



Food distribution in Malawi



COMPASSION.
AS A LIFESTYLE.
Issue 3, 2019

When Did We See You (Lord) Hungry or Thirsty?

Cyclone Dorian pounded the Bahamas for over 18 hours. People were terrified. On a Facebook post during the storm we heard a mother's desperate plea, "Please....pray for us, pray for us, pray for us..." It is hard for us to grasp the devastation, the destruction, the despair, and the hopelessness left behind by Cyclone Dorian. When we see the pictures on TV or the internet...how do we as a Church respond?

Closer to home—when flood waters rise along the river in a nearby community displacing families and destroying homes; when fires burn large sections of neighbouring counties forcing people to flee and start over; when ice storms down power lines and thousands of homes are without power in the winter: when temperatures soar in the summer and many of our neighbours, both the elderly and single parents, are without air conditioning; when tragedy strikes...

Disaster events, though not the focus of ministry, are the test of how well the Christian community cares for those that are the most vulnerable. Jesus said, "As much as you have done it to the least of these....you have done it for me." (Matthew 25:40). **Read inside how we, the Church, care and respond...**

Elaine Bumstead

Executive Director of NCM Canada



The latest edition of the NCM Canada Gift Catalogue has been mailed to all Nazarene churches across Canada. If you need more copies, contact Yara at the National Office 1-888-808-7490 or ycristales@nazarene.ca and we will be happy to mail them to you.

You can also access the catalogue and make purchases online at: www.ncmcanada.ca.

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FOOD, BLANKETS, WATER, SHELTER — YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



NAZARENE DISASTER RESPONSE

DISASTER RESPONSE IN MALAWI, AFRICA

A young mother from Malawi (pictured right) balances a large sack of maize flour (corn meal) on her head and carries a smaller sack of beans and a 2 litre jug of cooking oil. She received these from the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Malawi at an emergency food distribution point near her home. Because she has a young child that she is nursing, she also received a 10 kg bag of a special supplementary food (corn soy blend) that she needs to boost her nutritional intake while nursing. The food was provided through a project funded by NCM Canada through Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The



project received 4:1 matching funds from Global Affairs Canada (government of Canada).

The food distribution is for 1000 families in Nsanje District in southern Malawi – those most impacted by the cyclones and

flooding last spring that wiped out their food crops, displaced them from their homes, and left them destitute.

Those families who had land also received some maize seed and vegetable seeds to replant their food crops.

The food will be distributed once a month for four months. Alan Cristales of NCM Canada will join Chinsinsi Phiri (NCM Malawi) to access the need at the end of four months to determine whether to extend the food distribution and / or provide for other livelihood building initiatives to help these families become food secure again.



Pastor Erina of the Mulonda Church of the Nazarene (lady on right) rejoices with a food recipient. "God is good! Thanks be to God! Thank you Church of the Nazarene and blessings to those who gave so that I can feed my children."



Sacks of food in church building, waiting to be distributed.



Sacks of food being offloaded from a supplier's truck.



**NAZARENE
DISASTER
RESPONSE**

DISASTER RESPONSE IN THE BAHAMAS



Hurricane Dorian, one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes ever recorded, stalled over the Bahamas Sunday Sept 1 and Monday Sept 2 killing people and causing massive destruction particularly on the Abaco Islands. A Nazarene assessment team reached Freeport and Grand Bahama as soon as possible, bringing aid packages with food and hygiene items. There are five Nazarene churches on Grand Bahama Island. Faith Church of the Nazarene in the West End, sustained serious

damage and is "gutted." Many homes were filled with four to five feet of water, so even buildings that managed to stand through the wind and rain now have serious flood damage.

The damage is very extensive....the worst that many of our disaster response workers had ever seen. Hardest hit are the poorer populations living on the low land closest to the sea. Brandon Sipes, the NCM International Disaster Response coordinator said this, "We spent most of the day on the island of Abaco. Marsh Harbour was very badly damaged One area called The Mudd was completely wiped out. Populated by undocumented Haitians, it represents much of what we see in the disaster field - those who are the most vulnerable bear most of the weight of these disasters."

NCM International has partnered with Convey of Hope to bring in crisis care kits. Florida churches who were relatively unscathed by the storm are also supplying relief items. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries is also providing generators, portable cooking equipment, water filters, tarps, chain saws and other tools, and is working with partner organizations to provide a 50 foot truckload of water. Teams from churches in the MesoAmerica region are also on the islands assisting with relief efforts.

Ongoing and immediate needs for those in the Bahamas are food, shelter, water, and psychological care and support. Thousands of people have been evacuated to Nassau, which sustained less damage. Transport on the islands is still extremely difficult.

PRAY: for those who have lost everything and are homeless and in dire need. Pray for the swift delivery of supplies.

GIVE: Donations will be used for immediate needs such as water and food as well as other items and assistance needed for rehabilitation and longer term recovery.

In Canada, send cheques payable to the Church of the Nazarene Canada and mail them to 3657 Ponytrail Drive, Mississauga ON L4X 1W5 or donate online at www.ncmcanada.ca under "Disaster Response" or call the National Office at 1-888-808-7490 (credit cards accepted).

Be sure to designate NCM #134047 if you want your gift to go specifically to Dorian Disaster Response.



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BREAKING NEWS



OPPORTUNITY TO BE TRAINED IN DISASTER RESPONSE

WHEN?

1-1/2 day training October 29 from 2-5 PM and October 30 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM

You can participate by Zoom (video conferencing). Information on how to connect will be sent by email of all registrants prior to the training dates.

FOR WHOM?

Anyone who is able to help vulnerable people in their time of greatest need and is willing to make disaster response a ministry of the local church.

WHO WILL TRAIN?

Brandon Sipes, NCM International Disaster Response coordinator. Also co-facilitating - Perron Goodyear, Disaster Response The Salvation Army Canada, Jodi Getson (Former VP First-On-Site, disaster clean-up), and Elaine Bumstead of NCM Canada.

CONTENT:

The purpose of the training is to help churches and individuals follow Jesus to the front lines of tragedy, whether human-made or natural disaster, and to serve them in their time of greatest need. This is an introduction to all the phases of disaster response including disaster preparedness, mitigating the damage and impact of disasters, responding to disasters, and walking with people through rehabilitation and recovery from disasters.

The fall of the year is typically cyclone and hurricane season.

You can help us be prepared to respond to new disasters by giving donations designated "Disaster Response".

Donate online at www.ncmcanada.ca.

Donate by phone (credit cards accepted) at: 1-888-808-7490 or 905-602-8220.

IMPORTANT: The bank used by the national office now requires that all cheques for NCM Canada be made out to "Church of the Nazarene Canada".



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Each gift will be used as designated, except where any given need has been met or when projects cannot be reasonable carried out, in which case, the donor agrees that the designated gift may be used where it is needed most.