

You Are a First Responder!

Have you spent more time recently watching the Weather Channel? Most of us probably never turn on the Weather Channel but when hurricanes are pressing in upon us we turn to find out not only the path it will take but to track its aftermath.

These last few weeks have been tragic ones as we have battled the impact of huge hurricanes. We have watched with wonder and awe at what has occurred. We have watched video of the First Responders pulling people literally out of flowing water onto safety.

While the damage of the storms gained the media's attention something else came through that is often under reported. Millions of people were left homeless or displaced. Do you know who helped fill the need for many of those people? Churches! An untold story is how many denominations sent relief vehicles immediately to the stressed areas. **Note if your denomination does this highlight that here.** Not only that but across the country churches took up special offerings raising millions of dollars to support those in need.

You may have never thought about this but your generosity serves as a means of being a First Responder! Our church has a history of supporting causes and agencies whose goal is to help people in times of crisis. **State here what your denomination does or other agencies you support through your budget or what you have done for disaster relief.** What we often forget or overlook is that it cost money to do all that our agencies do. Where do they get that money from? People like you!

Your gift to our church doesn't stop here at the doors of the church. Your generosity is spread not simply here locally but around the world. There is a reason that in every natural disaster that happens around the world the Church is THE first responder. Why? Because we are already there! Your gifts allow that to happen.

So be a First Responder today and give as God leads you. Your gift matters and we use all that is given here to advance the Kingdom and support those in need.