

Baptist Brotherhood Disaster Relief Organization

When Hurricane Beulah ravaged the Rio Grande Valley in 1967, Baptist relief efforts were sporadic and disorganized. Some Texas Baptist Men volunteered to help the storm's victims who had experienced the confusion and disorganization of Beulah's wake. They decided Baptists needed organization and cooperation to better minister in the face of disasters. From that beginning, cooperation among Baptists in times of disaster has blossomed into a well-organized, highly cooperative effort. The North American Mission Board, along with state Baptist Brotherhood leaders, has taken the lead in organizing Southern Baptists to respond to disasters. They contribute manpower, ministry and financial help during floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires and earthquakes. Southern Baptists have built 160 mobile mass feeding, recovery, and childcare units.

Southern Baptists efforts are correlated primarily with the American Red Cross and with other private agencies through National VOAD. This interest in helping people in times of sorrow involves more than mobile units. State conventions have volunteers ready to assist in any part of the world as requested.

Some recent operations as of 11/11/99 of Baptist relief efforts are...Fritz Wilson, Florida Baptist Men's director, reports more than 55,000 meals were prepared as a result of flooding following

Another operation was in the wake of Hurricane Irene's march through south Florida. The Florida feeding unit was activated and moved to Glendale Baptist Church, Cutler Ridge on Monday, Oct. 18. The unit closed the following the evening meals Friday, Oct. 29.

Richard Brunson, North Carolina Baptist Men's director, reports the recovery efforts continue in North Carolina. The mud-outs and tear-outs of homes continue in the wake of the flooding following Hurricane Floyd. Rebuilding has begun on some of the more than 1,000 homes that have been torn out and dried to an acceptable level by Baptist volunteers.

Don Hargis, California Baptist Men's director, reports assistance was provided to the families in Bella Vista, Cal. following a fire that destroyed 180 homes. The recovery unit was activated Oct. 19. More than 100 volunteers assisted in cleaning 46 homes.

Southern Baptist disaster relief is Christian love in action, meeting urgent needs of hurting humanity in crisis situations. Disaster response is meeting those needs with loving care and timely response as James 2:15-16 instructs us. There is no hidden agenda or ulterior motive. ...Our Southern Baptist disaster relief logo incorporates both kinds of ministry exemplified by Christ. The arch of the Southern Baptist Convention is our worldwide link. The wheat is a symbol of physical help. The fish is a symbol of spiritual help. For further information check out the organization's website at www.namb.net