Virginia Baptist Disaster Relief in the News

Church Responds After Heavy Snow
The heavy snows and bitter cold temperatures of February and March brought many challenges across the Commonwealth, particularly in southwest Virginia. Wise County was hit hard with blocked roads and collapsed buildings. When the Wise County Board of Supervisors declared an emergency, the VA Department of Emergency Management contacted the BGAV to ask for help providing meals for up to 100 volunteers.

Wise Baptist Church went beyond responding to the requested need for meals and also offered to host the volunteers. “We received many blessings from this opportunity to serve,” said Rev. Mike Winters, pastor. “God has wired us to serve and be on mission for Him.” Twenty-two volunteers from the church prepared three meals a day on a Saturday and Sunday and utilized the church kitchen and fellowship hall to serve the workers. Funds for the meals were provided by BGAV’s Cooperative Missions budget, donations, the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions, and BGAV disaster reserve accounts.

“It’s great when churches make strong decisions to be leaders in their communities and serve when called upon,” commented Dean Miller, Team Leader for the BGAV Glocal Missions Team. “This is exactly what a church should do, not only in times of disaster, but all times. Being the hands and feet of Christ is the definition of a Christian and by extension, the community of believers that claims Christ.”
BGAV Hires New Disaster Response Coordinator

Disaster relief is a critical ministry of the BGAV, and the Glocal Missions Team is excited to welcome Aaron Lee as the new Disaster Response Coordinator. Lee’s extensive experience over the last several years in BGAV leadership roles and on church staff as a youth and missions pastor have prepared him to serve in this new capacity. “I am excited to begin helping Virginia Baptists respond to disasters in those moments of great need,” Lee said. “The BGAV has felt like home to me for a long time, and I am looking forward to serving alongside the Virginia Baptist family.”

Register for Disaster Relief Training

We welcome the help of those called to serve in this ministry using their gifts and skills. There are three training opportunities coming up, with more to be scheduled in the future. Pick from two disciplines: mass care feeding or recovery.

- May 1–2, 2015 Orcutt Baptist Church, Newport News
- May 8–9, 2015 Wise Baptist Church, Wise
- May 29–30, 2015 The Saint Paul’s Baptist Church, Richmond

Learn more at BGAV.org/Disaster.

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

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