

TEXAS ★ BAPTISTS®

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS

OVERFLOWING LOVE

WILDFIRES FOLLOWED BY OVERFLOWING LOVE



When Leticia Lybarger learned her house burned to the ground, she was devastated. Her property was uninsured, and she had lost everything her family wasn't able to stash quickly in their vehicles.

She collapsed, right into the arms of people who cared most—her extended family, the members of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Bastrop.

"I fell to the ground, but the minute I hit that ground, I had three people holding on to me and praying, saying, 'It's OK,'" she said.

The church gave the family food and other basic necessities, gift cards to buy what they needed, and a place to stay, empowering Lybarger to lead the effort to turn the congregation's parsonage into a temporary home for families affected by area wildfires.

The pattern of devastation followed by spontaneous support was repeated over and over again in Bastrop as Baptists rallied to help people in need. Because Baptists gave sacrificially to their churches, people had help in their time of crisis.

"Thank you, first of all, for the blessing you are giving to the community," said Pastor Harold Welch. "Yesterday, I quit looking at the fire because I started looking at what God is doing. It's bigger than the fire. Texas Baptists have blessed the Bastrop area with resources and things, showers, meals If you think of it, Texas Baptists are blessing people. Finances, everything else. We love Texas Baptists."

Texas Baptists continue meeting needs in Bastrop. Would you consider stepping forward to help someone like Leticia? Visit www.texasbaptists.org/disaster for more information.

