



July 2007

An Open Letter to the Churches of the Presbyterian Church in America

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As assigned by the General Assembly, Mission to North America serves as the PCA agency coordinating Disaster Response in North America.

The hurricane season is very much upon us. Other disasters are constantly in the news, all across North America. To encourage our churches to prepare to minister in their own communities, as well as to serve other communities impacted by disaster, we are sending this mailing to all of our churches.

A DVD and a CD are included in the enclosed case. We have just produced the CD, ***MNA Disaster Response CD Manual***. This CD Manual provides guidance to presbyteries, churches, missions teams, and individual members, in responding to disasters. The content of this manual was assembled by Disaster Response Key Leaders working with MNA staff. It is prepared for PCA churches to assist in preparing their own Disaster Response ministry. Please use the information freely and distribute it as widely as possible

Also enclosed is ***The Long Haul***, a DVD, produced in 2006 as a report on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The relief and rebuilding work continues today. *We invite and encourage you to participate, as hundreds of PCA members continue to serve each day all along the gulf coast from Biloxi to New Orleans. MNA Disaster Response welcomes your participation and will be happy to coordinate matching your team of volunteers with one of our churches.*

Just as the major disasters offer opportunity for ministry, so do the local disasters that are more limited in scope. Our hope and prayer is that our PCA experience with hurricane relief will encourage and equip us in responding to other disasters. And further, our hope is that we will begin to serve our own communities more effectively during times of need.

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As we offer this resource to further equip you for ministry, I want to remind you of our funding structure at MNA. 100% of designated gifts go to their intended purpose. This means that we take no administrative fees from gifts given for relief in a particular disaster. Our administrative overhead is funded by the Partnership Share/Askings giving of the churches. In addition, Disaster Response Director Arklie Hooten and other staff members working in the field are supported almost entirely by gifts designated for their support. Please consider giving generously to support their crucial work. A brochure presenting Arklie's ministry is enclosed.

The work of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a spiritual work. It is to be done in humble dependence on the power of God Himself, and that power is accessed through faith and prayer. At the beginning, through it all, and at the end, our greatest resource is prayer. When we seek deliverance from disaster, we should pray; when we seek safety we should pray; when we seek help we should pray; when we seek money we should pray; when we seek volunteers we should pray; when we need wisdom to know what to do we should pray; when we have trouble in dealing with agencies or personalities we should pray. We will plan and prepare; we will work and act; we will sacrifice and risk; and we will do it in the power and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For further information, contact: Arklie Hooten, MNA ShortTerm Missions and Disaster Response Director. Email: ahooten@pcanet.org Cell: 678-294-3011

To schedule your church for short term mission trips: Kaamilya McCullough, MNA ShortTerm Missions and Disaster Response Administrative Assistant. Email: kmccullough@pcanet.org Office: 678-825-1243 Cell: 678-294-3012

May God bless you as you serve Him, and may we bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ ever more faithfully in those times of greatest need in our communities.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Bland". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jim Bland
MNA Coordinator