

December 2013

mna disaster response Mission to North America

RECOVERY REPORT

"The prophet Anna was also there in the temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. In her youth she had been married for seven years, but her husband died. And now she was eighty-four years old. Night and day she served God in the temple by praying and often going without eating. At that time Anna came in and praised God. She spoke about the child Jesus to everyone who hoped for Jerusalem to be set free"

Luke 2:36-38

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I write to you during this season of thanksgiving and celebration to thank you for your prayers and support, and to give you a glimpse of what we have been up to recently. The 2013 Atlantic hurricane season, now over, had the fewest number of hurricanes since 1982, thanks in large part to atmospheric conditions over the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and tropical Atlantic Ocean. The year of 2013 is the sixth-least-active Atlantic hurricane season since 1950. I am truly thankful that we did not need to undertake a new hurricane response when our resources were already stretched due to our continued Hurricane Sandy response in New York and New Jersey, continued tornado response in Oklahoma, and now assessing for a likely tornado response in Illinois.

Staff Gathering and Debriefing

I'm privileged to work with some amazing people. A few weeks ago the entire MNA Disaster Response staff met together at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando for our annual retreat and debriefing. None of our staff live near each other, and because we have each been deployed to disasters sites this year it was especially wonderful to be together, albeit just for 2 days as some things cannot be shared over the phone or by email.

Dr. Jim Coffield, RTS professor and our team counselor, met with us and brought passages from John 4 and 21 sharing personal thoughts that were helpful and convicting. It was a blessed time to debrief, unload, recharge, pray, weep, learn, trust, and plan. Thank you for making this special time happen through your support. Our team really looks forward to this time together each year.





Celebrating God's Provision

Next week, I have the high privilege of attending what will be a wonderful time of celebration in Moore Oklahoma. I will be with 120 tornado-crushed families to give thanks for God's provision in their lives. These are families who,



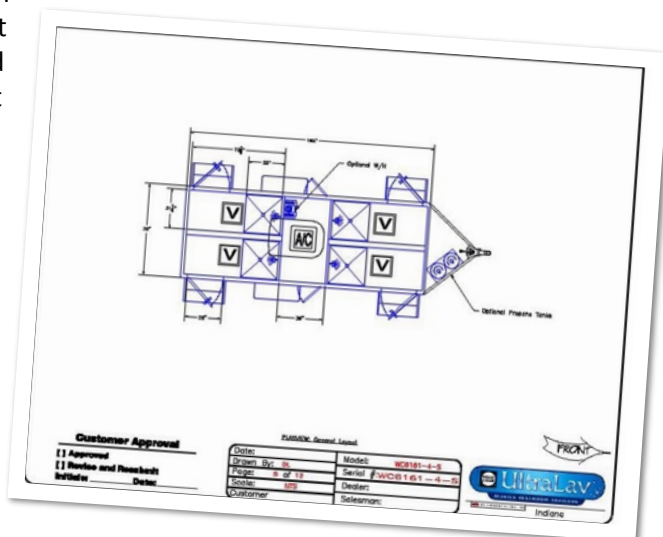
through God's providence, we have been privileged to meet and serve since beginning recovery operations last May. We gather to remember what God has done here, how special it's been, and how the PCA's effort has blessed so many. Besides allowing us to undertake debris cleanup, gutting, mucking and roofing projects, your support, volunteer efforts, and prayers have allowed us to provide each of the 120 families a Shed of Hope. Sheds of Hope are 8x8 yard barns (sheds), built by our volunteer teams on the lots of homeowners whose property has been catastrophically affected by disaster. Built with the gospel fuel of love-driven sacrifice, a shed provides a place to store recovered personal belongings and a place to secure rebuilding supplies & tools as they start rebuilding their

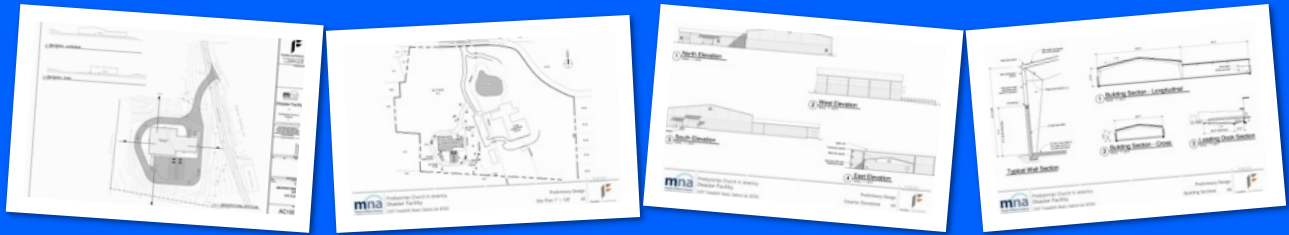
homes...and their lives. A simple, but sturdy, shed truly brings Hope, and the provision provides a segue into folks hearts, opening Gospel opportunities. With your strong support we will continue Moore recovery operations throughout the spring and into summer.

New Shower Trailer for SC

Palmetto Presbytery has acted to join with MNA in forming a new volunteer shower trailer deployment team. The new \$35,000+ trailer unit has been ordered and should be delivered in December. The new unit increases the geographical footprint of PCA disaster readiness, and provides four private showers, lavatories, and restrooms as well as the capacity to hold a clothes washer and dryer for site manager use.

Having showers available for our teams is a core requirement when we establish a new worksite in a disaster zone; no showers=no sustainable volunteer mobilization. The new Palmetto team will preposition the unit in the Columbia, SC area at one of our churches and will begin to train with it as soon as it arrives. We now have shower trailer teams in six strategic locations ready to assist with recovery operations. The Texas-based unit has been on duty at Christ the King PCA in Norman, OK providing hygiene for the hundreds of volunteers who have served there. Give God the glory for this wonderful development. Join us in prayer for similar team development for the Atlantic Northeast.





JOSEPH'S SILO UPDATE

Fundraising to establish this important denominational resource has been steady...and slow. Therefore we continue planning and praying for God to provide for this special project. Joseph's Silo, once constructed, will be used to preposition vitally needed supplies and equipment resulting in a faster and better PCA response to the certain future disasters. Lots of progress has been made in the design and construction planning over the summer and fall. Here is an update about the process thus far.

- We have decided on an approximately 15,000 square foot structure consisting of 2 buildings joined together. The larger building is 100x100, the smaller is about 60x80. Both are clear-span with high eave heights.
- The pre-owned structure formally served an Ohio congregation and has been disassembled and transported to TN. We have an agreement to purchase the buildings and erect them on a portion of the Grace Presbyterian Church campus in Dalton Georgia. A long term land lease is being developed.
- PCA Ruling Elder Bob Franklin is our architect. His Chattanooga firm has been working diligently to develop the working drawing for the project, oversee geographical surveying and geotechnical investigation contractors, and to provide coordination with our proposed general contractor. We are very thankful for Bob and his commitment to see this resource become a reality for our denomination.



We are praying with deep desire that construction can begin on Joseph's Silo when the weather breaks in the spring. Will you join up in prayer, asking the Lord to provide for this valuable asset? Several years back I asked you to join us in prayer for one volunteer shower trailer and we now have six! When you pray the Lord provides.

To know more about Joseph's Silo and options for you to give towards this need please navigate to the Mission to North America website at: <http://pcamna.org/disaster-response/>

God's Created People, not Projects

This is how we see storm damaged folks. Once we understand each individual affected by disaster is a person and not a problem or a project, we have a different perspective in serving those in distress. Seeing the *imago Dei* looking back at us has a way of changing our perspective---now there's a sparkle of majesty, an upspringing of worth, a spark of hope. Disasters don't know that some people are more, or less important than others, or that some are carrying more or different baggage than others.



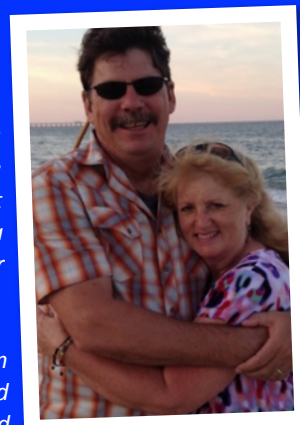
Ed Welch, noted counselor and faculty member at CCEF, once described the shape of Jesus' life ministry as one extended zigzagging line moving back and forth between the margins of society. Tax collectors, bleeding women, day-laborers, contagious lepers, elderly widows, ethnic half-breeds, town prostitutes, and thieves on crosses are just some of the amazing examples. If ever there were someone who could look down and rightfully label a group as worthless and hopeless, it was the Prince of Heaven. And if ever there was someone who did just the opposite, it was that very same Prince. Now the dirty are clean, the worthless are made worthy, and the hopeless see restoration. If this is us, then there must be hope for them. Better yet, this IS us, so there is no 'them'!

A personal note from Arklie...

Last week I read through Dr. Luke's gospel and was struck by Anna's hope. The prophetess was mourning over the delay of the Messiah and pleading for His coming. She was waiting for the Promised One Who would come and fulfill the ancient prophecies and redeem her people Israel. And one day He came. He seemingly was just a Jewish infant bundled up in His teenage mother's arms....but Anna knew Who she'd been waiting for. Immediately "she began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem." Devotion and anticipation turn to gratitude and proclamation as she finally lays eyes on the Hope of the Ages, the fulfillment of God's greatest promise. Anna was a precious, old, soft-hearted woman who must've been a joy for heaven to welcome home.

Would you please keep praying for increased faith, passion, diligence, and perseverance for your MNA Disaster Response team? We want to be like Anna. We don't believe that what we're doing is better or more than what anyone else is doing, but we do want to do it well and for the Lord. Most of all, please pray for us to walk with pure hearts and Spirit-led minds in all that we do. I believe that the Lord will evaluate our ministry to the tempest-tossed not by our schedule or what we got accomplished, but by the object and the degree of our affections. Pure hands normally come from a pure heart. Please pray for the latter because it guarantees the former. Thank you so much for praying with us to this end.

The last weeks have been full, which is an echo of what our year has been. Please remember us in year-end giving. We continuously need your generous support to meet the unmet needs of impacted families and for mobilization costs. To cover expenses for this year and to place this ministry on solid ground in 2014 I am seeking an additional \$10,000 beyond those who give currently. Let me know if you can help or introduce me to folks who might be interested in supporting this vital work. Thanks for your comments and kind words from time to time; they're encouraging. My life is as broken and desperate as the next person's, and an uplifting word is medicine for the soul.



Celebrating the Hope that lights our lives in this season of love,

Arklie

Arklie & Katherine Hooten and entire MNA Disaster Response Team