

IOWA FLOOD RELIEF

Story by Carol Savage and Curtis Hencye



Photo by Curtis Hencye

The Iowa City area was inundated by floodwaters this past June.

Iowa homeowner Don Crum was on the verge of tears. “Why would you come all the way from California to Iowa just to help my family and me?” the 70-year-old asked. The answer came quickly from John LaBelle, assistant pastor of CC WestGrove in Garden Grove, CA. Having started a disaster relief ministry at CC WestGrove, John had led a team from his church to minister to those

whose homes had been devastated by the fast-rising Iowa River in June.

“We just wanted to share the love of Christ with you,” John answered. Don and Dorothy Crum had watched gratefully as John and the team had been stripping waterlogged drywall, eradicating mildew, and removing destroyed home items. Later, their son Nick came out to talk. John shared with him as well. That Sunday, several members of the Crum family accepted their invitation to attend CC Iowa City with them.

“[The believers were] more than a blessing,” said Don. “They came from nowhere and opened their hearts.” Believers from five other Calvary Chapels traveled to Iowa to assist flood victims as well. Along with locals from CC Iowa City, the team helped restore 19 water-damaged homes, completing nine of them during the two-week outreach. They also shared the Good News with residents and volunteers.

The Iowa River overflowed last June, breaking through levees and inundating the Iowa City area. More than 500 homes were evacuated and three people died due to the torrents.

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Photo courtesy of CC WestGrove

John LaBelle, left, assistant pastor of CC WestGrove, CA, shares the Gospel message with Nick Crum.