SHATTERED LIVES
Hurricane Disaster Times 3

For days the news media had reported how bad it would be, and so all the preparations had been made. Everything was battened down, windows boarded up. Hundreds of thousands evacuated to nearby shelters and to any friends and loved-ones that would take them in. And then they struck—three sibling hurricanes—Harvey, Irma and Maria! They battered and drenched our southern coastlines, spilling up to 50 inches of rain in parts of Texas, Louisiana and Florida. They utterly destroyed several islands in the Caribbean as well.

The destruction was massive, mostly due to the widespread flooding. In Houston, the flood water remained for several days. Everything was soaked—homes, streets, hotels, restaurants, gas stations...everything! The loss was unimaginable. And it wasn’t just rain and river water that the people had to deal with. The water was polluted with sewage, refuse, and petroleum which made parts of the city overwhelmed with a stench. Health risks emerged from contact with the water like tetanus and Hepatitis C. Any prolonged contact with the water made people itch if they did not wash with bleach or an alcohol-based soap soon after.

International Aid responded to all of the hurricane disasters, and continues to provide truckloads of disaster relief. Because of our generous donor-friends, we were able to provide urgently needed items like: hygiene kits, cleaning tools—such as mops, buckets, ringers and face masks—antibacterial soaps, personal care items, paper products, infant formula, baby food....
and so much more. View the list of relief items and get hurricane disaster updates on our website: www.internationalaid.org/hurricanerelief.

“In the face of disaster, we have the opportunity to unite together, to provide and care for one another, to demonstrate God’s love for one another. We’ll take that opportunity.”

Brian Anderson
President/CEO, International Aid

Hygiene kits were in such demand that we held two emergency Hygiene Kit Packing Events to provide for the disasters. West Michigan came together and volunteered in such great numbers that we could not facilitate the astounding response. The events filled so quickly, we had to inform hundreds of people that we were at capacity. Yet our goals were met, and tens of thousands of hygiene kits were packed by wonderful and very enthusiastic volunteers.

Due to the overwhelming need the disasters created, Brian Anderson traveled to Texas and met with Doug Springer, President of Somebody Cares. They prayed together for the restoration of those suffering loss. They discussed the long-term effects of the disaster on the people—their homes, businesses and certain loss of employment. They also discussed how relief efforts and donations would quickly reduce when the news media moved on to other attention-grabbing topics.

Please, join with us in continuing to pray and support those affected by the hurricane disasters.

A TRIP TO TEXAS
And A Visit At The State Capitol

When Texas State Senator, Bryan Hughes, learned about International Aid providing relief efforts in his home state, Brian Anderson was invited to meet with him at the Capitol in Texas.

The Senator lavished appreciation for our efforts in supplying disaster relief in the affected areas. He also shared how profoundly he and some friends had been impacted by the news, got on a boat and helped people stuck in the flood water.

“When we saw what was happening in Houston, we couldn’t just sit in a safe dry office. We knew we had to go. So we prayed about it, talked to our families, and brought it before the Lord,” said the Senator. “We were coordinated with first-responders in areas that never flooded before. We supplied food, fuel and water. It was hard because this was not a far away place. It was home. It was overwhelming.”

The Senator also commended International Aid on directly meeting needs. “The needs you are meeting, in particular when folks have lost everything—medical, hygiene—my goodness! These are fundamental things that so many people don’t think about. We need you to keep doing what you’re doing.”
NEPAL UPDATE
Still Recovering After 2 Years

Nepal, well known for its rich cultural heritage and vast tourism, is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia. The damage created by the massive set of earthquakes in the spring of 2015 put a tremendous strain on the country that is still felt today.

Because of the generosity of our donor-friends, International Aid quickly responded by providing over $150,000 of disaster relief aid to our partners that same year. Yet their need continues still, as there was so much damage.

International Aid is dedicated to serving people in need and our partners in the field. We are in it for the long haul. So our Communications Director, Loyd Jenkins, visited our partners in Nepal to get a first-hand update on their recovery from the earthquakes and to discuss their medical equipment needs.

Streets are still covered in rubble, buildings propped up by wooden beams, and some communities remain leveled to the ground—unable to be reached during the rainy season.

However, Nepali people are very optimistic and resilient. They forge ahead rebuilding and recovering the best they can. The stories they tell about their experiences in the disaster are sad and frightening, but they are also inspiring.

Dr. Shrestha, an orthopedic surgeon at Dhulikhel Hospital, told of a heroic experience where he was called to the hospital, immediately after the first earthquake. He phoned his wife to be sure his family was safe and then quickly made his way to the chaos that enveloped the hospital building.

For five days, he and a handful of other surgeons performed hundreds of emergency procedures sleeplessly. During many of the surgeries, Dr. Shrestha found himself interrupted by numerous aftershocks. He hovered over the patients while holding the surgical light steady above his head. Even though he feared for his safety at times, it didn’t deter him from continuing to help. “When there’s an injured person right in front of you, and you know what to do, you just do it in spite of yourself. That’s what I did. I just focused on them and somehow had energy to keep going,” Dr. Shrestha said.

We also learned from another partner that our Lab-In-A-Suitcase® survived the earthquakes due to its durable case, according to Padam Tamang with Penna United Medical Association.

Dr. Dipak Shrestha, MS

continued from top right

Mother and child in Pediatric Ward at United Mission Hospital in Tansen, Nepal.

Padam Tamag with a Lab-In-A-Suitcase®

Dhulikhel Hospital Recovery Ward
CELEBRATING
Global Handwashing Day

Each year, International Aid observes Global Handwashing Day in the month October. This year we are excited to celebrate at Lake Hills Elementary in Grand Haven (MI) on October 13.

There will be handwashing relays, games and prizes for the children. And along with all the fun, we will have an educational presentation on the importance of handwashing with soap. Last year we produced a catchy Wash Your Hands song, and music video, that will also be shown to the students.

The theme of this year’s celebration is Our Hands, Our Future, reminding us that handwashing protects our health as we build our futures. Thinking of the future, we strive for continued health and well-being for ourselves, our families, our communities and our world.

International Aid is an advocate of handwashing education, as it is the frontline of defense against the spread of illness and infectious disease. The Ebola Crisis in 2014 was ultimately controlled by instituting proper handwashing programs in the affected areas.

MONTHLY GIVING
Simplifying Your Support

Make a sustaining contribution that is spread throughout the year by turning your gifts into monthly support. It’s easy and convenient. Simply schedule them with Electronic Funds Transfers with your credit card.

Sign Up online at.... www.give2ia.org
or contact our office at.... 800-968-7490

Transactions can be changed or terminated at any time upon your request.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

- IRA Charitable Gifts
- Planned Gifts
- Stock Gifts
- Estate Planning

Consider taking advantage of these Tax-Wise giving options that can result in great benefit for you, International Aid and people in need.

For more information on these and other giving options, please contact:

Bill Erickson, Director of Advancement
616-935-6368 bill@internationalaid.org

Andrew Orr, Director of Advancement
616-935-6870 andrew@internationalaid.org
A CURE FOR KIDS
That Brings Hope and Healing

hospitals. Recently, Jim Loeffler traveled to two Cure hospitals—in Niger and Uganda—to perform an inventory and assessment of their equipment.

Children suffering from physical disabilities have little hope for a productive future and often are shunned or abused in their communities.

We are very excited to provide these services to our partners, where the impact of restorative care on children will greatly improve their lives and their future. We also love that Cure places an equal emphasis on physical and spiritual healing.

Caring for physically disabled children in developing countries is quite an undertaking, but one that is extremely rewarding. Our partner, Cure International, has been dedicated to treating conditions such as club foot, cleft palates, hydrocephalus (excessive fluid around the brain), severe burns, and other deforming conditions.

International Aid has come along side Cure to manage all of their medical equipment needs for their international

MAKING IT EASY
An In-House Laboratory Helps Eye Patients

“The Lab-In-A-Suitcase® has come through again! Providing essential laboratory equipment at an affordable price for the benefit of people in need,” Herb Rogers from International Ministries (Haiti) wrote.

This Lab-In-A-Suitcase® was placed in a new ophthalmic clinic in northern Haiti, which opened this past summer. In July, the laboratory performed 154 tests and 31 operations. Now, when people come to the Cap Haitian Eye Center with eye issues, they can also receive their diagnostic laboratory work without having to travel to another location. This saves them time and money on transportation. Praise God!

“I just wonder how many of those patients would not be able to have those tests done because they don’t know where to go, or they don’t have the money. Every time I read those numbers, I wonder about the story behind each number,” wrote Nzunga Mabudiga in a recent blog for the ministry.
International Aid has accomplished a tremendous amount of work this year due to the generous support of businesses, organizations and individuals. We are blessed to see God working through our ministry.

Here is our impact since July 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017.

Thank you for choosing to make International Aid YOUR partner ministry.

$3.5 BILLION
Amount of aid sent to partners in the areas of greatest need, both in the U.S. and abroad

27 COUNTRIES
Number of countries that have received product from International Aid

35 PARTNERS
Number of partner organizations that receive aid from International Aid

Our Mission
THE MISSION OF INTERNATIONAL AID IS TO GLORIFY CHRIST BY PROVIDING MEDICAL AND HEALTH RESOURCES TO GLOBAL PARTNERS SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED.

International Aid is a Christian relief ministry that seeks to tangibly demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering. This is done through the distribution of life-saving medicines, hygiene products, nutritional supplements, reconditioned medical equipment and supplies to hundreds of ministries and humanitarian organizations serving in areas of greatest need.

As a 501(c)3 organization, International Aid has had the privilege of partnering with thousands of like-minded individuals, businesses and associations who give of themselves so that others may be the recipients of a better quality of life.

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