

The mission of the Utah-Idaho SBC is to encourage,
support and assist churches by working together to
fulfill Christ's Great Commission



January 20, 2010

Many of you are receiving inquiries from interested volunteers about what Utah-Idaho Disaster Relief is planning in response to the disaster in Haiti. I want to update you on what I know and tell you some ways you and others can help.

Right now all the Convention DR Directors are coordinating closely with NAMB in assessing the needs and developing a strategy to bring relief to the victims in Haiti. Assessment and medical teams are presently on the ground in Haiti.

We expect that within the next months we will be sending teams from the Utah-Idaho Convention as well as from many other state conventions to help with the recovery and eventual rebuild efforts. Until the assessments are completed we won't know for sure when we'll be able to go or even exactly what the makeup of the teams will be.

We are beginning to compile a list of DR-trained individuals within the Utah-Idaho DR organization who would like to make the trip to Haiti when the opportunity is given. It still isn't certain exactly which skills/training and experience levels will be asked for, but if you or any DR-trained volunteer in your Association would like to be considered for this service opportunity **PLEASE PROVIDE THOSE NAMES THROUGH YOUR ASSOCIATION DR DIRECTOR** who should then forward the names to Ciska Mosher (UT-ID Off-Site Coordinator) at ciska23@centurytel.net.

NAMB is developing criteria for members of the teams that are to be sent and will be making that information available to the conventions in the near future. As we receive more information we will be able to narrow the list down to those who are available during the specified timeframes and who meet the criteria that are identified.

Although our teams won't be going immediately there are things we can all do to help those who are there and providing relief now. All of us can pray! Please ask everyone you know to be lifting up the Haitian people as well as those who will be providing relief to them during this time of unprecedented devastation and grief.

Many can also give financially. Please let everyone know that financial donations are greatly needed! Donations can be made either through local churches, associations, or the UT-ID Convention (made out to UISBC). It should be stressed that all checks intended for Haiti efforts should be noted on the check itself as "Haiti DR Relief." That will make it easier for the funds to get quickly to the desired work.

All donations designated for Haiti DR work through the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention (UISBC) will go 100% toward Haiti relief. Checks should be made out to UISBC (be sure and note 'Haiti DR Relief') and sent to: UISBC, PO Box 1347, Draper, UT 84020, attn. Wade Gayler. The funds will be used for such things as to defer transportation costs to send volunteer teams, to buy materials in Haiti, to cover expenses for people on the ground in Haiti and other needs that are sure to arise during the course of these relief efforts. It is likely that many of our associations have the same commitment of 100% of funds being used directly for Haiti relief. Check with your association leadership to learn specifically how funds provided will be used.

This would probably be a good time to encourage anyone who has expressed a desire to become active in Disaster Relief work to participate in an Introduction to Disaster Relief training. Although it is very unlikely because of the nature of the Haiti situation that new volunteers will be included on the teams sent to Haiti, it might serve as a good starting point for new volunteers to begin to participate in the ministry.

If you have any questions concerning the Haiti efforts please contact me at wgayler@uisbc.org. I will try to keep you posted as new information becomes available. Until then, PLEASE continue to pray for those who are mobilizing to help in these efforts.

Wade Gayler
Disaster Relief Coordinator
Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention