



## Disaster Preparedness Checklist

- 1) Appoint a district pastor/lay person who has a heart for relief and community development to head up a disaster response task force (three to five people maximum). Keep it simple. Beware of establishing bureaucratic infrastructure which is unwieldy in responding quickly to a disaster. Partner with local evangelical churches of other denominations rather than assuming The Alliance will go it alone.
- 2) Get acquainted with personnel from your local and state disaster response infrastructure as well as Red Cross or Salvation Army personnel. Build a bridge to them by investing in a meal and learning their plans for disaster response. Ask about training programs they could provide to volunteers. Exchange business cards and phone numbers. Why re-invent the wheel in disaster response? Learn from and partner with others. Consider such conversations pre-evangelism, if not spring boards to sharing your faith in the context of how one faces a disaster.
- 3) Establish criteria for when a district would initiate a relief operation for its churches and the communities served by the church (threshold amount of damage, requests from local and state officials, targeting strategic assistance to an area considered strategic for church planting, etc.).
- 4) Determine what expectations there would be if churches were used as disaster shelters or relief bases. Offer churches for such use if expectations can be met. Partner with other local churches. Think of the good will this would sow.
- 5) Determine what supplies would be needed in the event of a disaster – water, blankets, canned foods, etc. – and determine which stores provide supplies at bulk rates. Take the time to meet with store managers and learn their views on how they would be willing to help in a disaster context. If recurring disasters (such as hurricanes or tornadoes) are endemic to your geographical locale, consider a small warehouse or rental unit where you could store basic supplies.
- 6) Procure up-to-date maps of areas prone to disaster to determine alternate supply routes as necessary.
- 7) Develop a list of people who would be willing to provide pick-up trucks or larger vehicles to assist in distributing supplies.
- 8) Develop a list of doctors, nurses, and construction workers who could form an initial team to go into a disaster area.
- 9) Determine how you will follow up with people who receive aid. Develop an appropriate evangelistic outreach while keeping in mind that assistance should be rendered without any strings attached.
- 10) Pray for God to use you as channels of compassion through which God turns a disaster into an opportunity for blessing.