



CARIBBEAN BRETHREN ASSEMBLIES CONFERENCE 2017
Cascadia Hotel, # 67, Ariapita Road, St. Ann's, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Workshop Title: A Christian Approach to Disaster Management

Facilitator: Dr. Sylvan Catwell, J.P.

Date: 18/07/17

Objective: To provide participants with an opportunity to discuss Disaster Management procedures to help them identify ways for improving their emergency plans.

The pictorial presentation will briefly review ideas of the Christian Dimension, Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes related to disasters in an effort to stimulate thinking, discussion, and proactive action on:

1. Acts of God—acts regarded as natural disasters outside of human control, such as earthquakes or tsunamis, for which no one can be held responsible;
2. Natural Disasters—major adverse events resulting from natural processes of the earth, e.g. floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other geologic processes causing loss of life or property, and economic damage;
3. Adverse Events—events that will rise to the level of disasters if they occur in an area with a vulnerable population, e.g. a crowded city or village; and



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4. Acts of Man—by contrast to the foregoing, other extraordinary man-made or political events, such as war, or terrorists and lone wolf atrocities that are not the fault of any party and that make it difficult or impossible to carry on normal business.

A few reasons for disasters will be discussed and slides on weather systems and their impact, as well as types of disasters—anthropogenic and other potential disasters—will be shown.

Disasters have been recorded throughout history, including the Genesis Flood, destruction of Sodom, etc. They offer evangelistic opportunities (Luke 21:13 NIV) for us to represent Christ in holistically ministering to needy people (Acts 11:29), in bringing them deliverance (Luke 4:18). The churches' involvement in relief assistance can be a powerful witness to Christ, the head of the Church, who modelled service to others. Consequently, Christian witness should be well coordinated and executed in order to honour God and benefit people.

The presentation will also briefly discuss 'What to do':

1. Before an event—Disaster Prevention / Mitigation (Preparedness);
2. During an impact—Response (relief as necessary); and
3. After an event—Rehabilitation and Recovery.



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It will be emphasized that church members and leaders have vital roles to play in preparing their homes, churches and offices, establishing and consolidating planning initiatives in readiness for potential disasters, so as to facilitate management before and after they occur.

Participants will be implored to acquire timely and adequate insurance coverage for their homes and churches from reputable insurance companies.

It's better to Prepare for and Prevent Disaster than have to Repair & Repent.

References

Emergency Plan Template for Faith Based Organizations
<https://adacounty.id.gov/Portals/Accem/Doc/PDF>

Guns in Church
<https://holysoup.com/terror-tension-guns-in-church>

Active Shooter in a House of Worship
http://www.n-din.org/ndin_resources/tipsheets

Ian Davis, Michael Wall and Jerry Davis, *Christian Perspectives on Disaster Management*, Oxford and London, 1992.