

May 5, 2010

We have much to pray about this May. As we have talked with friends from Tennessee, North Alabama, Mississippi, and the Gulf Coast, we are so aware of the urgency to respond. The most powerful response to these neighbors and friends is always through prayer. I urge you to form prayer groups and to pray individually and collectively.

Other ways to respond are being gathered. There will be need for cleaning kits (flood buckets) and health kits. The need for detergents and other specialized cleaning materials for the coast will be broadcasts when they are requested.

ERT and debris removal teams are needed now in Mississippi and Tennessee, and next week in North Alabama. If you have heavy equipment and such, please contact me so that you and your equipment and team can be used in the most appropriate way.

A listing of conferences and information is below. As your congregations and groups prepare, please remember to register with our Conference Disaster Response Team if you are responding and with the Conference Disaster Response for the area you plan to help.

If the AWF Disaster Response Team can be of service to you, please don't hesitate to call. Our information is posted on the website and new updates will be posted as new information comes in to us.

Blessings & Peace,

Amelia Fletcher, Disaster Response Coordinator, AWF

1-251-978-8384 amelia@gulfshoresumc.org

Response to Gulf Coast

The oil spill in our Gulf is projected to impact our fishing, shrimping, and tourism. Volunteers will be needed for wildlife cleanup and coastal cleanup. Because of the nature of the spill it is advised that healthy adults be our on-site volunteers. Our other volunteers will be used in other ways. As information for volunteers is presented to us, it will be passed along and posted on the Conference website.

Response for North Alabama

Information from the NA Disaster Coordinators : Monday, May 10, will be a general cleanup day with heavy equipment. ERT and Debris cleanup teams are requested for that time. Please register your team with the North Alabama Conference Disaster team. Teams will need food, sleeping bags. May be housed in churches with shower facilities.

Disaster Recovery Centers operated by the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency opened Tuesday in DeKalb and Marshall counties for those affected by severe spring storms and tornadoes of late April.

The Disaster Recovery Centers in DeKalb County are located at:

DeKalb County Senior Center
600 Tyler Avenue SE
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Fyffe Senior Center
413 Graves Street
Fyffe, AL 35967

The Disaster Recovery Center in Marshall County is located at:

Albertville Neighborhood Facility Center
915 W. McKinney Ave.
Albertville, AL 35950

The centers are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Disaster officials ask that before visiting the centers, people first register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling **800-621-FEMA** **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585**. **The toll-free numbers are staffed 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week until further notice.** Help in all languages is available.

Response for Mississippi

The Mississippi Conference received significant damage during April's tornadoes and most recently from last week's tornadoes and flooding. We are in need of teams for a recovery that will take several months to one year minimum.

Teams are needed throughout the state for debris removal, flood cleanup and construction. Below is a listing of places in need of assistance along with contact information:

Yazoo City

Debris removal is being coordinated through the MCVS VRC located at the DRC in the National Guard Armory in Yazoo City. There is a site to host teams already and we will be opening a site projected operational in two weeks. This present operational site is provided through a VOAD partner the Episcopal Church, and has a capacity of 100 and is already in operation.

Camp Swayze (Boy Scout Camp)

1655 County Barn Rd

Yazoo City

Contact Person: Butch Jones, Cell# 228-234-5169

Ebenezer

There is a VRC, volunteer reception center, located at the VFD in Ebenezer. They have presently close to 100 work orders. This is within 20 miles of Yazoo City and is serviceable from the host sites there.

Mill Springs

Debris removal is needed in this area and is being coordinated from Mill Springs Missionary Baptist Church.

Weir

Debris removal is needed and is being coordinated from the DRC located at the Gymnasium at Weir.

Corinth

Relief efforts are presently coordinated from the Crossroads Arena. The needs are for flood clean up. There is a question as to who, what and how. 74 rental units were impacted which are rental assisted. There is a possibility that this is contaminated by raw sewage and will be deemed hazardous waste. Volunteers will need to check before responding.

Walnut

As of yesterday there were 35 needs identified for debris removal in the Brownfield area. This is being coordinated from Harmony Baptist Church by MCVS. Harmony Baptist is located just north of highway 72 on highway 15.

Ashland

Debris removal is needed at Ashland and the response is being coordinated from a facility located at the crossroads of old highway 370 and new highway 370.

Abbeville

Debris removal is needed in the Abbeville area and this is being coordinated by Rev. Jim Peterman phone # 662-816-3985.

Note that there will be an ERT training May 15th at Wheeler UMC.

Hot line for info and offers/needs in the Mississippi Conference: 1-866-647-7486

Response Tennessee Conference

ERT Teams Rev. Jason Brock, Disaster Response Coordinator for the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church, reports that flooding is widespread in the Nashville area and elsewhere in that

conference. Rev. Brock is specifically requesting UMCOR-trained Early Response Teams. UMCOR ERTs who are interested in working in Tennessee are requested to contact Rev. Brock at JBrock@tnumc.com. Please include information about the size and ability of your team.

Blessings & Peace,
Amelia



Amelia Fletcher
Director of Gulf Shore UMC Servant Ministries... meeting physical needs in a
AWF Conference Disaster Response
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