

Faith and Grief Intertwine in Texas Flood Recovery: 'Y'all Pray and Keep Praying'

The people of Kerrville, Texas, are mourning the lives lost as they continue searching for victims of the catastrophic floods. At least 120 people are dead and 150 are missing. Volunteers from across the country are gathering together to help the grieving community.

The Guadalupe River has returned to a dry, deceptive calm following the devastating July Fourth flash flood, but the anguish still lingers in Kerr County.

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"This is something that's going to stay with this community forever," said Pastor Phil Jackson of Kerrville First Assembly of God.

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Pastor Jackson lost a member of his congregation in the flood. "In trying to save his family, he punched a hole through a glass window, cut his main artery, and bled out in front of them. He died," Jackson said.

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Despite the loss, Jackson and his church are channeling their grief into service. Kerrville First Assembly has partnered with the faith-based relief group Operation Blessing, using its kitchen to prepare hundreds of hot meals daily for first responders.

“They’ve pulled several bodies out of the river,” said Ryan Yost, a disaster relief chef with Operation Blessing. “It makes you realize that as a chef, providing food helps them take care of themselves so they can do the job not many want to do.”

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Much of the relief coordination is happening at the Centerpoint Distribution Center, where first responders and volunteers gather – some even on four legs.

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