

3/13/07

Hello again from New Orleans,

Arriving here late last night means that today we have been discovering what our new home, and the surrounding area, looks like in the light. We are staying at the Vineyard Church in Kenner Louisiana and are growing more familiar with the areas of the city in which we are working. Our housing arrangements are good and so far the food has been great. We are staying mostly in a large tent in the churchyard, however the women are staying the first couple nights inside the church. You can see pictures of where we are staying at www.mercyresponse.com. Go to the "work team info" menu, then click on "work team camp site" and you can see just what it looks like.



Today we worked on our first house and were surprised at how much work it took to tear the floor out of a house that had been otherwise 'gutted.' The 2 inch wide tongue & groove nailed down by a plethora of square nails tells us the floors, and the house, were pretty old. Clearing the floor of nails, as well as ripping up the 5 layers of ceramic tile, vinyl, tile and linoleum took a lot of work and most of our day. We are excited to be here and we are looking forward to a great week.



Sydney



John

We also drove by 2 of the houses that our group worked on in October. And although some of the houses around them had been removed, the houses we worked on were still there, and are being improved! That gives us a lot of satisfaction and a sense of hope for the work we are doing here. We will tell you all more when we get home.

We love you and miss you and can't wait to see you all when we return,

John Avery, Marvin & Gail Barzee, Ed & Vi Cotter, David Heyer, Kim Krohn, Sydney Sherwood, Marge Papke, & Pastor Jeff