

Dear Members and Friends,

I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Many of you have watched as I have, the disaster that has unfolded in our home state of Texas. Words such as "epic" and "unprecedented" are being used to describe an event many of us have never even imagined we would see unfold in our lifetime. Some have said that it is not just a 100-year flood, but that it's in the 500-800-year range.

It has been heartbreaking to watch as families are escaping the flood waters (not all have escaped), with just a pair of shoes and a back pack to take with them to the nearest shelter where they will receive much-needed assistance at least temporarily. Children look at their surroundings in bewilderment, but to be quite honest, adults are doing the same thing.

1 John 3:17 says this; If anyone with earthly possessions sees his brother in need, but withholds his compassion from him, how can the love of God abide in him?

Of course, we know that we are not able to meet every need that comes our way, and while we cannot do "everything", I believe all of us can do "something". While all may not "go", I believe all can "give".

Senior Bishop Reddick has issued an official statement as to how we as CME's can contribute to assist those families and churches within the 8th Episcopal District. The official statement from Bishop Reddick will be posted on our web site. Christian Chapel has been set up as the site in the DFW region to receive donations from churches to assist in the relief effort.

We will be receiving a special love offering on Sunday, in the morning service which will be forwarded to Christian Chapel. Checks should be written to Morning Chapel. We will make one check out from the church and forward it to Christian Chapel. Please refer to the Bishop's statement on the CME website or the Morning Chapel website regarding on-line donations.

Many of you may have already given to a charity of your choice and you are to be commended, but this opportunity is being given to best distribute needed relief to churches in Houston who are providing shelter and necessary resources for those who have been affected by Harvey. Senior Bishop Reddick, along with Presiding Elder Fuller has assured us that the funds will go directly to those CME church sites in Houston to be used for assistance and provision for those who are affected by this tragedy and dealing with so much loss in their lives

Our greatest desire is to share the love of Jesus Christ with people, yet that often comes first through the sharing of some tangible gift which in turn helps the person to turn away from a feeling of hopelessness and begin to focus on the task ahead of rebuilding their lives. This can be, and I believe will be, a time for the church of Jesus Christ to shine His love into the darkness of the moment.

Without a doubt, Government and Municipalities can be a great help but as always, churches and ministry groups are leading the way and we want to do our part because every "little bit helps"!

If you desire to go beyond the giving through the church as an individual we recommend giving to the following organizations:

- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- North Texas Food Bank
- MassCare Task Force

In addition to the monetary donations, the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County are asking the following items to be donated for evacuees and shelters located in these areas:

- Baby diapers and formula
- Men/women/children socks and underwear in new packaging
- Blankets and towels
- Plus-size clothing

Members who are interested in providing these items should bring them to church on Sunday. The Outreach team will gather them and drop them off at one of the designated donation centers. We continue to receive items over the next month and beyond as needed.

If you desire to volunteer for the Fort Worth Harvey Relief efforts, you can do so by signing up online at [register at Voly.org](http://registeratvoly.org).

Most of all, please continue to pray for those impacted by this event and thank you so much for your generous prayers and giving.

Matthew 25:40 And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Ross