

Southern Baptists of Texas Disaster Relief Report January 31, 2010

³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Haiti Response

I, like many of you, have a great desire to serve to meet the needs of those impacted by the earthquake in Haiti. Our hearts are broken and we seek to reach out with the HOPE of our Lord Jesus during this time of great need.

Please know that many avenues have been explored and many others will continue to be explored. The response to Haiti will be long and intense lasting weeks, months and years. **We will have many opportunities to personally respond to the needs in Haiti.**

However, we must realize the current reality. I have spoken with our Southern Baptist leadership and many people in Haiti and the Dominican Republic who have on going ministries in Haiti. The reality is, at this time there are many conditions that prevent large numbers of volunteers from any organization from responding:

1. The chaos and the lack of security poses a very dangerous environment
2. The infrastructure will not support large numbers of additional people.
3. Travel to and inside of Haiti is very difficult and dangerous
4. Logistical support and supplies are in short supply
5. Housing, fuel, food, and water are in very short supply

Many are asking about what can we do now.

PREPARE!!!!

Encourage your family, church, small group, and Sunday School class participate in "Buckets of Hope For Haiti". These buckets of food will be used to provide food and the HOPE of our Lord Jesus for the victims of the Haiti earthquake.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW!

Buckets of Hope for Haiti

Buckets of Hope" – Feeding the People of Haiti one Family at a Time



**BUCKETS
OF HOPE**

The “Buckets of Hope” ministry is just one means by which Baptists can fulfill the mandate of Jesus Christ to feed the hungry in the name of Jesus. As we are reminded in Matthew 25:45, Jesus tells us, “Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.” (KJV)

A “Bucket of Hope” consists of a plastic five-gallon bucket packed with selected foodstuffs. For approximately \$30 anyone can purchase the materials and assemble a “Bucket of Hope.” The food contained in a single bucket will feed a Haitian family for a week. You are also requested to include a \$10 cash contribution, placed in an envelope and attached to the lid of the bucket, to offset the cost of transporting the relief buckets to Haiti.

Every bucket must be exactly alike with a specific list of items inside. Please follow the detailed instructions carefully. This will ensure that every bucket quickly passes through customs and into the hands of the Haitian people.

Contact SBTC Disaster Relief for delivery dates and instructions. Then put a bucket together and you can be a part in touching the lives of tens of thousands of Haitians.

The instructions for “Buckets of Hope” can be found at www.sbtexas.com and click on the heading “SBTC Disaster Relief Report for Haiti”.

PREPARE TO VOLUNTEER!!

Trained Volunteers need to be preparing by getting your passports in order and making sure your shots are up to date.

The shot information can be found on the Center for Disease Control website <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>, or by going to your doctor, or local health department

Untrained volunteers are encouraged to prepare by attending SBTC Disaster Relief Phase 1 Training, have their passports in order, and have their shots up to date. We have disaster relief training in various locations across Texas January through May. You can find this information, registration forms, and regular updates on our website at www.sbtexas.com/dr.

2010 SBTC Disaster Relief Training Dates

Phase 1 Trainings

January 09, 2010

Memorial Baptist Church
4001 Trimmer Road
Killeen, TX 76542

February 06, 2010

First Baptist Church
State Highway 11
Tom Bean, Texas

March 06, 2010

Inglewood Baptist Church
1901 S. Carrier Parkway
Grand Prairie, TX 75051

April 16, 2010 Training at the SENT Conference

Champion Forest Baptist Church
15555 Stuebner Airline RD
Houston, TX 77069

May 15, 2010

First Baptist Church, Vidor
350 N Main
Vidor, TX 77662

Phase 2 Training and Round Table

May 03-08, 2010

Riverbend Baptist
Encampment
1232-C County Road 411B
Glen Rose, Texas 76043

Medically trained persons interested in serving on a medical team, in the event one is requested, can send your contact information to me at jrichardson@sbtexas.com.

Please monitor the SBTC website for recent updates www.sbtexas.com/dr and contact me by email should you have questions or concerns.

PRAY!!!!

Please join me in prayer:

1. For the people in Haiti especially those affected by the earthquake
2. The personnel at NAMB, BGR, and FBC as decisions are made
3. Leadership team in Haiti from NAMB, FBC, and BGR as they arrive and make decisions
4. Leadership team safety as they arrive in Haiti
5. Volunteers who will be responding
6. Opportunities to share the HOPE of Jesus

Churches desiring to make a donation to the Disaster Relief response in Haiti through the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention can do so by making a donation designated to "Disaster Relief Haiti". On line donations can be made from the website homepage at www.sbtexas.com.

Legislation Allows 2009 Tax Deductions for 2010 Haiti Donations

President Obama signed legislation on Friday, January 22, 2010, to allow tax deductible cash contributions made after Jan 11, 2010 and before March 1, 2010 for "RELIEF OF VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI" to be included as a tax-deductible contribution on 2009 tax returns.

American Samoa

We have rebuild opportunities now for American Samoa.

There is a great opportunity in American Samoa for rebuild ministry. Volunteer teams of 5 for repair and rebuild ministry. Skills needed are concrete block, carpenters, painters, plumbing, and electrical. Volunteers need to be able to teach the trade as well as do it. Volunteers need to be comfortable in sharing testimony one on one and in front a group. Volunteers should be in good health, it is hot and humid and work is hard. Volunteers not to have a valid passport and stay a minimum of 2 weeks

The cost is \$10.00 a day for housing and you food. If you eat \$30.00 of food a day the two week trip will cost you \$420.00.

Oklahoma Ice Storm

SBTC volunteers are serving in Oklahoma in response to the ice storm. These volunteers are serving by providing assessment for chainsaw teams that will be cleaning up the area around Lawton. Volunteers trained in SBTC operations, chaplaincy, and cleanup and recovery are on standby to respond as requested to the needs in Oklahoma.

Please join me in prayer for those impacted by the ice storm and the volunteers who are responding.

North American Mission Board

Disaster Relief Update - Saturday, January 30, 2010

"Then Job answered the Lord, and said, I know that thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted...Hear now, and I will speak; I will ask Thee, and do as thou instruct me..." (Job 42:1, 2 and 4)

Urgent Call to Ugent Prayer Sunday, January 31, for SBC

This Sunday Southern Baptists have been issued a Call to Urgent Prayer by our leaders. Let us take time to thank our Lord, who can indeed do all things, for His goodness and discover what He is asking of us. [Learn more](#) about tomorrow's day of prayer.

This weekend, some of us might be a little cold, have to navigate icy roads, and maybe shovel snow. We might even have to bear a few hours without power, but we have our homes, food in the kitchen, and stores open down the street. For most of us the inconvenience will be short lived and soon life will return to normal. For our brothers and sisters in Haiti, it will be a long time before life seems "normal" again.

Haiti Earthquake

New! "Buckets of Hope"

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is inviting every Baptist to join together in feeding the Haitian people. For \$30 you can fill a white bucket with specific food items that will feed a family in Haiti for a week. To see all the details, visit the ["Buckets of Hope"](#) website.

Kentucky and Mississippi medical teams are packed, supplies of medical equipment and medicines are crated, and spirits are high as these 20 men and women prepare to leave the comfort of their own homes, the sterile environment of their hospitals, and trade it for sleeping on floors and working without high tech OR and ER equipment. Their next week will not be quite like MASH 4077 but it will be in very difficult circumstances. Pray for them as they continue to prepare spiritually and emotionally for this difficult mission. Plans are to have medical teams to rotate in and out for awhile. It is expected that the deployment of recovery teams is still a couple of weeks away.

Terry Henderson, along with an incident command team and communication team, will travel to Port-au-Prince this week and set up a communication system and an incident command office. They are taking a jump kit for Ham radio operations which will help establish a more dependable communication network. Henderson and the IC team will join up with Fritz Wilson and Dennis Wilbanks, both from Florida, who traveled to Haiti on Friday to continue working out in-country transportation and housing logistics. IC and communication teams will rotate in and out of Haiti as long as they are needed. The greatest hurdles to deploying personnel to Port-as-Prince continue to be transportation into and within Haiti, security, and housing.

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Oklahoma Ice Storm

Oklahoma took in the welcome mat, turned out the lights, and even locked the doors, but the unwelcome winter guest came in anyway and it looks like it will stay awhile. Sources report more than 140,000 homes in Oklahoma are without power with many accidents and an untold numbers of trees and power lines down.

Oklahoma Baptists have been down this road before so they were well prepared. They had pre-positioned feeding units in key areas and placed all their recovery units on alert. On Friday, Sam Porter, Oklahoma state disaster relief director, moved units around to place them in the hardest hit areas. Porter asked that neighboring states help by sending assessors so that clean up can

begin as soon as possible. Louisiana, New Mexico, Southern Baptists of Texas, and Texas Baptist Men have responded, and as soon as the roads are passable assessment teams from these states will deploy to Oklahoma.

American Samoa

Your prayers are still needed for Larry Koch. He and his wife Elaine have been in American Samoa for a month with two more months to serve. He is suffering from complications due to a mosquito bite. Medicine and daily visits to a clinic are helping. Even while struggling with his health, Larry continues to provide leadership to the repair teams. The Arizona repair team remains hard at work. A North Carolina team will arrive on February 4th to join them. Let us not forget the plight of the American Samoan people. Teams will be needed here for many months to come.

Schedule of Rebuild Teams

Arizona	January 24 - February 7
North Carolina	February 4 - February 14
Kentucky	February 28 - March 14
Utah/Idaho	March 14 - March 24
SBCV	March 24 - April 11
Utah/Idaho	April 18 - May 2

Donations to the Hawaii-Pacific Baptist Convention American Samoa Relief Fund can be made [online](#) through the NAMB Disaster Relief Donations website by selecting Tsunami Relief on the donation form.

American Samoa Disaster Relief Activity Report to Date

Professions of Faith	18
Gospel Presentations	131
Chaplaincy Contacts	405
Ministry Contacts	1,493
Other Decisions	1
Volunteer Days	454
Children Cared For	241
Water Purified (gallons)	7,013

National Disaster Relief Leadership

- Bruce Poss, Disaster Relief Unit Coordinator
- Terry Henderson, Disaster Relief Operations Consultant
- Karl Ragan, Disaster Relief Planning Consultant

Baptist Global Response

Four new medical teams headed to Haiti

Southern Baptist medical units from Kentucky and Mississippi will leave for Port-Au-Prince Jan. 30, while Florida and South Carolina medical units will fly out Wednesday, Feb. 3. The teams will have 10 members each – including doctors, nurses, chaplains and disaster relief experts.

The teams from Kentucky and Mississippi were in a position to lead the effort because they were “on call” in the Baptist Global Response disaster relief rotation, explained Jim Brown, BGR’s U.S. director. Florida and South Carolina were able to quickly provide follow up assistance because they were on call the previous month.

Both Kentucky and Mississippi provided leaders for the joint assessment team – Coy Webb from Kentucky and Don Gann from Mississippi – that returned from Haiti Jan. 25.

Medical teams from Arkansas and North Carolina recently completed ministry stints in Haiti and returned home.

Chaplains were added as an integral part of response teams because the joint assessment team saw the need to provide care for survivors, the volunteer team itself, and for Haitian care givers, Brown noted.

Transportation directly into Port-Au-Prince continues to be an obstacle. The airport still has only one operational runway, which military and private aircraft must use to both land and take off. Commercial airline flights still are prohibited. These initial four medical teams will be traveling to Port-au-Prince through the Dominican Republic, Brown added. Southern Baptist personnel in the Dominican Republic, working in partnership with BGR, are helping facilitate and organize the volunteers' travel into Haiti.