

New Orleans: A missionary's experience

I'll be honest, in one way New Orleans seems like an easy mission. No travel issues, no language issues, just barely in a different time zone. And yet, even amid a land of plenty, people's needs are enormous. It feels like a blessing to me to be able to work on helping folks who can tell us exactly what they need, and we have a way to provide it. This is basic shelter that rebuilds more than just safety and home life. It calls back to a remarkable city and culture.

We stayed in local church or low-cost guest housing, worked daily on construction sites for a week, celebrated evening prayer and ate communal meals. The work was physical and most skills were simple to learn.

- Russell Lawson