

## New Mission Opportunity: Hope Reigns

By Tom Brennom (volunteer in Illinois)

We have a new opportunity to serve victims of natural disasters! St. Mark's is working with Hope Reigns for short-term missions of disaster relief. Hope Reigns was created in 2014 as a division of Eight Days of Hope (EDOH). Hope Reigns provides immediate relief (within 48-72 hours) from natural disasters in preparation for future recovery efforts, such as those provided by EDOH. (EDOH was in Cedar Rapids after the 2008 flood with 1000 volunteers rebuilding homes.)

Hope Reigns projects last 8-11 days and are focused on tree and debris removal, gutting homes after flooding, tarping roofs, salvaging personal property, and preparation for rebuilding homes. St. Mark's is working with Hope Reigns to take advantage of their administrative and leadership skills to further energize our disaster recovery team. St. Mark's members have supported three of the six Hope Reigns projects to date. Volunteers have found this to be a very spiritually rewarding experience.

Watch for more information and personal testimonies in future newsletters from St. Mark's members who have participated in projects in just the past few months in Illinois; Van, Texas; and Wimberly, Texas.



*Photos from the Mulbrooks' trip to Van, Texas*



## Why to Experience Hope Reigns!

By Matthew and Lois Mulbrook (volunteers in Texas)

**R**eaching Out – Gives you a chance to help others in need, and sometimes who are not as blessed as many of us. Many of the victims don't have much to start with, and really appreciate the assistance.

**E**ye Opener – You learn how to appreciate the blessings that you have been given. Seeing the destruction of others' homes makes you reflect on your own blessings.

**I**nspired – You are able to meet and fellowship with many spiritually inspired volunteers from across the country. They were truly wonderful Christ-filled volunteers to be around.

**G**ood News – Provides an opportunity to reach people with the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection. Serving gives a chance to pray with them and discuss what Christ means to you personally.

**N**ew Friends – You get to make new Christian friends at the event during the evenings. We enjoyed the drive to Texas because we had great conversation with another volunteer on the trip and got to know him better.

**S**ervice to Others – You get a feeling of personal satisfaction when you see what your hard work has accomplished. Sometimes we feel unrewarded or unappreciated at our regular jobs; not the case with Hope Reigns!

*The people feel the love of Jesus when volunteers arrive to help them, and many volunteers share later that they gained more from giving the service than the recipients gained.*