributions can be mailed to: Presbytery of Central Nebraska, 4111 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 2B, Kearney, NE 68845-2884. Please contact Rev. Sharon Rees at 308-293-6279 to discuss your church’s involvement in this valuable mission project.