**DISASTER RELIEF REFLECTION FOLLOWING ACTIVE SPRING STORMS**

As 1 Peter 4:10 states, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

With this verse in mind, Sammy Carr of Black Creek Baptist Church in Mechanicsville, Virginia decided in 2012 to undergo disaster relief training with the Virginia Baptist Mission Board. His training specialized in chainsaw recovery and shower/water purification trailer. In 2013, he was drafted into the feeding unit in West Virginia’s winter storm and received additional training in the feed/wash unit. Because of this experience, he is now serving on the association disaster committee.

Fast forward to April 2014, Carr received an email:

**ATTENTION CHAINSAW VOLUNTEERS!! We will be receiving a request from North Carolina Baptist Men later today for volunteers to assist in Elizabeth City, NC for tree cutting and debris removal. Begin clearing your calendar now and offer assistance if you are able.**

Carr juggled his schedule and contacted the NC Baptist Men and was soon on his way with Bill Fowler of Newsoms Baptist Church on May 2 at 6 a.m.

When they arrived at Corinth Baptist Church in Elizabeth City, they were greeted warmly by the NCBM and other brothers and sisters from our association and VBMB disaster services.

After a hearty breakfast, Carr and Fowler parted ways, and Carr was teamed with the chainsaw recovery team from Rosedale Baptist Church of Abingdon, VA.

The four-man group was dispatched to a home outside of Elizabeth City that had two trees damaged in the back yard. It was the home of an 82-year-old widow. It took all morning to get the trees cut up and pulled to the roadway. She was so appreciative of the help and was in tears as they prayed with her. They gave her a Bible with written words of inspiration and the names of the team.

The group returned to the church for nourishment and a little rest and headed...
to another home with tree damage. At this home, no one was there, but the group was told it was a home where a man and wife were in poor health. Since they were not home, the group could only leave the signed Bible with words of comfort and inspiration.

By the time the group returned to the church, the day was over. Due to a prior obligation, Carr could not help on Saturday, so Carr and Fowler headed home to Virginia. They were tired, but thankful to not have any injuries.

Carr said, “Only those who have been a part of a disaster relief team response can understand the feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit that is felt when serving.”

Disaster relief volunteers share like belief, love and compassion for those not only in physical need, but in spiritual need.

Carr added, “I encourage everyone to get involved in some way: physically (get the training), spiritually (praying), or financial (donating to disaster relief).”

submitted by Sammy Carr, Black Creek Baptist Church

For more information about how you and your church can be involved in Disaster Relief, contact:

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