

Greetings from New Orleans!

10/22/09

Dear Friends,

First of all, I want to thank again everyone who has supported me. I couldn't be here without your prayers, encouragement, and financial contributions.

The New Orleans Young Adult Volunteer crew is shown to the right. In the front are Kathy, Jenna, Dan and Austin. In the back are Lisa, Allie, me, and Ben. Dan, Austin, and Lisa all work leading volunteer crews rebuilding houses in New Orleans. Ben staffs the warehouse of supplies for the rebuilding crews. Allie and Jenna each work at a church developing youth and young adult ministries.



My assignment is a combined effort of the Bayou Blue First Presbyterian Church in Gray, LA and the Center for Hazards Assessment, Response, and Technology (CHART) at the University of New Orleans. I create materials and give presentations to educate short-term reconstruction volunteers about the importance of coastal wetlands and about how quickly they are disappearing due to various human influences. I'll write more about that in the months to come.

I'm finally feeling settled in here in New Orleans. I truly learn something new everyday here. Since I arrived, I ate my first frog leg and my first crawfish. I learned that you get places considerably faster if you don't have your GPS set to "avoid highways" (Oops!). I also tried my hand at shrimping with some co-workers at CHART. (To the left is a picture the roommates peeling some of my catch. Below on the right is a picture of the sunset over Barataria Bay, where we caught the shrimp.) I've also been overwhelmed with hospitality. The members of Bayou Blue First Presbyterian Church have truly adopted me, and they make sure I'm well-fed, well-hugged, and well-taken care of.

The YAV house, the staff at CHART, and the congregation of Bayou Blue are all full of energy and excitement to see what God has planned for us this year. May God use us!

Yours in Christ,
Gloria King

