

Our national mission, Son Servants, has sent us information about the damage the last round of flooding has inflicted on the ministry we support - Panther Christian Outreach. The former school, which is their community center, had over 2.5 feet of water in the building and this left several inches of silt, mud, and debris throughout the building. This is a massive blow to the community, ministry and Son Servants. All of Son Servants' supplies, tools, kitchen equipment, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, outdoor sink and cots were there. We do not yet know the extent of the damage, but do know our industrial refrigerators and stoves are a total loss. We might have an opportunity to help restore the building to order, and to help this community we have had so much invested in. Son Servants leadership is going to have boots on the ground March 20-23 and I will have a lot more info after that. If you would like to help Son Servants begin this extensive recovery, please consider making a donation to our church directly but put Son Servants in the "memo". Information is rolling out slowly, Panther is very secluded - and it is hard to get info sometimes.

Panther is a community with deep faith, but we all know that continual hardship is hard on a heart and soul. This is the second time the water has surged to 22 feet above flood stage in 23 years, although there have been many, many lesser floods in those years. It is hard to know how to help Panther right now. This is very different than the NC/Tennessee damage, we can't simply sweep in with supplies and money and fix it all. Roads are gutted from below due to fast moving water down steep mountainsides, water systems have been compromised, and with the school in unknown condition, volunteers have nowhere to be housed and actually become a liability to the community. So, for now we wait, and find ways to help Son Servants do what they do best, sort it out, clean it up and make plans for what is next. I will keep everyone updated - feel free to reach out if you have questions, I will be happy to share what I know and reach out about what I don't.

We have to remember, first and foremost God is with all the residents of Panther. They rely heavily on Him for day-to-day life. It is our hope that He will be their strength through this. This community is precious and we have the chance to make a difference. Please consider including them in your prayers while we wait for more info.