The Adventist Church Deals with Storm and Tornado Aftermath - Report #2

Huntsville, Alabama -- South Central Conference Constituency Meeting:

South Central Conference, had a constituency meeting scheduled for Sunday to be held in Huntsville, and are trying to figure out how to deal with the aftermath of the storm.

Some of their challenges are:

- The main power plant of Huntsville received a direct hit yesterday so there is no power anywhere in Huntsville. It will take at least 3-5 days for power to be restored and then it will not be restored to all areas at the same time. It will be restored in the order of priority, e.g., hospitals, nursing homes, police, fire stations, etc., will have their electricity restored first.
- The hotels they were using for delegates to the meeting have said that they do not expect power before Monday or Tuesday. No electricity means no air-conditioning and it affects water service. As most guests pay via credit card, no electricity means hotels cannot process payments. Even if power is restored to the University and the University Church, if the surrounding areas are still without power, there will be no place for the delegates outside Huntsville to stay.
- No electricity means that one cannot purchase gasoline in the Huntsville area.
- There is a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Huntsville, as per President Obama’s declared state of emergency. That would adversely affect the delegates who are scheduled to arrive Saturday night and also the Organizing Committee delegates, who are scheduled to meet after sundown Sabbath evening.
- If they move the meeting to Nashville and still have it Sunday there is a legal notice that binds them to a meeting date, a meeting time and a meeting place.

"The other challenge," writes South Central Conference President D. C. Edmond, "is getting the word to approximately 1500 people in less than 24 hours that the meeting has been changed to a different city and state, when roughly a third of them have no land-line and virtually no internet service, except via their cell phone—which they cannot charge! Re-scheduling a constituency meeting is also challenging. But, one of the two must be done, and, by the grace of God, one of the two will be done, so that the business of the Lord can proceed in a decent, orderly and intentional manner.

"Thank you for your patience and prayers, he writes. "We shall have a final word no later than 9:00 a.m. tomorrow... Final word will be posted on our Website and sent via our pastors and church clerks."

April 28, 2011
Oakwood University Emergency Press Release

Given the state of emergency declared by the Governor of Alabama, and due to the uncertainty of the return of power and utilities to the City of Huntsville and to the Oakwood University campus, for the safety and comfort of all concerned, students are released from the remainder of the Spring Semester 2011. They are free to return home, immediately. All pending final exams for the Spring semester have been cancelled, and the faculty will facilitate the calculation of grades. Once the campus returns to normal operations, the student body should contact their instructors concerning final grades.

In light of the fact that the Von Braun Center is cancelling currently scheduled events and due to the uncertainty of the restoration of power to the City of Huntsville and the widespread impact to employees and to the University, Oakwood administration has rescheduled Commencement exercises for Memorial Day weekend, May 27 and 28, 2011.

A Message from Sung Kwon, National Executive Director
Adventist Community Services

In response to tornadoes, severe weather, floods and wild fires throughout the United States, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) teams are assisting individuals, families and communities. ACS DR, in partnership with other voluntary agencies and Federal and state governments, meets the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those affected by providing food, blankets, clothing, and other much needed relief supplies. Adventist churches, schools and mobile distribution units are utilized to collect and distribute donated goods.

Please continue to pray for those who have been affected by the numerous disasters affecting our nation. Visit the Adventist Community Services website, www.communityservices.org, for more information about how ACS ministries are making a difference in people’s lives or to make a donation.

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