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## PRAYERS and LOVE

*E-News Special Edition: Impact of Harvey to Kairos Prison Ministry; Prayers Needed*

### Note from Evelyn Lemly, CEO of Kairos Prison Ministry International

As of this writing, five prisons have evacuated nearly 6,000 inmates. Three of the prisons we currently work with: Jester III Unit, Terrell, and Vance. The other two prisons are Stringfellow and Ramsey.

Bryan Shapiro, Executive Director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (“TDCJ”) stated in a recent interview with NPR, [“In some cases, some locations were easy to get into and get out of and evacuate offenders. We had those resources ready, staged nearby. However, as the storm moved and as rivers rose in some areas, it was very difficult to get staff in there. So we had, you know, buses deployed. We had what we call scout vehicles... Sometimes what would typically take you, you know, an hour and a half to get from one location to another may have taken seven to eight hours...”](#)



*Photos courtesy of Texas Department of Criminal Justice*

The impact on the correctional institutions, the inmates, and their families is not to be easily passed over. May God watch over them. We have been closely monitoring Hurricane Harvey and the needs of not only our volunteers, but also the inmates and communities we

serve.

Please join me in a moment of prayer for the safe transition and housing of all involved, as well as easing the worries of those outside. So we can pray as one, we will be going live on Tuesday, September 5 at 1pm EST on our Facebook group page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KairosPrisonMinistryInternational/>

If you have any special prayer requests, we have created a page for you to post on, located here: <http://www.kairosprisonministry.org/blog/prayer-requests-for-those-affected-by-hurricane-harvey/>

## Update on How Harvey has Affected Kairos

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice, reported on Friday that volunteer activity will not occur at the following facilities from September 1 through September 11, 2017: **Gist, Goodman, Henley, Hightower, Jester I, Jester III, Jester IV, LeBlanc, Lewis, Plane, Ramsey, Scott, Stiles, Stringfellow, Terrell, and Vance.** Kairos has programs at five of these facilities.

According to Rick Alba, the Huntsville (Walls) Unit Weekend #28 leader, "Several team members, both Inside and Outside volunteers, have been directly impacted by flood water. Some have evacuated already because of high water. Others have older family relatives they need to attend...Huntsville Walls Unit postponed the Walls weekend #28, most likely to reschedule with the normal spring time slot in March. The team will unite again and move forward bringing Christ into the Walls Unit through the Kairos Prison Ministry!"

This past week, Steve Newton, Kairos Texas State Chair, reported, "The impact of Harvey is spreading across the state to areas not flooded...Not only will the prisons experiencing evacuations impact current Kairos activities, those prisons receiving them are also being impacted....Several Correctional Officers working in prisons in the Huntsville area live near or around flooded areas close to Houston. They are forced to handle their own issues including that schools are closed and kids are at home."

We are also seeing team meetings being postponed because team members are struggling with their own issues. Nothing quantitative, but I suspect that the rippling effects of Harvey will impact several, if not many, fall weekends in Texas."

Vance Drum, former Director of Chaplaincy Operations, added about the Eastham Unit, "A few 100 evacuated inmates from the Houston area are lying on mattresses in gyms and chapels. All religious programming has been discontinued during this emergency due to lack of space, which will last for a little while, not sure how long, until they can be taken back to the Houston area. Perhaps 10 or so facilities have received evacuees."





## Some Staggering Numbers

- 27 trillion gallons of rain water over last 6 days
- 35 storm-related fatalities
- 34,575 people forced out of homes and shelters in 239 facilities
- 224,127 number of Texas customers without power
- 30,000 - 40,000 estimated number of homes that have been destroyed

*\*Source: The Huffington Post*





For more information about Kairos volunteer activities,  
remember to visit [mykairos.org](http://mykairos.org) and follow us on social media.

