

# God Answers Prayer

Buchanan County Gets Help From  
SBCV Disaster Relief Volunteers





Roger Van Dyke recalled, "The rain kept comin'—it came so fast." His wife, Rhonda, added, "We looked over, and the water was creeping under the baseboards."

Their vivid memories were from the night of July 12, 2022 when up to six and a half inches of rain fell over regions of Buchanan County in a short, three-hour period.

Van Dyke continued to describe the horrifying aftermath: "There was houses in the middle of the road, cars in trees—it was devastating. People lost everything. After the flood, I guess I just laid in bed and cried. And then the good Lord started sending you all."

An SBCV Disaster Relief assessment team arrived days after the flood to prepare the way for teams to begin working. It was then that the yellow shirts of Disaster Relief met the Van Dykes and offered help.

One of those lending aid was Paul Thomasson of **LibertyLive.Church** in Hampton. "It's work to clean out a house or cut trees or to rebuild," Thomasson shared.

## "The rain kept comin'— it came so fast."

Work indeed. Flood relief crews must remove all household items, mud, and debris before pulling up flooring and subflooring and removing drywall and insulation at least one foot above the flood line. All of these things must be done before pressure washing, mold remediation, and drying.

"But it's worth the smile on their faces and the impact it has on the folks who are suffering," Thomasson concluded.

When asked what motivates him to lead a team for such a task, Bob Johansen of **Maysville Baptist Church** in Buckingham County explained, "We are here because we love Jesus—not because we love to work. We are here because Jesus calls us to do this, and we need to be obedient to the call."

In a society that is more and more cynical about church, the sacrificial work and dedication of Disaster Relief volunteers can be a strong argument for the reality of Jesus. The impact of

this kind of selfless love is one of the reasons Jesus charged His followers in Matthew 5:16, "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven"(CSB).

"We are here to do a job," said Joey Schnepf of **Crewe Baptist Church** in Nottoway County, "but our main job is winning souls for Jesus."

The Van Dykes saw God's love in action, and it made all the difference. From lying in bed, filled with despair, to being filled with hope and gratitude, the Van Dykes' path was changed by the loving service of SBCV Disaster Relief volunteers.

"We put it all in God's hands and here you are!" said Roger Van Dyke, choking back tears. 'Thank you!'"

### RESOURCE:

For more information on Disaster Relief, visit:



[sbcv.org/disasterrelief](http://sbcv.org/disasterrelief)