

## HALVORSEN MINISTRY UPDATE



“Right now, this is still third-world country, six months after the storm. I’ve got people sleeping on a piece of plywood up on cinder blocks under a tarp, six months later.” — Shane Perry, Founder of Rebuild South Texas

Thirty miles outside Houston, a little town called Rosharon or “Little Cambodia” still lies devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Relief efforts had yet to make it here. This small farming Buddhist community, made up of mostly Cambodian immigrants who fled genocide in the 1970’s, still had debris lining the destroyed roads and dilapidated homes lay uninhabitable. Many families have been living in tiny shacks or under tarps next to their homes.

With sledge hammers and crowbars swinging through the air, HEPA masks on their faces, mud plastered on their clothes, 34 college students and Cru staff from Boston continued for hours every day doing hard labor during their spring break to join in the effort to help this community. They demolished damaged homes, picked up debris, dug post holes, laid new foundations and pulled nails out of old wood. These Bostonians came from various campuses, some from different faiths, to join the other 300 Cru staff and students also here for the task.

“The goal of our week was to express Jesus’ love by relieving suffering, restoring dignity, and revealing hope... Once each day we paused with the families, held hands, and prayed together. Residents sometimes cried with gratitude. One man, too disabled to work, insisted on cooking for us every day” said Todd Williams, Cru staff.

“It was easy to begin spiritual conversations while working alongside individuals or while picking up trash that had blown into people’s yards,” recounted Jeremiah (pictured above).

One of the sweetest Boston students who came on this trip, Amineh, is a devout Muslim. When Todd asked why she came, she said she wanted to perform some type of charity before going back home from America. They laughed as she said, “I knew it was a Christian trip, but I didn’t know it was THIS Christian.” She added, “I’m really glad I came. I’ve learned so much from all of you.” Pray for Amineh as she continues learn about Christ and journey spiritually.

I love being a part of this great effort to build up and send Kingdom workers who go and do likewise. Continue to pray for those in Texas who continue to rebuild their lives, that they would ultimately find life in Christ.

Jenn Halvorsen / 309 E Street #26, Boston, MA 02127/ give a gift at [cru.org/give](https://cru.org/give)