

Heart to Heart Responds In Wake of Isaac

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

By NCN News Staff

Heart to Heart International staff members are in emergency response mode, coordinating relief efforts in Haiti in the wake of Tropical Storm Isaac. The storm battered the Caribbean nation on August 24 before strengthening to a category 1 hurricane and making landfall in Louisiana, USA, early Wednesday.

Founded by a Nazarene, Dr. Gary Morsch, Heart to Heart utilizes the Church of the Nazarene network to respond to disasters in Haiti.

Heart to Heart International has maintained a presence in Haiti since the deadly January 2010 earthquake, working alongside Haitian doctors and nurses while operating volunteer centers, coordinating medical volunteers, and delivering humanitarian medical aid to 12 community clinics. These clinics are found in Port-au-Prince, Leogane, and in the remote, mountainous Southeast Department of Haiti.

The latest disaster to strike Haiti, Isaac killed at least 19 residents and caused substantial wind and flood damage in the southeastern portion of the country.

Heart to Heart's director of Haiti Operations, Josh Jakobitz, said no Nazarene churches or Heart to Heart clinics were significantly damaged in the storm and there have been no reports of injuries to Nazarene families. As of Wednesday, many remained without electricity.

Heart to Heart is uniquely positioned to respond in southeastern Haiti because it is the leading international, non-governmental organization in the area. The organization has reliable transportation to distribute humanitarian aid and medical professionals to the most affected communities.

Heart to Heart International followed Isaac's movement as it pushed into the Gulf of Mexico and reached Louisiana as a category 1 hurricane. The slow-moving storm was downgraded back to a tropical storm after it made landfall in Louisiana, but brought 80-mile-an-hour winds and up to 20 inches of rain and 12-foot swells, causing flooding. On Wednesday afternoon, Isaac was over New Orleans, exactly seven years to the day Hurricane Katrina struck the city in 2005.

While the state of Louisiana was predicted to take the brunt of the storm, the 200-mile-wide storm cell left residents in Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, and Florida without power. Low-lying areas on the Mississippi and Alabama coasts were evacuated, and the Mississippi River rose as much as eight feet.

Church of the Nazarene Louisiana and Mississippi District Superintendent Greg Mason reported three churches, in Pearl River and Slidell, Louisiana, and Gloster, Mississippi, lost power, but did not sustain significant damage.

Many have evacuated to the district's campground, Rocky Creek.

"[There are] forecasts of heavy rain and wind to move up through Alexandria, Louisiana, where we have evacuated all of our Hispanic congregations," Mason said. "Hopefully the [district] campground will not flood and will retain power. We do have some generators there should we need them."

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada and Nazarene Disaster Response are on alert and are monitoring the situation.

NDR teams are prepared to respond to flooding of homes and churches, as well as other recovery efforts. Heart to Heart is planning a mobilization to the Gulf Coast, as needed, possibly consisting of humanitarian relief supplies, medical aid, and the Mobile Medical Unit.

Illinois District Pastor & Spouse Retreat October 21-23, 2012



Guests
Dr. H.B. London
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Spruce



Pere Marquette Lodge
& Conference Center
Grafton, IL

Reservations Due by
September 20, 2012

Cost:
Double Occupancy - \$485
Single Occupancy - \$422

"Holiness Pastors Day":

The Wesleyan Holiness Consortium

Hear
George Barna
and
Kevin Mannoia

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Gateway Citadel
(Salvation Army headquarters)
824 Union Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

There will be a \$10 meal/registration charge
which will be reimbursed for all Illinois District
clergy who register and attend.

Send your registration fee to the
Illinois District COTN
P.O. Box 1054, Alton, IL 62002

OCTOBER IS CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

Eight Ways to Honor Ministers and Their Families

1. Give the minister's family a list of homes to which they are invited for a meal each month throughout the year.
2. Plan a surprise paid weekend vacation for the minister's family.
3. Provide a free hairdresser appointment for the pastor's wife.
4. Present a gift certificate from a clothier to the pastor.
5. Arrange for a meal at a nice local restaurant for the minister's family and have it billed to the church.
6. Give appropriate gifts or gift certificates to the minister's children.
7. Purchase a decorator item for the minister's home.
8. If the pastor has out-of-town children, arrange for them to be present to participate in the celebration.

I ♥ My Pastor