

Hurricane Disaster Relief for El Salvador

On Saturday, November 7, 2009, Hurricane Ida ravaged the country of El Salvador. Hundred mile-an-hour winds tore through the country toppling trees, carrying away houses and collapsing buildings, bridges and other structures. So much rain fell in such a short period of time that rivers jumped their banks, dams broke and mountain streams turned into raging torrents. Violent mud slides with boulders as big as cars wiped out entire villages. People were swept away by the muddy waters. The country is still trying to recover as disaster relief continues to arrive. Hundreds are dead, hundreds more still missing and thousands are left homeless and destitute.

The timing of this storm could not have been worse. It is harvest time in El Salvador. Crops were just being gathered from the fields when Hurricane Ida hit. **The storm wiped out entire fields of rice, corn and beans -- the staple foods of the people.** Those in rural areas have lost everything. Even if they began planting today (which is impossible because of all the damage), it will take months before another harvest can be gathered. The situation is desperate and will be for the next several months.



Our friends, Don & Terri Triplett are missionaries to El Salvador. Their ministry, *Castillo Del Rey* (King's Castle Ministries) is right in the thick of things. It is from them that these details are being reported. **They are calling out for help, and BUSES International & Antioch International is responding to their call.**

Since Mexico is closed to us, we are sending this year's Christmas Shoebox Gifts to El Salvador. El Salvador, like so many other Central and South American countries, has tens of thousands of children struggling to survive the grip of poverty. Now with the added burden of all this destruction, the shoebox gifts will make a huge impact in El Salvador. The gifts will be distributed by *Castillo Del Rey* – www.kingscastle.com.

Three Ways You Can Get Involved

1 -- You can donate food.

We are hosting a **Disaster Relief Food Drive** for the people of El Salvador. We are going to fill a 40-foot shipping container with **non-perishable foods** -- all kinds of canned goods, powdered milk, pasta, cereal, soy products, rice, beans, corn, plastic bags, paper towels, cleaning supplies, etc. They need everything we can collect. Tell your church; tell your coworkers; tell your neighbors; tell your family and friends! Start collecting the above mentioned items and bring them to our drop-off site: BUSES International 702 N Ridge Rd East, Lorain, OH 44055 • 440.233.4091. Every can of food and every non-perishable boxed item counts, and even the smallest contribution can make a difference. With your help, we can partner with our friends in El Salvador and work to save lives.

The collection deadline is **Monday, December 7, 2009.**

2 -- You can make a financial donation.

It will cost approximately \$6,000.00 USD to ship the container from Lorain, Ohio to San Salvador, El Salvador. It must travel approximately 2,000 miles (as the crow flies). That's \$3.00 a mile. Help us get the container of food to El Salvador by making a donation today! Sponsor one mile; sponsor ten miles; sponsor a hundred miles. We have already collected 15% of the needed funds. **Let's get this food to the kids!** Checks can be made payable to BUSES International and designated "El Salvador Relief".

3 -- You can pray!

We recognize in this tough economy, some may not be able to help with a monetary or food donation at this time. We understand! If this is your situation, would you simply pray? Prayer can **and will** make a difference! You can pray that donations come in quickly and we will be able to fill this container from front to back and top to bottom, you can pray the funds come in to cover the cost of shipping the container, you can pray for safety for the container as it makes its way to El Salvador and you can pray a blessing upon the container and its contents; that it would be a blessing to the people who receive from its contents. Lastly, you can pray for Don and Terri Triplett and the ministry team from *Castillo Del Rey* as they distribute the shoeboxes and food items to the children.

This project is more than just sending gift-shoeboxes, food and money to El Salvador. In a practical way, it is about sharing the love of Jesus Christ to people who are desperate and in need. Thank you for partnering with us! Together, we can and will make a difference in the lives of the people of El Salvador.

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