

I wrote this from Washington Parish on the evening of September 28:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I finally got in to see the church today. I've tried my best to write a thorough report while it's still on my mind. Before you read on, please keep in mind that there are many Southern Baptists that want to help our church get back to ministering to the community. God will supply all of our needs. He will supply our personal needs, and He will supply for the church that He started. He has already supplied the very blood of His own Son for His church. What won't He do for us?

I am sad to report that we did receive flooding. From the internet pictures and news reports that I had seen before now, I had convinced myself that our buildings did not receive flooding. I was wrong. My long-time friend Chris Babb, Minister of Music and Youth at Enon Baptist Church, and I walked around the property and went inside the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and Bro. Bill's house. Of course, there was spray paint on the front of the buildings from when the officers were doing house-to-house checks to find people. You've probably seen the likes of it on the news. We didn't see signs of any kind of looting.

The sanctuary looked as if it was flooded about 7 inches on the inside. We could see a faint flood line. We didn't see signs of mold. I'm not sure if that kind of plaster is susceptible to mold or not.

The fellowship hall also received flooding of about 6 inches. We went upstairs and couldn't detect any roof leaks.

The pastor's home has been broken into, but nothing was stolen. Electronics were in plain view, but were untouched. I think that the officers probably broke in just to see if anyone was there. Plaster had come off the ceiling in the den next to the west wall (church side). We went down stairs into the basement. It looked as if it had received a good two feet of water. Mold was all over the lower part of Bro. Bill's library. (He promised those books to me!) The first two shelves are definitely lost. Furniture was in disarray. You could tell that items floated up, and then dropped in odd places and positions. Stuff was everywhere.

Regarding Doug's house, we think that it was not flooded. You may have noticed that Doug's house is built up. There is a tree in his back yard that fell down into the church's back lot (on Alvar). A lot of shingles were blown off. Some of you may not have realized that the church owned that house. Doug and our deacons were in the process of remodeling the house so that my family could live there. Doug was going to finish the work and move to Alabama to care for his sick step-father.

After we left the church, we drove by Christian Baptist Fellowship, a sister SBC church three blocks north of us on the corner of Alvar and Urqhart. They received more flooding than we, but no signs of forced entry. Then, we went to St. Paul Lutheran Church where

Michaela and Moriah had been going to school. It looked as if they had no flooding but did receive wind damage. It looked as if people had been there cleaning up and working on the church. I hope that they and their school gets running again. The girl's education is one factor getting the Dale family "Back to Bywater" -- That's for you, Joanne ;)

I didn't have a camera with me, but I took pictures with my phone. I really wasn't expecting to get in. I attended a Baptist minister's meeting in LaPlace this morning. While there, the pastor of Elysian Fields Av. Baptist Church told me that he was able to get in to see his church (which received total flooding and a lot of damage). He and the Port Chaplin told me that I might be able to get in. So I tried. Evidently, we were not supposed to be let into the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. My getting into the city and then into the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward was a work of God that I'll have to tell you about later. Prayer works.

There was almost no one in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. It was so quiet and weird. There was a boat in the neutral ground between Drew and Douglas Schools. No boat trailer, just a boat. I supposed that it is still flooded just over the canal in the lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. I didn't go as far as Poland. I didn't want to press the good graces that had been given to me.