

Effects of Climate Change

Jennifer Salmons

The effects of climate change are potentially astronomical. If our temperature increased by even a couple of degrees many changes would occur on earth. Global warming might sound nice, as though we'd all be living in a tropical paradise, but that is far from the truth. The Environmental Defense Fund predicts that by 2080, 200 million people around the world could be displaced by droughts and rising sea levels.

Oceans are rising and warming. Many of the big cities in our country are on or near the coasts. So what do you think would happen to those cities? When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, tens of thousands of residents became refugees. Imagine if such a catastrophe were to strike New York, Miami, or Los Angeles? The U.S. would have millions of refugees.

Since humans have had a huge negative impact on the health of our planet, it is humans who can take steps to make it better. The most important thing is that people learn about climate change, get the word out to others, then work together to change our destructive habits. Also, we can vote for politicians who believe it is a priority to care for our earth. Why would you vote for a politician who solicits campaign funding from companies that are polluting our earth? We need leaders to support the laws that will protect our planet.

Sources: <www.edf.org>; <www.wecansolveit.org/content/solution/clean_energy_economy>.



Spotlight on New Orleans

A Devastating Moment

Lenora Morrow

When Hurricane Katrina struck on August 29, 2005, it was a devastating moment in my life. I couldn't believe how ruined our city would be. I had never seen water rising at that pace, cars and bodies floating, and family members walking with their children through polluted water. That year was one of my most depressing years. I saw homeless people with no food or clothes. They didn't have a bed to sleep in or even any money.

Every morning when I wake up, I have to be alert about the levees breaking. I remember how Katrina destroyed our lives. Every day is the same, knowing that we can't go back to how it was before. Family and friends are gone. But they will never be forgotten.

I just want to live my life as a normal person. I don't want life to be so depressing. It helps that I have support from my family and church.



To prepare for these kinds of emergencies, people should have enough supplies. The military and the police should be trained to take care of people, not threatening to shoot people.

Three years later, our city is still under construction.

Lenora Morrow is a GED student at the St. Vincent de Paul Adult Learning Center in New Orleans. She plans to attend cosmetology school and to be successful at running her own business.

Spotlight on New Orleans

The Water Was Slowly Rising

Jennie Gorden

My family was living in the Lafitte Housing development in New Orleans. When Hurricane Katrina landed, I was looking out of the window. I watched the water slowly rising. I did not know what to do. I was not just worried about myself but also my family. I was with my daughter, her two kids, plus another grandchild.

We had no way of doing anything for ourselves, but to try to survive with God on our side.

When the storm passed we had three and a half feet of water in the house and rain coming in the roof.

My family and I stayed on the second floor of the apartment for two days, but we had no electricity, gas, or running water. We had to leave.

We walked through the water to the ramp of Interstate I-10, which was higher ground. We stayed there for five days. We didn't have any

shelter. The sun was hot; at times it was still raining. We had no way of doing anything for our-

selves, but to try to survive with God on our side.

I brought some water and canned food. After that was gone, we didn't have anything. The military dropped food to us from a higher level of the bridge. That's how they treated us.

The military started to pick people up. They took us to Austin, Texas. I stayed in a shelter for a few weeks, and then went to San Antonio to live with one of my sister's kids. I finally made it back to New Orleans a year later. I brought my family. We stayed together the whole time. We are still together.

I feel that the military and the government could have handled the situation much better than they did. Too many people lost their lives. They didn't help me get home. I got home on my own.

Communities need to stick together – families and friends need to support each other. We have to get together to make sure everything will be okay.

I thank God for every day I'm here to see my family and to know that we survived Katrina. I depend on my community. They hold me up and make me strong.



Jennie Gorden is a GED student at the St. Vincent de Paul Adult Learning Center in New Orleans. She is still struggling with the effects of Katrina and still trying to be strong—especially for her family. Photos of Jennie Gorden and Lenora Morrow by Sarah Fischer.