



*Tennessee Baptist Missionary & Educational Convention, Inc.*

## **THE DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY**

**The Report and Proposed Operations Handbook**

*So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work. Nehemiah 4:6*

**Deacon Robert A. Pope, Ministry Chairman**

**Elder C. Danny Johnson, Director, Missions**

**ELDER DR. JOE B. MADDOX**  
**Convention President**

## **Recent Disaster Relief Ministry Effort Report**

When Hurricane Harvey came from the Gulf of Mexico to devastate Western Louisiana and Southern Texas it impacted the lives of the people of that area with disabling loss of life, property and possessions. Those surviving the hurricane were struggling to survive in an environment that left them homeless and with many needs to sustain life and remain healthy.



**Truck Arriving In Texas**

President Maddox felt that this Convention had to respond in some meaningful way. He called on the Convention to deliver aid to the people of Texas. The Convention responded by gathering Relief items in their churches throughout this state. At President Maddox's direction Brother Pope contacted the Laymen President of the Texas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Brother Charles Wright to further define their needs. Additionally, the Convention President for the Texas Convention, Pastor Aaron Reynolds was placed in contact with President Maddox. President Reynolds shared his prospective with President Maddox.

Regional gathering points were established in churches and the Headquarters Building in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, Jackson and Memphis. The Pastors in each of the churches that were used as gathering points very graciously provided staff and space to manage the items



**Relief Items Unloaded**

brought to these locations. The Convention and President Maddox are very grateful for their willingness to serve in this ministry.

In the Eastern Region the gathering points were New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Knoxville, Elder Dr. Joe B. Maddox and New Monumental Baptist Church of

Chattanooga, Rev. Dr Roderick Ware; in the Middle Region, TN BM&E Convention Headquarters Building; and in the Western Region, St. James Baptist Church in Jackson, Rev. Dr. Ernest Polk and New Hope Baptist Church of Memphis, Rev. Dr. Robert J. Matthews.

Brother Charles Ewing, Memphis District Laymen President, was contacted and asked to provide transportation services for this ministry work. Brother Ewing is the founder and owner of Ewing Moving and Storage provided a truck to pick up the Relief items from the Convention's



gathering points. Ewing Moving and Storage gathered the Relief items from the Convention's Headquarters Building Friday to store the items in their Nashville storage facility to await the truck that will transport the items to Texas. The truck picked up the Relief items from the gathering points Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



The truck left Ewing Moving and Storage Memphis location Monday and transported the items to Borden Chapel Baptist Church in Beaumont, TX and arrived there Tuesday afternoon. See Page 2 of the truck arriving in Texas. Photos sent by Brother Charles Wright.

Some lessons from this experience include the need for expanded communication with the churches and Districts.

Expanding communication will facilitate participation by more churches and Districts. Identifying an additional gathering point (church) in the southern area of the Middle Region to assist churches and Districts participate in the Disaster Relief Ministry. Also, the gathering points should have direct contact with truck driver. Establish and communicate a schedule for gathering, pickup and delivery of Relief items. Establish a storage facility that contains Relief items that may be deployed immediately when a Disaster occurs.

## An Introduction

The information contained in this Disaster Relief Ministry document will standardize how the Convention implements this ministry and effectively ministers to persons adversely impacted by a Natural Disaster. This ministry is the result of work experience previously completed in Baton Rouge, LA and more recently in Beaumont, TX. When the Convention is notified by the Convention President, Director, Missions and/or Chairman, Disaster Relief Ministry, this document will be used as a guide to assist the Convention's Ministries, individuals, churches, Districts and Regions understand their role and the direction of the Relief effort. As with anything, your concerns, questions and recommendations can only improve the approach (s) and the operations of the Disaster Relief Ministry. This document considers the Biblical Response, the Convention Response and the National Response to Natural Disasters.

The Disaster Relief Ministry is a function of the Missions Ministry and is led by the President of the Laymen Ministry. A ministry planning and operations team will be established within the Missions and Laymen Ministries with assistance from the Laity Ministries. Additionally, support from the Convention's Leadership Team and churches to develop operating policies and procedures that can effectively implement the Disaster Relief Ministry within the Convention to support disasters within Tennessee and nationally.

This ministry effort includes work in natural and other disasters within Tennessee and beyond the state's borders. The ministry links to the National Baptist Convention USA Inc.'s National Baptist Laymen Movement and Disaster Relief Management, governmental agencies, such as Federal Emergency Management Agency and Environmental Protection Agency, and private organizations like the Red Cross and other Christian and charitable organizations.

## The Biblical Response

As a scriptural base for this ministry the Book of Nehemiah serves as inspirational guidance for the Convention. Beginning in Chapter One when Nehemiah gets the news that the Gates and Walls of Jerusalem have been destroyed, he is very distraught but soon began to **Pray** to God. This **Prayer** serves two purposes; it **Prepares** Nehemiah for his new work and it **Prepares** the way for him to achieve Gods purpose.

The way is **Prepared** because the King gives Nehemiah his **Permission** to **Proceed** to Jerusalem. The King also gives a Letter of **Passage** to safely move through foreign lands. The King also gave Nehemiah soldiers for his **Protection**. The King finally gave Nehemiah authorization to **Procure** the **Provisions** needed to rebuild the Gates and the Wall. As we consider this work of helping people that have been impacted by tragedy and heartbreak, our prayers to God will prepare us and the way for us to accomplish his will in the life of His people.

As we approach the work of the destroyed Gates and Walls **Nehemiah 4:6** comes into focus as the **Passion** of the people will bring care, consolation and solutions to the disaster and cause healing and restoration. This Convention has the resources in the form of its Passionate People to impact the lives of God's people.

## The TBM&E Convention Response

The Disaster Relief Ministry of this Convention is established to effectively bring comfort and care to Brothers and Sisters that have been impacted by the devastation of a Natural Disaster in their life and community.

The Disaster Relief Ministry consists of the Laity Ministries (Laymen, Women, Ushers and Missions) of the Convention with support from the Clergy Ministries (Moderators and Pastors) and Regional Vice Presidents (or their designee). These Ministries will communicate, coordinate, and work within their area to ensure that churches, Districts and Regions are notified and respond to the need of our brothers and sisters in peril. President Maddox designated the Laymen Ministry the Lead Ministry and Brother Robert Pope as Chairman of the Disaster Relief Ministry.

## Disaster Relief Ministry Locations

These locations have been identified throughout the Convention that will be used to gather Relief items and serve as the pickup locations for transportation to the area in need. These locations have been identified and are ready to serve:

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### Eastern Region

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#### New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

2504 Cecil Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917

Elder Dr. Joe B. Maddox, Senior Pastor  
(865) 522-1267

#### New Monumental Baptist Church

901 Woodmore Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37411

Rev. Dr. Roderick Ware, Senior Pastor  
(423) 629-6106

### Middle Region

#### TN BM&E Convention Headquarters

900 Jefferson St. Nashville, TN 37228

Sister Joyce Lee, Administrator  
(615) 254-3115

**Western Region**

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**St. James Missionary Baptist Church**

278 Preston St., Jackson, TN 38301

Rev. Dr. Ernest Polk, Senior Pastor

**New Hope Baptist Church of Memphis**

2356 Elvis Presley Blvd., Memphis, TN 38106

Rev. Dr. Robert J. Matthews, Senior Pastor

Thank God for these Pastors and the congregations they serve for their willingness to support this Ministry in this manner. During the gathering of Relief items, it is highly recommended that the Headquarters Building or the Church is contacted to coordinate the delivery requirements of Relief items to these locations. Office hours and available staff are some of the considerations for gaining access to the gathering point facility.

**Relief Items**

The following categories of Relief Items will be collected by the churches of the Convention and transported to the area of need. Non-perishable Items **ONLY**.

**Water and/or Juice**

Packaged Water or Juice Only

**Clothes**

New or Gently Used (Clean) Pants and Shirts (Men, Women and Children)

New (in the package) Under Wear, Socks and Shoes/Sneakers

**Toiletries**

Tooth Paste, Tooth Brushes, Soap (Bar or Liquid), Deodorant, Shampoo, Shaving Supplies, Powder, Women Hygiene Products, Combs and Brushes, Lotion

**Household**

Bed Linen, Blankets, Towels, Cleaning Products, Flashlights and Batteries

**Financial**

Please make financial donations payable to **TBM&E Convention** with **Disaster Relief Ministry** on the Memo Line

**Communications**

Communication for a Disaster Relief effort will begin with a notification from President Maddox to the Convention Officers, churches, Districts and Regions of the Convention. Each Laity Ministry Leader will forward the communication to their Ministry. Pastors and Moderators are requested to facilitate communicating the notice to the congregations and Districts they serve. This approach ensures maximum understanding and impact of the actions needed to provide assistance to the area of need in the shortest time possible. Inquiries regarding the Relief effort will be forwarded to Brother Pope, Thomas Allen or a Regional Laymen Vice President.

Robert Pope (901) 651-2488 – Thomas Allen (404) 312-5606

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**Eastern Region**

George Maffett, Jr.  
(423) 320-2900

**Middle Region**

Thomas D. Butler  
(615) 354-7482

**Western Region**

Tommie Hooker  
(229) 944-5499

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Request each Laity Ministry President and the Missions Director identify a person in their ministry that will represent the ministry with Disaster Relief planning and operation in each Region. Please have this person contact the Laymen in the respective Region and provide contact information to the Laymen to facilitate communication.

### **Transportation and Storage**

Ewing Moving and Storage Company is the preferred transportation method for the Disaster Relief Ministry. It has the personnel, equipment and facility capability to serve this ministry in an exceptional manner. When a Natural Disaster occurs in any area of the continental United States, Ewing Moving and Storage can respond. The Laymen Ministry will contact Ewing Moving and Storage when the need arises. A truck is identified and scheduled as required to accommodate the need of pickup and delivery Relief items to the area of need.

Storage facility personnel are needed for the Nashville location, specifically if pickup is needed for the weekend. Additionally, it is recommended that a rental space is established in the Ewing Moving and Storage Nashville facility to store water and other non-perishable items to facilitate a quick response to Natural Disasters any area of the United States.

### **The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Response**

The Convention can also respond to the Natural Disaster in a more personal manner. Disaster Relief Management of the National Baptist Convention, Inc. is the Auxiliary designated to manage this ministry work. The National Baptist Laymen Movement is designated to coordinate gathering men and women to visit the Disaster site to assist the clean up and restoration work related to the devastation.



Port Arthur, Texas

The travel, lodging and per diem costs are covered by the National Baptist Convention. Disaster Relief Management acquires a hotel for lodging and a restaurant is identified for meals, and the transportation to the Disaster area is reimbursed. Skills Trades persons should bring their tools and equipment. Agreements are developed with stores like Home Depot, Lowes and others to acquire building materials by funds from Disaster Relief Management. Typically, persons are requested to stay at the site for one week (Monday through Friday), travelling on Sunday and Saturday.

Brother Joseph Hunt (901) 310-0932 will gather the contact information of persons desiring to travel to the Disaster area. He will also collect the desired schedule, skill sets and contact information that may impact travel and lodging.



### Recommendations

1. Expand the gathering points to a location in southern area of the Middle Region to facilitate more participation by churches and Districts of that area in the Convention's Disaster Relief Ministry.
2. Consider developing satellite gathering points that transport Relief Items to the Regional gathering points to encourage still more participation.
3. Establish and maintain a database of men and women that can be deployed to the disaster site. Skilled persons or willing workers are welcomed to be part of this ministry.
4. Present Disaster Relief Ministry during Regional and District meetings to facilitate improved understanding of this ministry's approach and process.
5. Develop training that is presented during the Congress of Christian Education.
6. Develop a budget to support the transportation of Relief items from the gathering points to the disaster site and to support the development and maintenance of emergency deployment items.



*Matthew 20:28 (KJV)*

<sup>28</sup> *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*