

September 2012

State Missions: Telling the Story through Disaster Relief

Matthew 25:34-46

Emphasis: To help men accept the responsibility of telling the story of Jesus.

Teaching: Earthquakes in Japan, tsunami's in Indonesia, hurricanes and tornadoes in Mississippi are all reminders that disaster can strike anywhere. Disasters also come in a variety of forms: bombings, chemical spills, ice storms, fires, etc. A disaster is defined as "...an occurrence that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance." (Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief, pg. 9, 2004.)

Southern Baptists have been trying to alleviate the sufferings and needs that people encounter as a result of a disaster since 1967. Following Hurricane Beulah in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas in 1967, until the present, Southern Baptists have been greatly involved in Disaster Relief and have played a huge role in helping Southern Baptist Disaster Relief to grow into one of the three largest disaster relief agencies in the United States.

Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief responds to any and all disasters that affect our state. The many trained responders are willing to go at a moment's notice to provide assistance in a disaster.

Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) derives part of its funding from the Margaret Lackey State



Missions (MLSMO) offering. This funding enables MBDR to meet the needs of Mississippians when disasters occur, as well as assist other state conventions when they experience disasters.

In Matthew 25:34-46, Jesus speaks of ministering to people in times of disaster in their lives. It is in times of disaster that the church has the opportunity to minister to people who possibly will never come to church. When people are hurting and needing help, they will be open to Christians demonstrating Christ's love through cleaning mud out of their home, serving a meal, cleaning debris from their house and yard, etc. And when we minister to hurting people, Jesus says that we are ministering to Him.

Notes

Through giving to the MLSMO, the men of your church, along with other church members, have the opportunity to minister to hurting people in times of disaster. These are people your men may not know and probably will never meet. However, hurting people's lives can be changed and brought to faith in Jesus because Baptist men give to the MLSMO and made it possible for MBDR responders to "give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name."

Mission Application: Consider having a trained disaster relief responder to come and speak to your men's group or church. Contact the Men's Ministry department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for a list of speakers. Contact your church office to determine your church's goal for State Missions and how much your church has given toward this goal. Encourage the men to give to the MLSMO.

