

2. CARING BEGINS BEFORE A DISASTER HAPPENS

“Working together, your church and the interfaith community can cooperate to enable ministry to the whole person through long-term recovery.”

The Holistic Disaster Cycle

As the “one body of Christ,” we as the church are commissioned to be holistic in our approach to disaster response. This means working together and participating in all aspects of a Holistic Disaster Cycle, helping to:

- **Educate** people about disasters and appropriate response.
- **Prevent** human-caused technological/environmental disasters.
- **Mitigate** or lessen dangers of disasters that will occur.
- **Prepare** for disaster and recovery of survivors.
- **Respond** to human need in a coordinated way in harmony with ongoing development in a community.

You and your church have important contributions to make in each component of the Holistic Disaster Cycle. Developed in unison, your contributions provide a framework for reducing the effects of disasters in our world.



Disaster response is more than meeting emergency human needs. It is working together to try to prevent disaster as well as to respond.

Church World Service/Mel Lehman

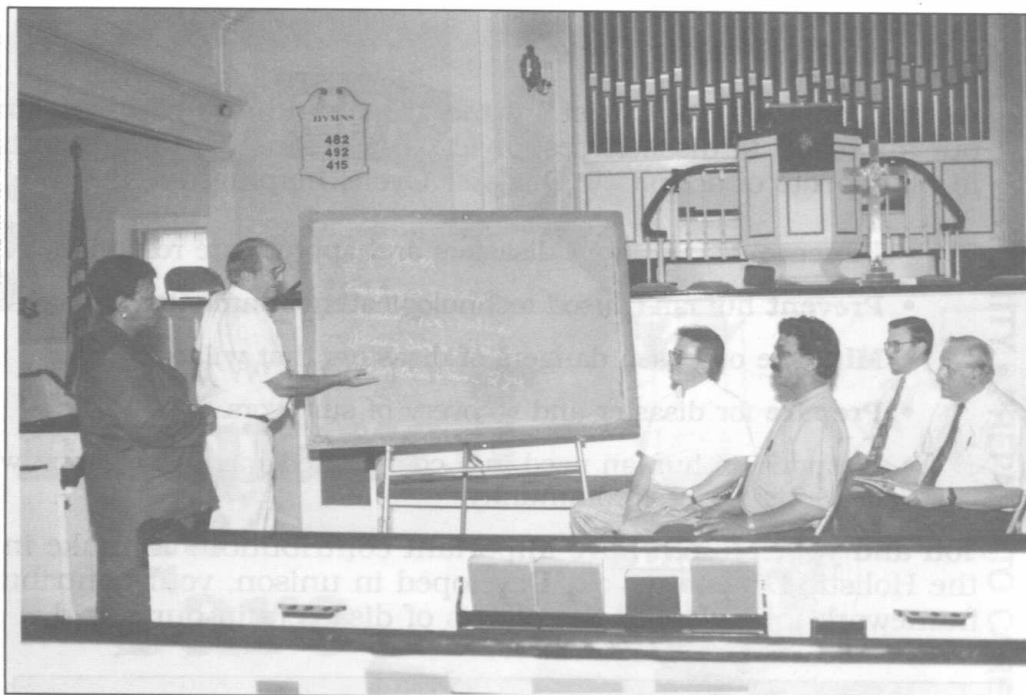
Prepare to Care:

How to Get Started

- **Educate.** Talk with your family and members of your church community about the risks of disaster. Take time to discover and expand your spiritual reserves. Gather the scriptures and stories

Your church's volunteers, working with Church World Service, can help you develop holistic disaster plans.

Andrea Wolf for Church World Service



from your religious and family traditions that sustain, nourish, and inspire you. See Manual, **Emotional, Spiritual and Pastoral Care for Disaster Survivors and Care-Givers**. It covers spiritual/pastoral care, advocacy for disaster survivors and care-givers and the role of the religious community in disaster recovery.

- **Prevent.** Begin looking at how you live and how changes in your lifestyle could help prevent human-caused disaster. (See page 15.)
- **Mitigate.** Find out what you and your family can do at home and in your church to minimize the effects of a disaster. Take the first practical steps. (See page 17.)
- **Prepare.** Know your church's local, regional and national plan for disaster and your role in it. When disaster strikes outside your area, be prepared to help others. (See page 22.)

- **Respond.** After a disaster, people usually need money, tools, housing, compassion, understanding, signs of hope, and time to heal. Depending on the size and location of the disaster, local churches and local or regional ecumenical or interfaith bodies will most likely be assisting those most in need from the beginning. Work through systems already in place. As disaster survivors know their needs better than anyone else, survivors and local



Reuters via Religious News Service

Ministering to people's emotional, spiritual, and physical needs after a disaster can be a life-changing experience for those who serve as well as for those who receive.

communities should have as much control of the recovery process as possible. Contribute only those things that are requested. (See page 22-24.) Many want to help in the short-term. You also serve by planning how to help in the long-term. Begin fund raising immediately in your church; money and volunteers will be needed later when other helping agencies end their programs.

Working together, your church and the interfaith community can cooperate to enable ministry to the whole person through long-term recovery. The work can be a life-changing experience for those who minister as well as for those who receive.

How Church World Service Can Help

Church World Service Volunteer Disaster Consultants are available with special expertise in such areas as advocacy, human-caused disasters, and training laity and clergy to provide spiritual/pastoral care for disaster survivors and care-givers.

In major disasters, your church and Church World Service assist survivors in partnership with the interfaith response group at the site which plans and coordinates programs to meet human needs. If you want to help, contact your church disaster program, if applicable, the local interfaith response group, the Church World Service Disaster Consultant, or call the Church World Service **Hotline** for an information update at 1-800-456-1310.

Prepare to Care:

How Safe Is Your Community? Disaster Risk Assessment

How would you rate the probability of the following events occurring in your community within the next ten years? Rate them in terms of the following six-point scale by circling the appropriate number.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0 — not applicable to my community | 3 — moderate probability |
| 1 — not probable | 4 — high probability |
| 2 — low probability | 5 — nearly certain |

Avalanche	0	1	2	3	4	5
Blizzard or Massive Snowstorm	0	1	2	3	4	5
Chemical Contamination or Spill	0	1	2	3	4	5
Dam Break	0	1	2	3	4	5
Drought	0	1	2	3	4	5
Earthquake	0	1	2	3	4	5
Electric Power Blackout	0	1	2	3	4	5
Epidemic	0	1	2	3	4	5
Flash Flood	0	1	2	3	4	5
Forest or Brush Fire	0	1	2	3	4	5
Freezing Ice Storm	0	1	2	3	4	5
Hurricane	0	1	2	3	4	5
Major Frost and Freeze	0	1	2	3	4	5
Major Gas Main Break	0	1	2	3	4	5
Major Hail Storm	0	1	2	3	4	5
Major Industrial Explosion	0	1	2	3	4	5
Major Water Main Break	0	1	2	3	4	5
Massive Automobile Wreck	0	1	2	3	4	5
Meteorite Fall	0	1	2	3	4	5
Mine Disaster	0	1	2	3	4	5
Mud or Landslide	0	1	2	3	4	5
Oil Spill	0	1	2	3	4	5
Pipeline Explosion	0	1	2	3	4	5
Plane Crash in Community	0	1	2	3	4	5
Radiation Fallout	0	1	2	3	4	5
River Flood	0	1	2	3	4	5
Sand/Dust Storm	0	1	2	3	4	5
Severe Fog Episode	0	1	2	3	4	5
Ship Disaster in Harbor or Nearby Coast	0	1	2	3	4	5
Smog Episode	0	1	2	3	4	5
Sudden Waste Disposal Problem	0	1	2	3	4	5
Tornado	0	1	2	3	4	5
Tsunami or Tidal Wave	0	1	2	3	4	5
Volcanic Eruption or Fallout	0	1	2	3	4	5
Water Pollution	0	1	2	3	4	5
Water Shortage	0	1	2	3	4	5