

## **Tomas Impacts St. Vincent**

*Report from the Association of Evangelical Churches in St. Vincent & the Grenadines*

November 6 pastors met to discuss the AEC's response to the passing of Hurricane Tomas. It was felt that this was an important undertaking as we sought to best use the resources to maximise help to those in need. This approach was underpinned by an overwhelming desire to be good stewards, commit to a long term response while avoiding a knee jerk reactive response and begin to put in place a system that would be usable for future needs.

### **DECISIONS**

We decided that it was important to get as accurate information as possible. This will be done by having pastors from the area along with a representative from the AEC, personally make and give an assessment of the situation. This was done by Pastor Colin Smith and Pastor Cyril Roberts (lives in Sand Bay), over a two day period.

We would funnel the information received from this assessment through to our local churches, regional and international contacts and any other sources or persons we may have contact with as a body, or individual church. To avoid duplication we are asking that our efforts be channeled through the AEC. This would remain in place for the current situation and future needs.

It is necessary that we begin to source and store relief aid for quick deployment. Efforts will be hampered if we only begin raising support after a disaster. Items such as:

- Cots and sleeping bags
- Blankets
- Battery operated radios
- Chainsaws
- Flashlights
- First Aid material (and training in First Aid for persons)
- Generators
- Hammers, nails, etc
- Food
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A more detailed list will be sent out along with a plea to ask persons to assist in sourcing these materials. A store room has been offered to us by Pastor Smith.

### **CURRENT NEEDS**

In the short term, a period of three months, the pressing needs are food for 100 persons (an itemized list will follow) and the repair of Pastor Ballantyne's house roof (estimated at \$15,000 minimum by Pastor Smith who is a contractor and builder). The food is for those people whose livelihood was tied to the agricultural sector that was destroyed and who now have no recourse to financing their households:

- Fancy (Pastor Lewis and Myers) 10 persons
- Owia Pentecostal 12 persons
- Jesus Worship Centre 12 persons
- Sandy Bay Gospel Chapel 34 persons
- Sandy Bay Baptist 15 persons

- Overland Baptist 17 persons

## WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

Start to put in place collection of food items, monies and other materials. When this has been done, call or email me at [aecsvq@gmail.com](mailto:aecsvq@gmail.com), [kenjah777@gmail.com](mailto:kenjah777@gmail.com), 1-784-495-1045, 1-784-4565-246, 1-784-4569-636 or Pastor Smith at 1-784-457-5766, 533-1381. Any help as pertains to transportation and man power will be greatly appreciated.

If there are workmen that you can organize to aid please let me know also.

## FINALLY

Some people may be asking why we are doing this as the Government has committed to helping those in need. Our response is, yes the Government is helping and we thank God for that, yet we have as great a responsibility to help as the authorities and in some cases a greater role. To be constrained by the love of Christ is to be motivated by no greater reason.

Secondly, I ask that anyone who is already doing relief work in the areas affected to let us know as this would assist us in directing help in other places that desperately need it, and if possible I encourage cooperation in the work as more can be done.

Let God be our Helper. Pictures from St. Vincent follow:









