

## Habitat for Humanity – Mobile, AL

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My wife Becka and I have had the pleasure of taking Roberts students down on the Habitat for Humanity mission trip each February break for the last seven years. This year definitely ranks up there with one of the best trips we've had at Roberts. The last three years we have been volunteering in the Gulf Coast Region as part of the Hurricane Recovery Effort. Although we enjoyed our time the last couple years in the Biloxi, Mississippi area, we felt led this year by God to take the group to Mobile, Alabama. We arrived in Mobile on Valentine's night only to find

that Habitat had accidentally booked too many volunteers in the housing facility downtown. However, things were soon sorted out and God provided us a place to stay at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church just outside of Mobile. We were so blessed by the hospitality of the pastor and the church elders who provided air mattresses, meals, and lodging for us during the week on such short notice. Additionally, we had the privilege of working with 'Habitat Caravaners' on our worksite. Caravaners are retired individuals who spend each winter in the south staying in RV's and working with various Habitat Affiliates. It was wonderful to see the bond that quickly developed between each student and the respective Caravaners on the work site. We had a very productive week working along side each other, which involved putting siding on two neighboring houses, painting the siding and trim, and starting the posts and framing for the two small decks coming off the front and back of each house.



One of the highlights of the week was taking part in a finished house dedication for a local widow and her family, who had lost her husband and one child to cancer. The Mobile County Habitat for Humanity let us take part in the ceremony by presenting the family with the keys to their new home. We were later surprised to learn that the widow grew up and went to college in Rochester, NY before moving to Mobile to start a family! It was wonderful to see God move in every aspect of this trip, which made it such a life changing experience for all of us. In

fact, it was a pretty emotional departure for us because we each felt like we were losing close friends and mentors in the Caravaners.

My wife and I are so blessed to have the opportunity to take part in these trips with the students each year. We are always reminded of the tremendous servant's heart of the Roberts Wesleyan students and what a blessing they are when they reach out to the world around them!