

Being Prepared

This past Wednesday (July 13) I attended at day long seminar organized by Church World Service. It was about long term disaster recovery. Several workshops were led by representatives from CWS as well as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Lutheran Disaster Response, United Methodist Committee on Relief and other organizations. All in all, a very informative day.

While the stated theme was about recovery, there was also an underling theme of preparedness. Some say, "If a disaster strikes, we will respond." That statement should never be said. It is WHEN. Disasters do strike, will strike and that you can be sure of. The only questions are when and where.

Since only God knows the answers to those questions, we just have to work on being prepared. In this country we are lucky that there are organizations like Church World Service, Red Cross, PDA and others. They are always working to be prepared and they do a great job of it.

We recently had our Hygiene Kit Challenge which was a wonderful joint effort and a big help to Church World Service. Are you aware that by the time we sent our approx. 1300 kits to them, CWS had already shipped over 12,000 kits to Alabama alone? CWS prepares so that they can respond not in a month or a week but in one day. They are able to do that only with the help of people like us.

As we go into the fall season, many are considering what mission projects to do. I would like to encourage you to consider establishing a long term commitment to disaster relief efforts. This can be making and sending Hygiene Kits (or any kit) to CWS, donating blood to Red Cross or helping any relief organization and of course money is always needed. Remember, it was due to the efforts of people like you from all over the country that enabled Church World Service to send those kits to our area as soon as they were needed. Let us help prepare for wherever the need comes next.

Working in Christ's name
Judy Persons