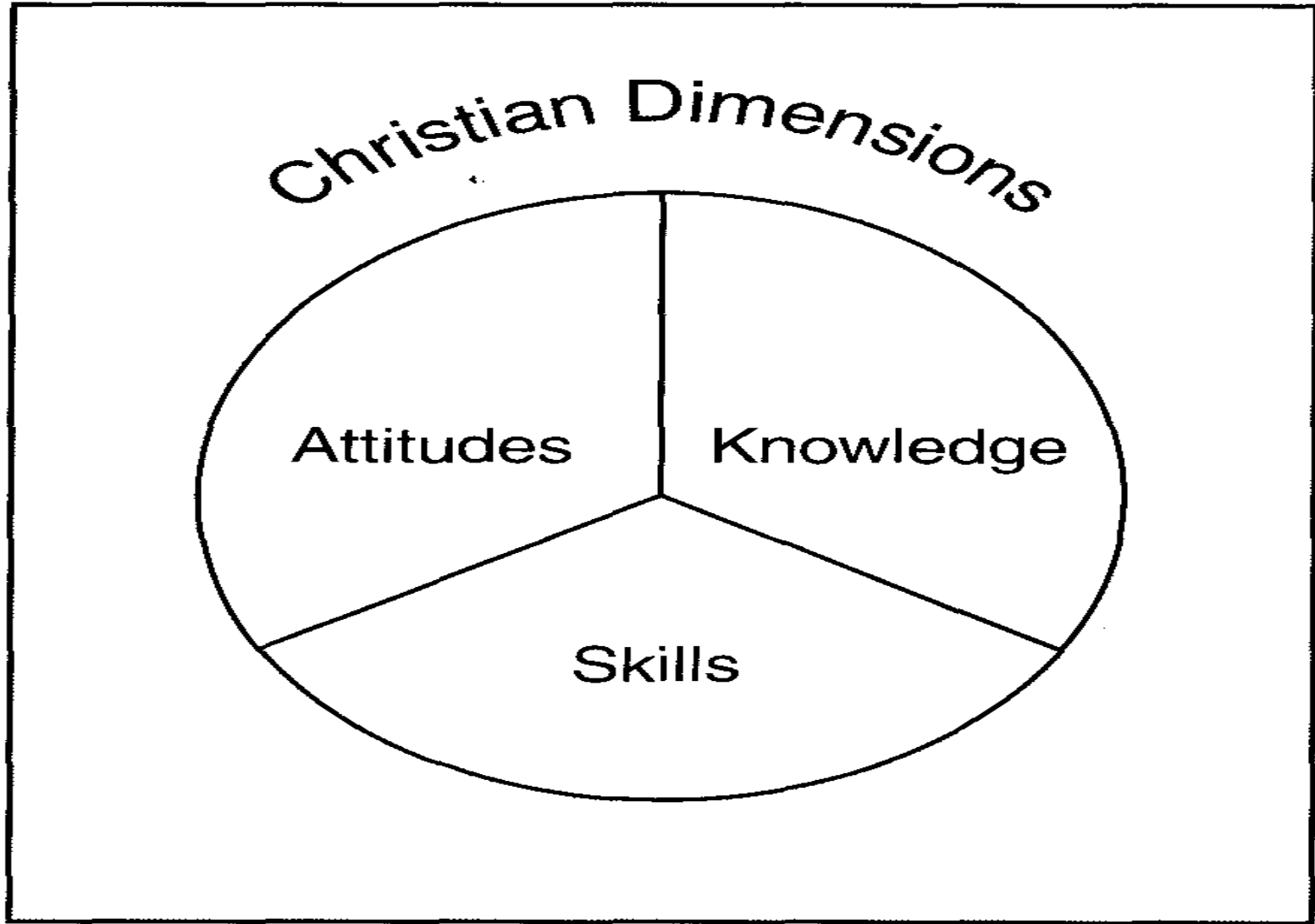


A Christian Approach to Disaster Management

Dr. Sylvan Catwell, J.P.

Broad Objective



Aim of Session

**Stimulate awareness of
and action on:**

- 1. Acts of God**
- 2. Natural Disasters**
- 3. Acts of Humans**

Our Hope

**Participants will
leave the session
motivated to
manage potential
disasters**

Historic Disasters

We remember:

- 1. The Genesis Flood**
- 2. Destruction of Sodom**
- 3. O.T. Wars**

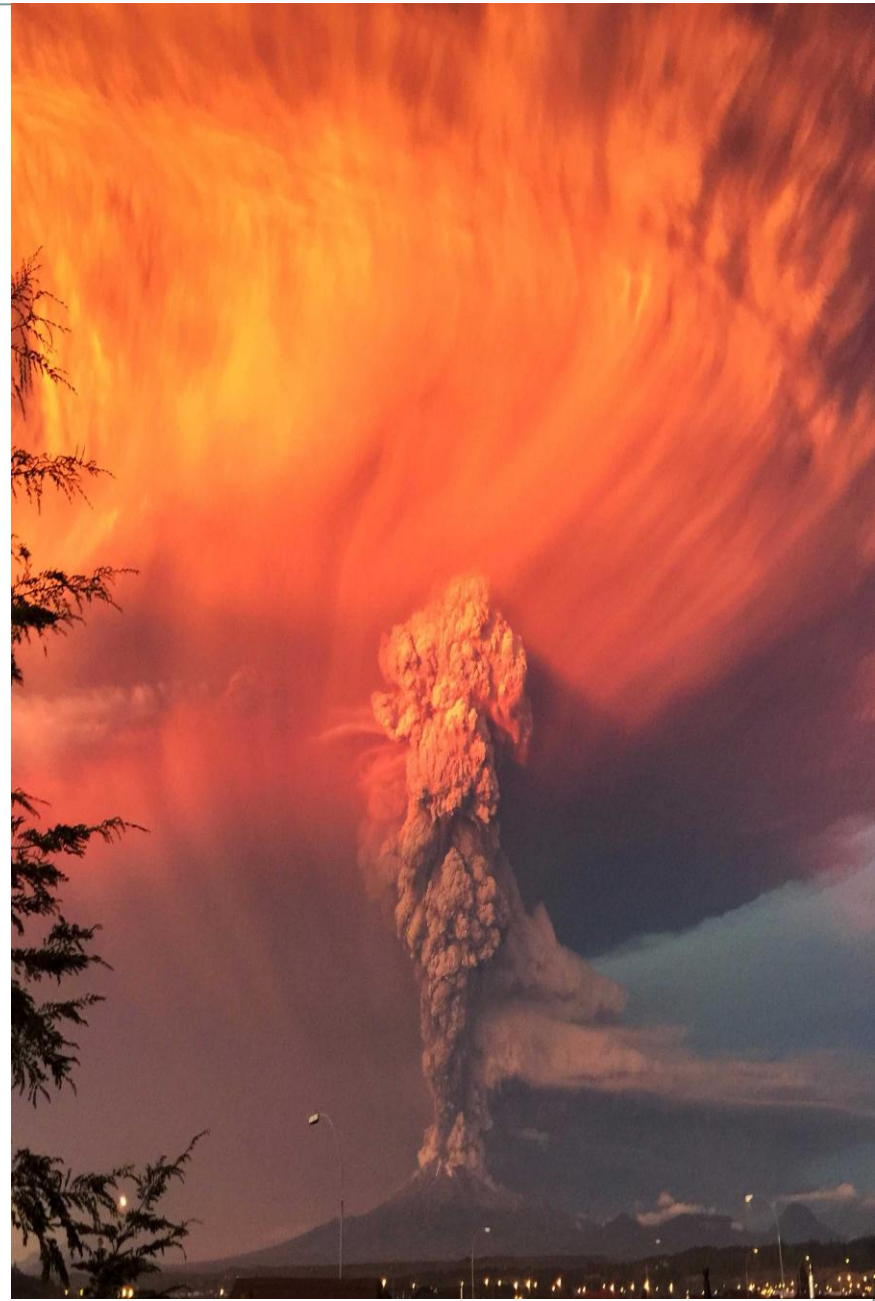


Genesis 7:19

**They (the waters)
rose greatly on the
earth, and all the
high mountains under
the entire heavens
were covered.**

Gen. 19:28

**He (Lot) looked
toward Sodom
and Gomorrah...
and, lo, the
smoke of the
country went up
as the smoke of
a furnace.**



Zechariah 7:14 (KJV)

But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations ... Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

Romans 8:22

**...the whole creation
has been groaning
as in the pains of
childbirth right up to
the present time.**

What is a Disaster?

Situation / event causing great damage, destruction & suffering, which overwhelms local capacity requiring national / international assistance.



One or more of the following:

- 1. 10 or more people reported killed**
- 2. 100 people reported affected**
- 3. Declaration of a state of emergency**
- 4. Call for international assistance**

Acts of God

These (legally) are regarded as natural disasters outside human control and for which no one is held responsible, e.g. earthquakes, tsunamis

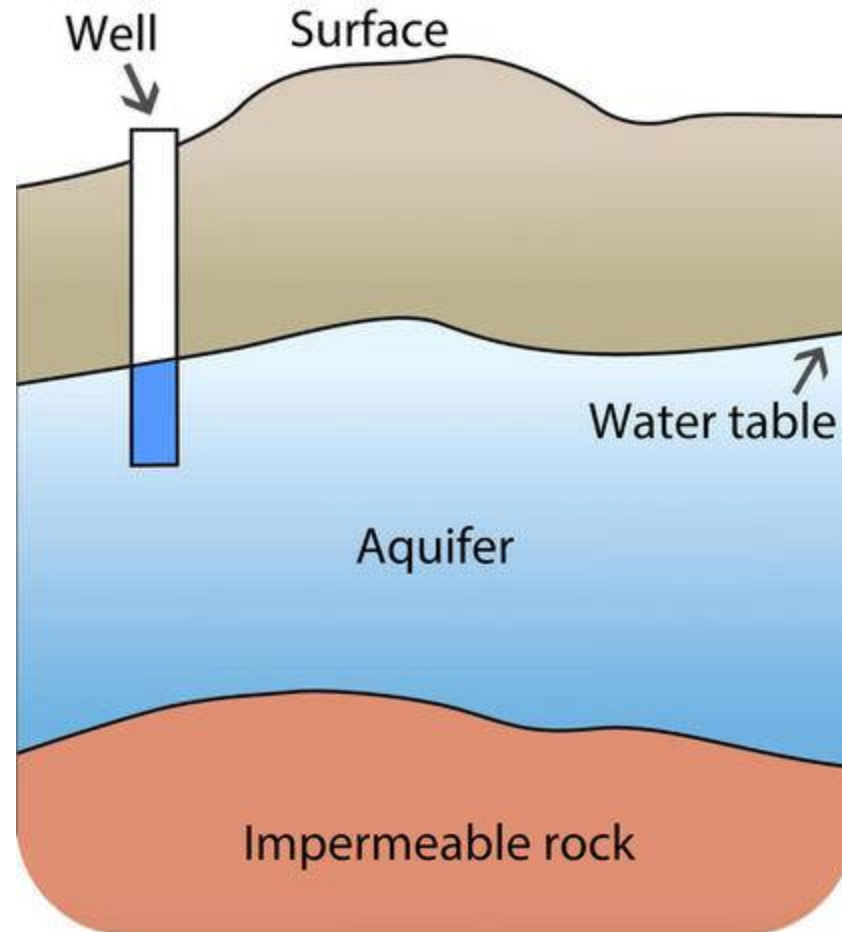
Weather Systems in the Caribbean

These include tropical waves, depressions, storms and hurricanes, originating off of the African coast.

Weather Systems

Notwithstanding attendant disasters, water-scarce countries like (Barbados) need weather systems, which replenish their depleted/ polluted water resources.

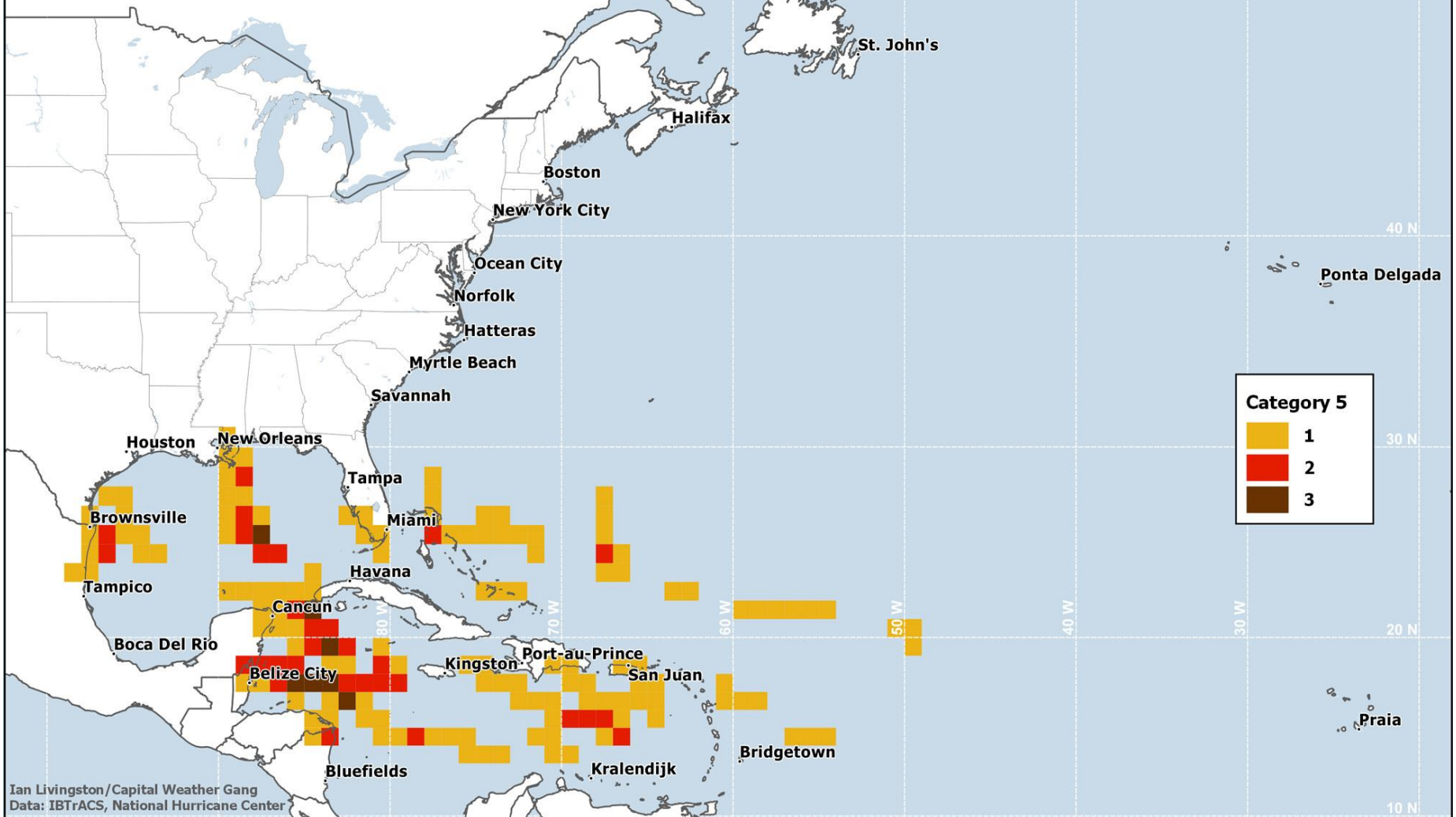
Image of Belle Aquifer, Barbados



www.google.com/search?q=diagram+of+belle+aquifer%2C+barbados&oq=

North Atlantic Hurricanes 1851-2014

Number of hurricanes with 157+ mph winds per 1-degree box



www.washingtonpost.com

Paradoxes of Life

- **Blessings and burdens**
- **Night and day**
- **Hurricane and drought**
- **Forest fire and renewal**
- **Death and life**

2017 Weather Prediction

- 1. 14 named storms**
- 2. 6 hurricanes**
- 3. 2 major hurricanes**

(Colorado State University)

Types of Disasters

Types of Disasters

**Disasters are mainly
categorised as
Natural and Man-
Made (Human)
Disasters**

Natural Disasters

These are major adverse events from natural processes of the earth, e.g. floods, hurricanes, volcanoes, earth-quakes and other geologic processes, causing loss of life / property and economic damage.

2011 Japan Earthquake & Tsunami



2015 Dominica Storm



Sri Lanka Flood 2017



Droughts—Animals Die



Volcano



Volcano

**Kick 'em Jenny is a
submarine volcano
located 8 km north
of Grenada**

***Follow guidelines for
sailing***

Potential Hurricane Damage

Category	Sustained Winds	Idea of Damage
1	74–95 mph	Will produce damage to roofs, vinyl siding, gutters. Will uproot trees & power line poles / flying tree branches, etc.
2	96–110 mph	Dangerous winds will cause extensive damage to roofs and houses. Uprooted tree damage, loss of power.
3 Major	111–129 mph	Devastating damage will occur to most buildings, numerous roads and supplies.
4	130–156 mph	Catastrophic damage will occur to most buildings and communities
5	157 mph or higher	Inestimable catastrophic damage will occur

Disasters

Can cause:

1. Coastal Erosion
2. Storm Surge
3. Land Slides
4. Great loss



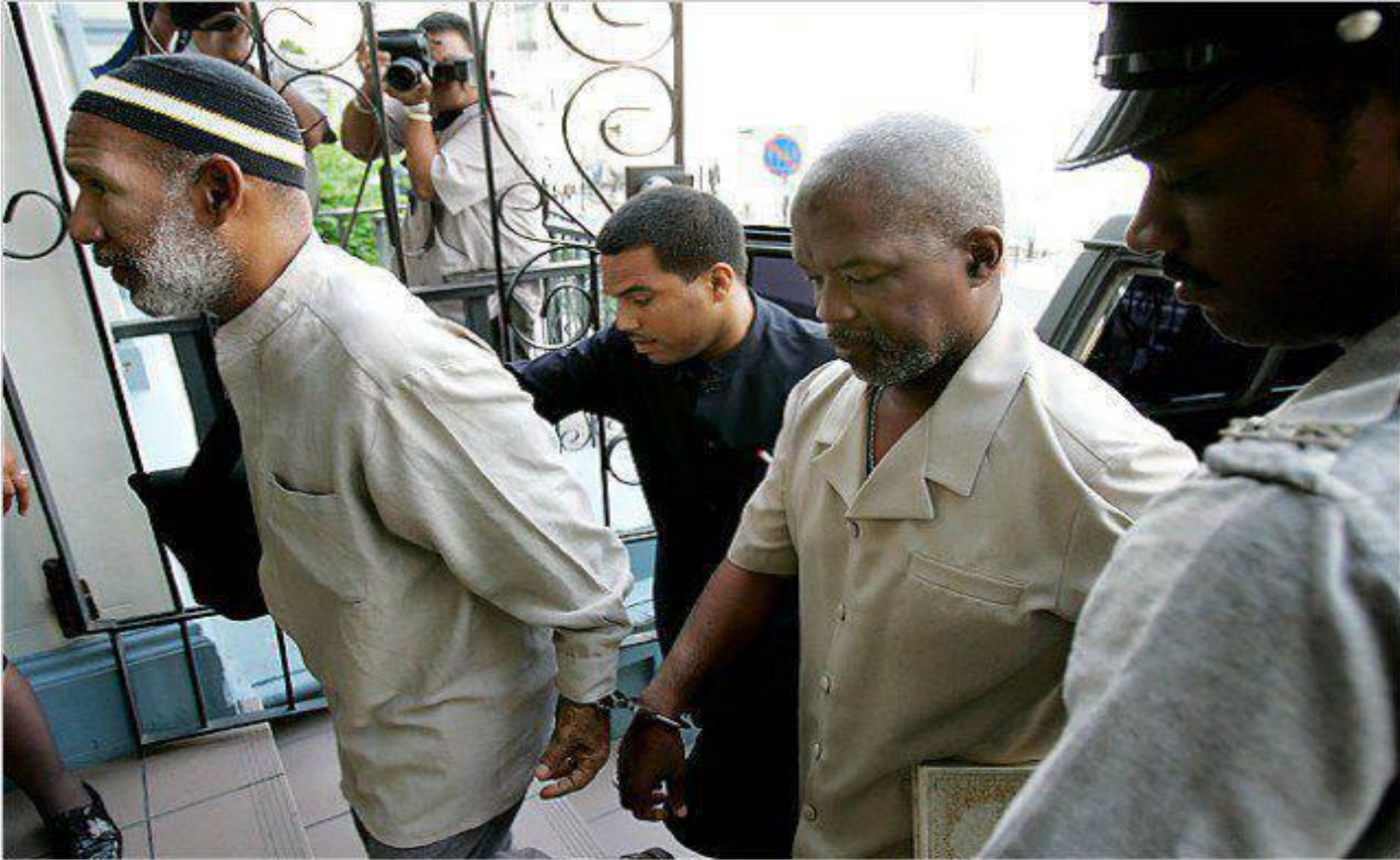
Man-Made Disasters

**A disastrous event
caused directly and
principally by one or
more identifiable
deliberate or negligent
human action(s)**

Explosion Civil Unrest Riot



1990 Jamaat al Muslimeen coup attempt



War (Mosul) 1000s died



Lone wolf shooting in Charleston Church, S. Carolina, 9 deaths



900 tourists trapped in Paris cathedral by Hammer attacker



***Potential
Communicable
Disease
Disastrous
Outbreaks***

Cholera



Yellow fever



hepatitis

viral infections
inflammation
toxins
population
leads
administered
prevents infection
poor appetite
fever
chronic
severe
prevent
risk
damage
liver
tests
blood
rapid
safety
health
diseases
medical condition
immune system
widespread
clinical
headache
vomiting
tiredness
acute
patients
occur
level
course
detect
kidney
doses
rapidly
specific symptoms

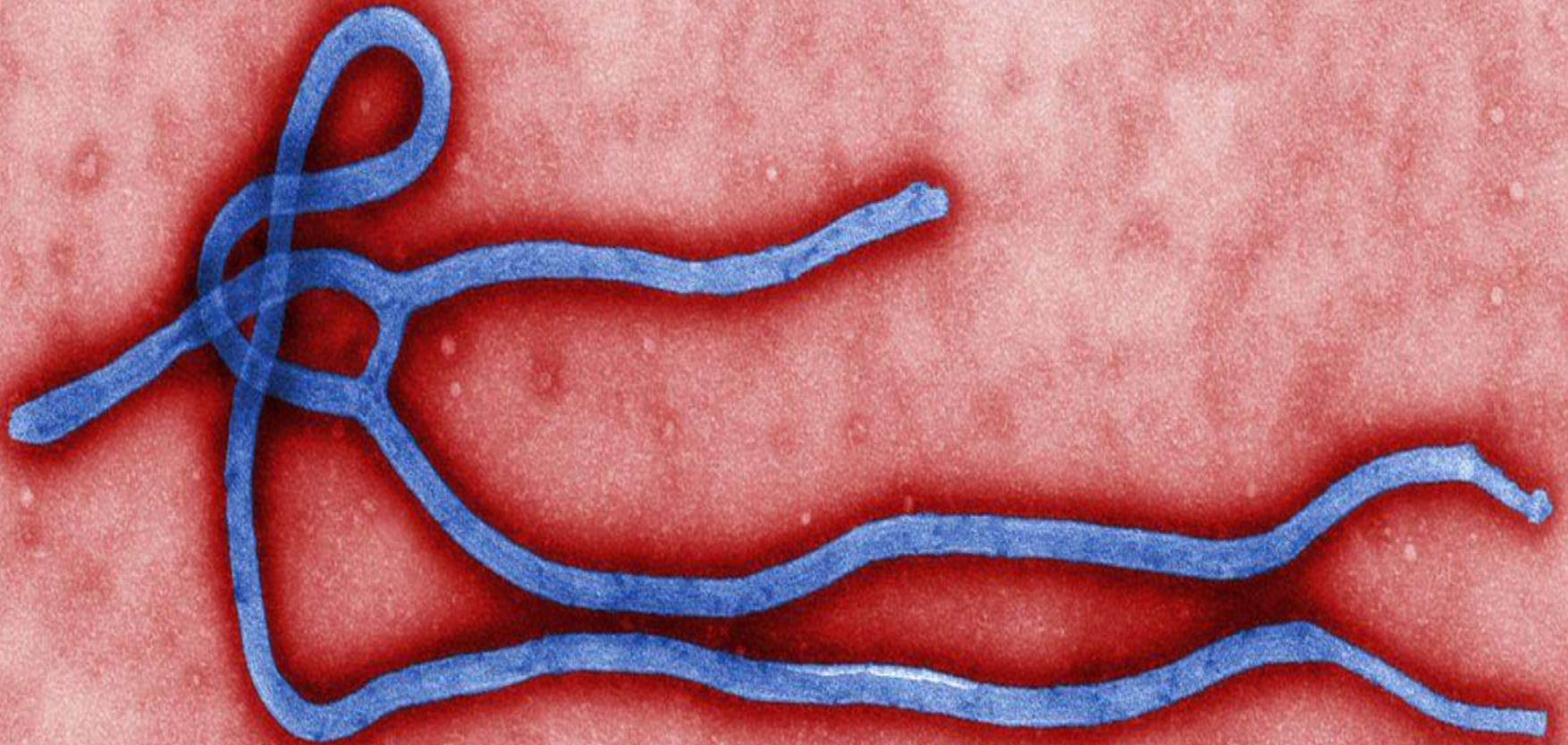
Avian flu



Small Pox Disease



Ebola virus



Prevention better than cure

Need for use of single cups in communion service, as a means of controlling spread of communicable disease / disaster, cannot be understated

Prevention better than cure



Potential Environmental Disasters

Bush / Cane Fire



H'way in Water Catchment



Illegal housing in Water Catchment



OIL SPILLS / LEAKS



Burst Shell Oil Pipeline

Oil tanker
heading to
discharge into
broken pipeline
which has
polluted fields
and aquifer,
Bides



Over 30 farmers affected in Gibbons, Ch. Ch., B'dos



AT-HOME DISASTERS

- **Fires**
- ***Burglar-proofing***
- **Homicides**

**What
other
Disasters
???**

Know types of disasters in the Caribbean

- **Hazardous Materials**
- **Spills (oil/chemicals)**
- **Fires (wildland / homes)**
 - **Disease Outbreak**
 - **Hurricanes**
 - **Etc.**

Disaster causes

- 1. Deaths**
- 2. Injuries**
- 3. Food Scarcity**
- 4. Economic loss**
- 5. Disease outbreaks**
- 6. People Displacement**

Our Christian Approach

DISASTER OFFERS

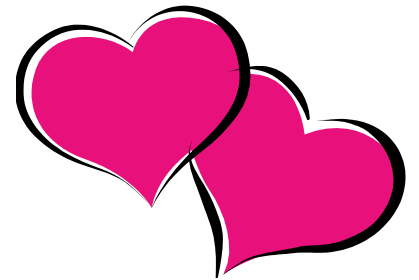
EVANGELISTIC

OPPORTUNITIES—

LUKE 21:13



**Disaster relief calls
us to serve “in
Jesus’ Name” to
bring wholeness to
people, 2 Cor. 5:14–15**



Christian service involves:



- 1. Helping neighbours
in need, Acts 11:29**
- 2. Disaster relief can't
be optional, Lk. 21:13**

Our Service includes

- 1. Assisting with flood mitigation measures; and**
- 2. Pre-disaster preparation**

Disaster Management Cycle

Prevention

Mitigation

Preparedness

Alert

Response

Rehabilitation

Reconstruction

Mitigation & Preparedness

Prudent management of homes, families and church requires

- 1. Pre-disaster Plan**
- 2. Plan during Event**
- 3. Post-disaster Plan**

Sound Preparation

**involves taking
decisive action prior
to the onset of an
event or disaster**



Preparation

**Have annual
training workshops
on disaster
preparedness for
Church members**

Home / church

- 1. Cut overhanging trees**
- 2. Clear drains**
- 3. Secure roofs**
- 4. Address defective openings (shuttering)**
- 5. Secure buildings**

Risk/Finance Reduction

**Have adequate
insurance to cover:**

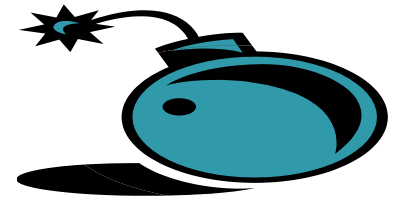
- 1. Flooding**
- 2. Hurricane**
- 3. Household items**
- 4. Fire, etc**

Pre-disaster Home Plan

- **Provided pre-packed meals /drinks**
- **Know safest part of house**
- **Know your nearest hurricane shelters**
- **Make evacuation plans**

Can my house withstand a category 2 hurricane?

If I live on low-lying coastal area, what action do I take if 12 ft. waves are expected?



If my office / church is under a bomb threat what is my recourse?

Include the Special Needs Population of your Church

- 1. Visually impaired**
- 2. Hearing impaired**
- 3. Cognitive impaired**

Include the Special Needs Population

4. Homeless

5. Seniors

6. Medically fragile

7. Mobility challenged



Are you **R.E.A.D.Y.**

- **R**—have all medicines
- **E**—for emergency
- **A**—access (contact numbers)
- **D**—diets and liquids
- **Y**—are YOU (prepared)



Have Plenty Liquid(s)



May be the only light for weeks



Life Saving Kit Should Include

1 gal. wholesome water per day	Pocket Knife
Ready to eat, non-perishable meals	Sturdy shoes, clothing, hat
Medicines	Waste bucket
Plenty liquid drinks	Plastic bags
Plates, utensils and feeding supplies	Small shovel
Plenty hand sanitiser	Hammer, nails, tools
Personal hygiene items	Sleeping bag, etc.
Work gloves	Dusk mask
Disposable camera	Cash
Flashlight and batteries	Battery operated radio

Go Kit

- **Week supply of medicines**
- **Prescription/other medication**
- **Contact / emergency nos.**
- **Insurance documents**
- **Spectacles**
- **Dialysis information**
- **Personal effects**
- **Toiletries, etc.**

Have Tel. nos./address:

- **Fire / Police**
- **Doctor**
- **Ambulance**
- **Family contact**
- **Water / Electric**
- **Other**

In Disaster Management

“if we fail to plan”

We plan to fail

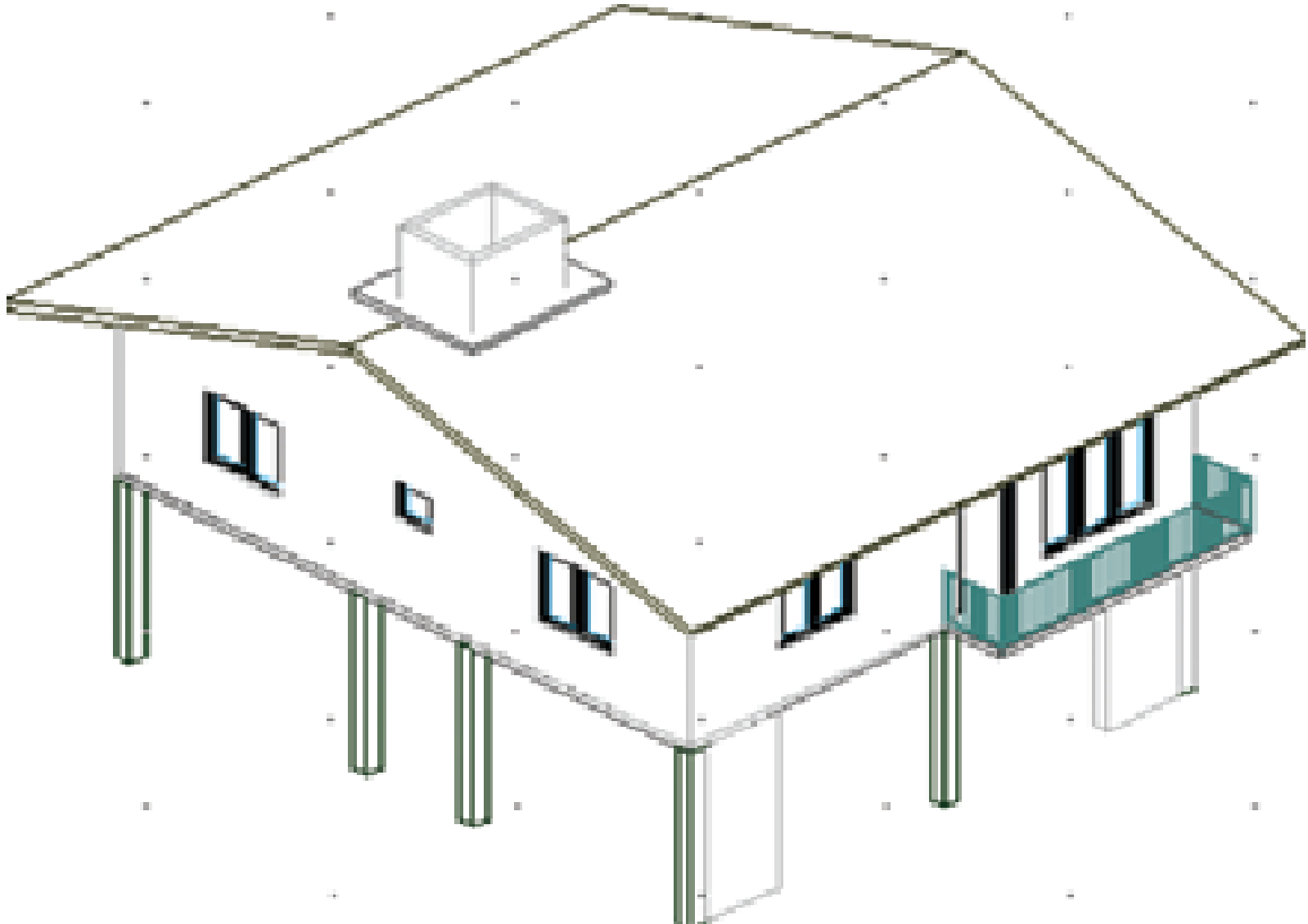
Building Tips

- 1. Obtain planning approval**
- 2. Use approved Building Codes**
- 3. Use approved contractors**
- 4. Build on sound sites** *(Not in watercourses, depressions, filled-in land)*
- 5. Use correct materials and sound methods**
- 6. Insure property**

- **Avoid building in low-lying areas**
- **Flee low-lying areas early**



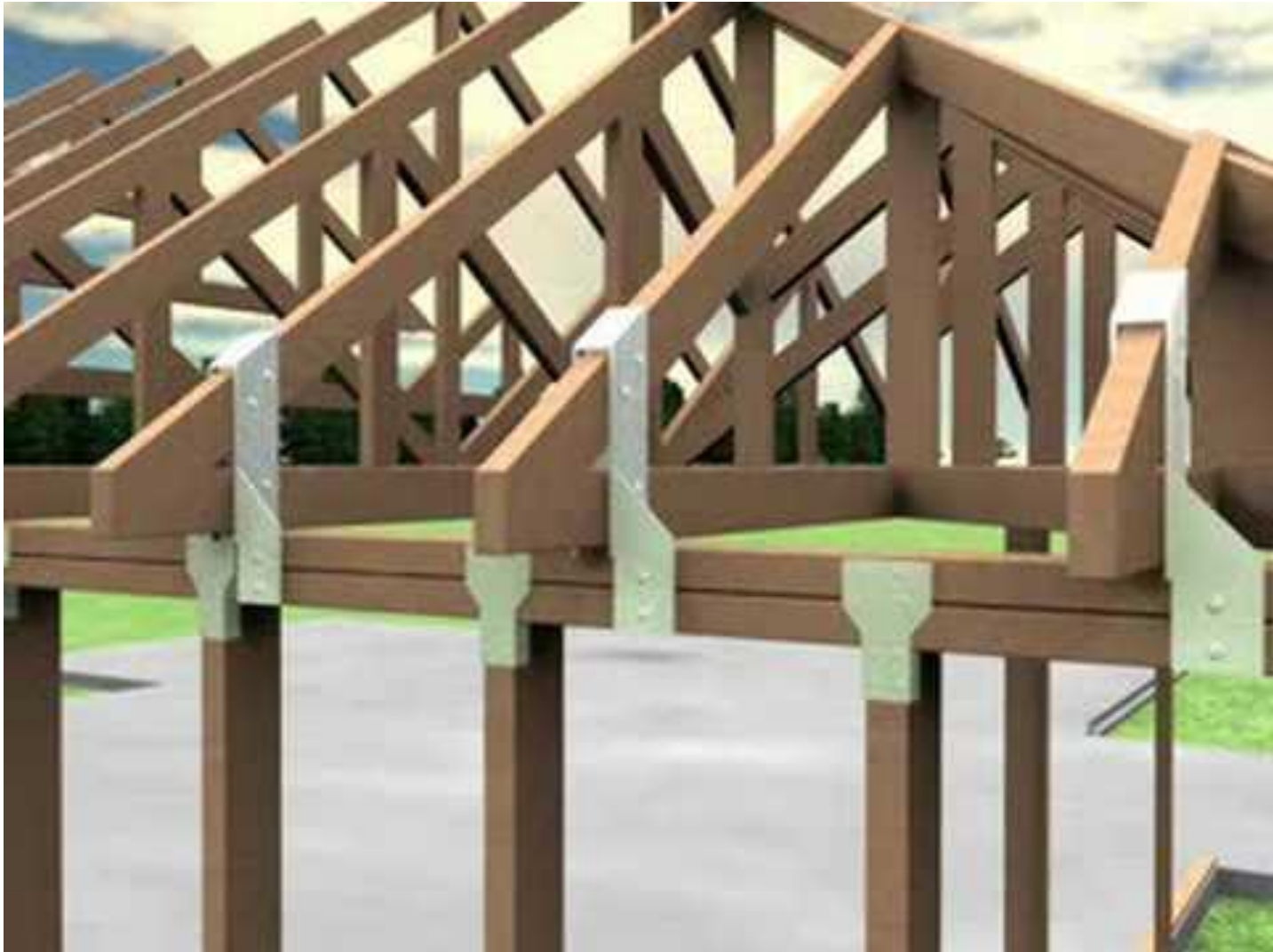
Try elevating



Avoid building on muddy slopes



Tie/secure property



Use proper connections

- **Roof to wall**
- **Wall to floor**
- **Floor to floor**
- **Wall /floor to foundation**

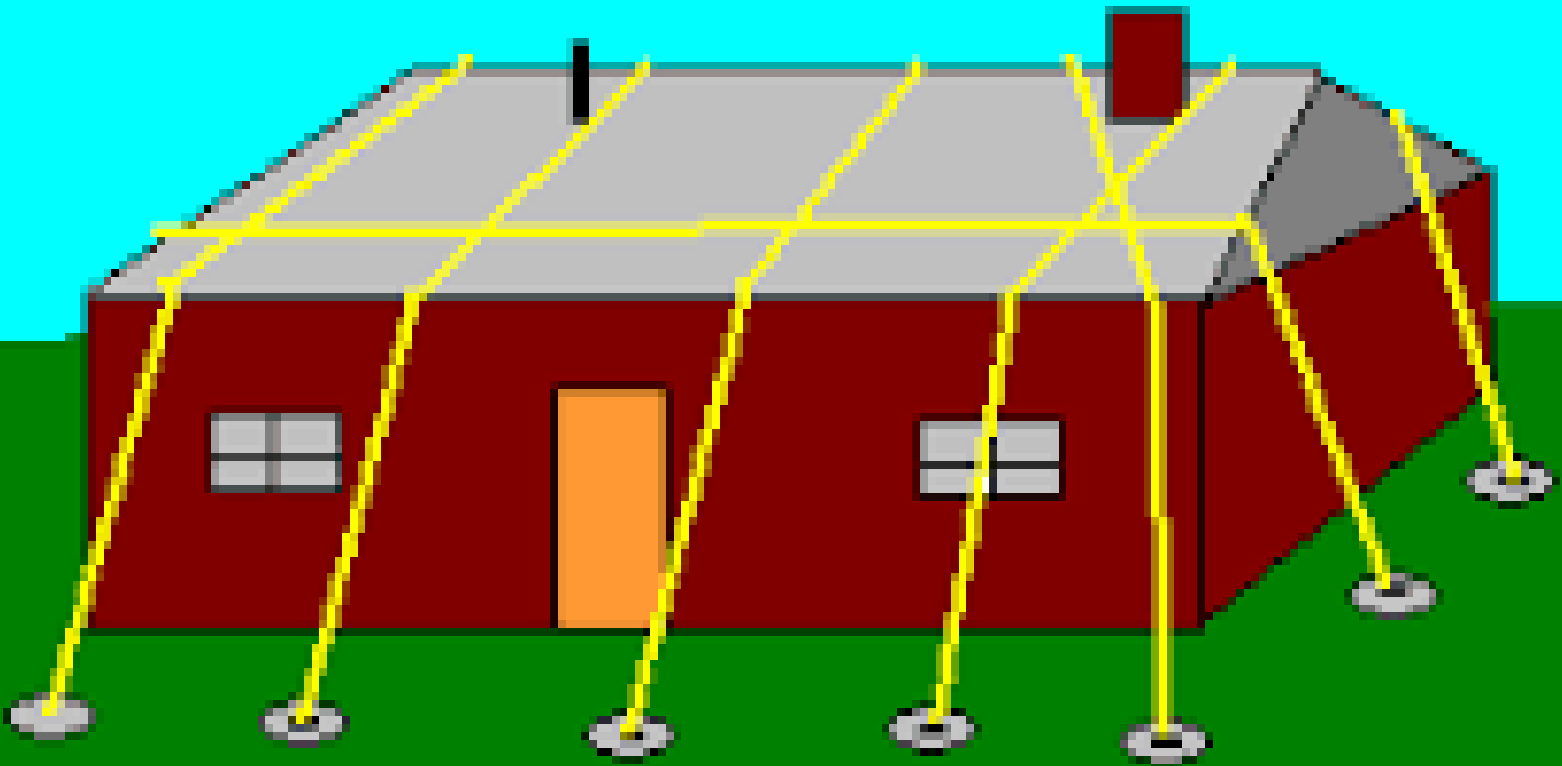
In building / retrofitting

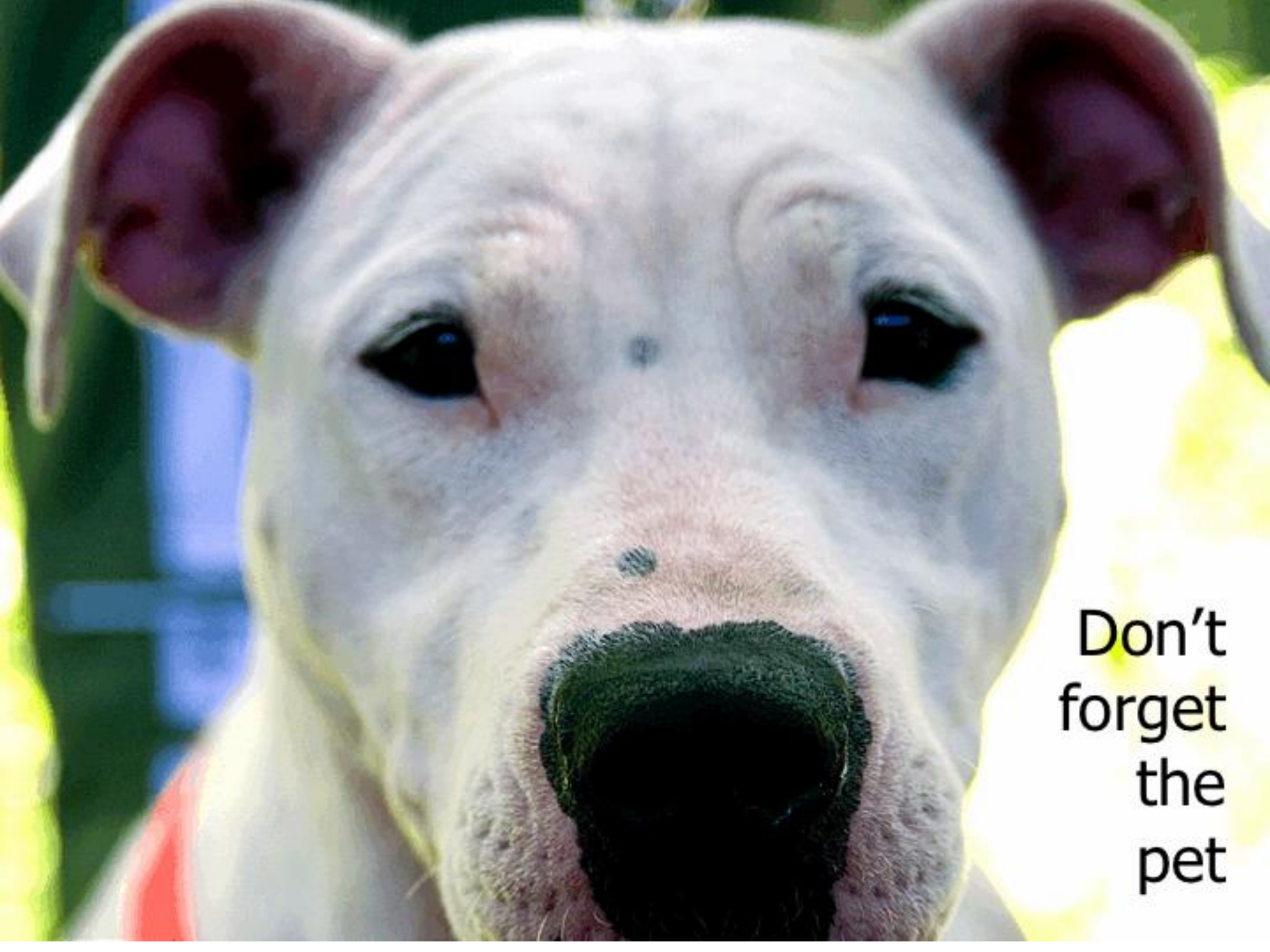
- **Use hurricane straps**
- **Fasten at ends**
- **Secure anchorage of sheathing to rafters and trusses that hold it in place**

Use screws where possible



Rope can be useful





Don't
forget
the
pet

ANIMALS

- 1. Have a plan for animals**
- 2. Clearly identify them**
- 3. Secure their food, water & medicine**
- 4. Confine them to safe place, e.g. bathroom**
- 5. Free animals if you have to flee**

Church Preparation

Have a Plan:

- **Have a family & church plan**
- **Have a good paid up insurance**
- **Let others know & practise your plan**

Each church could use:

- 1. Buddy systems (Groups of 3–5 persons responsible for each other) or**
- 2. A selected member who is responsible for 5— 8 others**

Church should provide and maintain a list of:

Physically challenged/senior members, and their:

- **Names / Addresses**
- **Telephone / other contacts
(Next of kin)**

- **Implement a reporting system where information on every member is received as soon as possible after a disaster**
- **Urgently pass on report to Elders / country emergency personnel for early action**

Know your area well

Evacuate if you live in:

- a flood prone area
- storm surge area
- Land-slide-prone area
- Dangerous windward exposed area
- Don't leave it to fate,
mitigate!

During Disaster

- ✓ Have your pre-packed meal
- ✓ Practise and maintain your plan
- ✓ Remain calm
- ✓ Stay in safe place
- ✓ Evacuate only if necessary

AFTER EMERGENCY

- 1. Recover & Restore**
- 2. Rehabilitate your family and then church**

Rehabilitation

- **Assess medical needs**
- **Do damage assessment**
- **Organise work teams**

Restoration

Re-establish structures, e.g.

- **Organise community volunteer service**
- **Seek relief from donors**
- **Help donors distribute food**
- **Relieve affected persons**
- **Rebuild housing / churches**

Intervention Goals Must be

- 1. Timely**
- 2. Well managed and operated**
- 3. Properly funded**
- 4. Empirically measurable in quality and impact, and**
- 5. Accountable to beneficiaries and donors**

Leadership is Essential

- 1. A explicitly detailed budget is vital for remediation**
- 2. Itemise cost to implement works**

Personnel is Crucial

- **Who & how many (Staff, volunteers)?**
- **What skills are available?**
- **What tasks are to be done?**

Capacity

- 1. What assets are available / needed for intervention?**
- 2. Is procurement / transportation / warehousing required.**

Timeliness is crucial.

Vital Stewardship

1. Clearly detail cost for remediation
2. Always tender interim progress reports
3. Produce timely report of works undertaken and cost

Word to the Wise

A single Church usually can't recover from a major disaster

- 1. Affiliation with an umbrella body (EA, EAC) is vital**
- 2. Donor agencies readily respond to umbrella organisations**

2 Questions

??...

Which ?? Way??

Forward ??

Prepare??

and

prevent??

Or??

Repair??

and

Repent ??

**Make sure you
have a plan –
a good one**

1. Knowing what to do is your best protection

2. Doing what you know is better

PREVENTION

&

PREPAREDNESS

Best way to face

EMERGENCY

It's better to:
Prepare & Prevent
Disaster
than have to
Repair & Repent

Catastrophic Caribbean Damage

Irma in Barbuda, 6/9/17



Irma in Florida 2017



Irma in Anguilla 2017



VANESSA C. THOMPSON/AP

St. Martin after Irma, 2017



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.ndin.org/ndin_resources/tipsheets

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

Thank You!

