

# Operation Compassion

newsletter AUGUST 2011

## Operation Compassion Responds to Natural Disasters throughout the U.S. and Beyond

Anyone reading the newspapers has heard about all the inclement weather that has been raging around the world the past several months. Throughout this entire catastrophe, Operation Compassion was there! Below is a brief report on the responses of Operation Compassion.

### Relief America: The Disaster Response Network

**Tornadoes:** with the recent outbreaks of killer tornadoes across the Midwest, Southeast and Mid-Atlantic this spring, thousands of homes and businesses were destroyed or severely damaged. Hundreds of families are homeless or living in temporary housing as their lives have been totally turned upside down. In response to these outbreaks, Operation Compassion has resourced 41 disaster relief sites in 9 states providing relief goods. More than 16 sites are serving thousands of hot meals, operating shower trailers, washer/dryer units and hosting clean-up crews with heavy equipment. In addition, volunteers, chaplains and trained disaster counselors are available for anyone wanting to share their personal stories. As of June 6, 2011, Operation Compassion has delivered more than 100 semi-trailers of relief supplies and goods.



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## Operation Compassion Responds to Flooding along Mississippi River

**Finley, TN**— On Tuesday, May 17, Operation Compassion dropped off a truckload of supplies to the community at Junction Church to help rebuild their small community devastated by the April storms. The supplies of cleaning products, water, and other rebuilding materials have gone a long way toward helping the community rebuild after experiencing flooding the likes of which that community had never seen.

Rev. Kenny Chessor, the pastor at Junction Church, was overwhelmed by the support given to him by Operation Compassion and some of the area churches. Three Oaks Church opened its doors to allow his congregation to have Sunday service there until their community center was reopened. Churches have sent workers to help the rebuilding process. The community worked on as many as four homes at one time. Doing everything from plastering to painting to rebuilding walls, little by little this community continues to show resilience as it rebuilds.

"It could not have been all possible without the help of Operation Compassion and the other organizations and individuals that have helped us," said Chessor.



**Floods:** 6 disaster relief sites were established in strategic locations across the flooding zone along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. More than 4 semi-trucks and box trucks have been delivered and many more are being staged as needed.

**Wild Fires:** wild fires may be a natural rebirth of our forestry but they can cause disastrous consequences for those living in its path. Wild fires in Georgia, Florida and California accounted for the loss of several homes and thousands of acres of forests. Operation Compassion was able to respond with cold bottled water, extra thick socks and other products necessary for the firefighters.

### Global Relief Network

**Haiti Earthquake:** 20 months ago, Haiti was hit by one of the worst earthquakes in recent history. Thousands were displaced from their homes and communities and thousands lost their lives. Operation Compassion was able to begin relief efforts almost immediately because of our commitment to help Haiti before the earthquake. Operation Compassion furthered that commitment by pledging to send 200 semi-trucks (containers) of disaster relief goods and products during the next 2 years of recovery. As of June 6, 2011, Operation Compassion has sent and cleared 226 semi-trucks (containers) to Haiti, more than promised and sooner than projected!

**Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Accident:** earlier this year, when the third most violent earthquake in history struck Japan, triggering a killer tsunami of more than 30 feet, tens of thousands of people experienced the worst disaster in modern history. Yet, the resolve and fortitude of the Japanese have helped them work

toward recovery. Even after a nuclear incident from the flooding sent many evacuees further away from home, they continued to help one another. In response to these back to back to back disasters in Japan, Operation Compassion was able to respond with requested specialty items that were airlifted because of necessity. In addition, Operation Compassion wired financial support. Now, Operation Compassion has received permission to ship semi-trucks (containers) to Japan. The first 2 containers left with 18 more ready to ship in the next several weeks.



Fires in Arizona and New Mexico resulted in thousands being evacuated. Operation Compassion delivered water and thick socks to Gallup, NM, for firefighters.

Disaster Relief Site for Cleveland, TN after the April 27th tornadoes this site served hot food and provided assistance to over 1000 families.



# Operation Compassion Assists Flood Victims in North Dakota

Minot, North Dakota in June 2011 faced unprecedented flooding. In response, Operation Compassion sent a semi-truck full of disaster relief goods and products for distribution to the affected families. One of the local Churches had 9 feet of water in it. Businesses as well as homes have been affected, almost halting any activity except for flood preparedness.

The Souris River from Canada flows through Minot and back into Canada. Heavy rains in Canada, snow melt and extremely heavy rains in North Dakota are causing the severe flooding. More than 10,000 residents were ordered to evacuate their homes. Now as the water recedes the clean up begins.

Pastor Jeff Heber of West Minot Church has coordinated the disaster relief site for the city and has done excellent work with the initial setup.



Some 10,000 people were evacuated their homes, about one-fourth of Minot's population. Total amount of damage in the Minot area has reached over \$300 million.



## One Semi-Truck of products sent to Minot, ND

- 1 pallet, Tuna, Lunch to go
- 3 pallets, Blankets
- 4 pallets, bibles
- 4 pallets, Bottled Water
- 1 pallet, Granola Bars
- 2 pallets, Cereal
- 1 pallet, Toddler Fruit Snacks
- 1 pallet, Peanut Butter
- 1 pallet, Wheat Crackers
- 6 pallets, Ecolab Cleaning Supplies

**24 pallets total**

# Operation Compassion in Joplin, Missouri

When a catastrophic tornado wiped out half of Joplin, MO, Operation Compassion was there and its disaster relief network and set-up in the area. The disaster site served four additional satellite sites that assisted as many survivors as possible. God's Pit Crew, Gleanings for the World and Mercy Chefs cleaned debris and downed trees and fed survivors, volunteers and emergency workers.

In addition, Chaplains and trained disaster counselors were available as well as other resources such as refrigerated trailers, shower trailers and other equipment necessary for a disaster response of this scope and size. More than 40 semi-trucks of disaster relief goods and products continue to pour into the area from our partners, trying to meet as many needs as possible.

Feed the Children, one of our disaster network partners, has done an exceptional job in coming to help. Delivering semi-trucks of products and reaching out to Joplin as a community. Feed the Children has rallied around this disaster and has pulled out all the stops in trying to assist survivors with immediate needs as well as helping them recover from this catastrophic event.

## Croc N' Roll

In an effort to help the survivors of the devastating tornado that struck Joplin, MO, Operation Compassion hosted two of our international partners, Croc Shoes and Ecolab for a joint distribution called Croc N' Roll on July 18, 2011.

Chuck Ferrell, disaster site coordinator said, "Everyone is doing everything possible to bring relief to this hurting community and this distribution highlighted the value of shoes and cleaning supplies."

"As a company, we understand the need to help where we can. Our goal is to provide support and donate shoes to help protect the feet and create a positive impact on local and global communities in need. With longtime partners, we are happy to assist the families in Joplin who were affected by the recent tornado. Five thousand pairs will be donated here at the Joplin Family Worship Center through the Feed the Children and Operation Compassion." The 5,000 pairs of Crocs "is our largest single donation in the U.S. so far this year."

— Sandy Hausman,  
District Manager with Crocs Retail

During the tornado, St. John's Medical Center was devastated and rendered unusable. Employees and their families were treated to a reception with the company's executives and about half of the shoes were distributed to them. The remaining shoes were distributed the next afternoon to the community at large.

Approximately 2,500 families were given assistance during the event, receiving Croc shoes, Ecolab cleaning supplies and other goods made available through Operation Compassion.





(Left) Kyle Morrow, Disaster Relief Site Coordinator for Operation Compassion and Pastor of a Pleasant Grove Church, distributing supplies to area residents that were affected by the Tornadoes that swept through Alabama in April 2011.

(Bottom Right) Disaster Relief Site set-up by Operation Compassion in Cullman, Alabama.



Northport Disaster Relief Site was setup immediately after the tornadoes hit. Multiple semi-trucks loaded with relief goods were delivered and a mobile kitchen served thousands of meals in the two weeks following the storms. Many disaster relief partners assisted Operation Compassion with various resources to help the Tuscaloosa area cope, including chaplains and professional counselors.



Be informed log on to [operationcompassion.org](http://operationcompassion.org)

By giving, you will help in the distribution of needed food and supplies around the world. There are three ways to give:

- 1 Donate online on our website [operationcompassion.org](http://operationcompassion.org) press the "GIVE DIRECT" logo
- 2 Donations by Mail: You may send a check or money order by mail to:  
**Operation Compassion**  
 114 Stuart Road NE  
 Suite 370  
 Cleveland, TN 37312
- 3 Perhaps you know someone in a manufacturing plant, in corporate America or in retail stores that would be willing to donate products to Operation Compassion. Please contact us by phone, e-mail or mail.  
**E-mail:**  
[info@operationcompassion.org](mailto:info@operationcompassion.org)

Operation Compassion depends upon public donations to continue its work. You can help! Operation Compassion is a 501(c)3 tax exempt charitable organization.



**Operation**  
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 A MINISTRY OF BLESSING

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Through your giving to  
 Operation Compassion  
 We continue to give **Hope**  
 in **Haiti**

Since the Earthquake disaster that struck in 2010, Operation Compassion has sent 254 Containers to Haiti.

List of Products sent to Haiti:  
 Building Materials, Tile, Grout, Direct Ship-Tuna Meals, Adult PET, Tents, Sleeping Bags, Duffle Bags, Lentil Soup, Boys Underwear, Hygiene Kits, Cooler Totes, Tarps, Blankets, Flashlights, Sleeping Bags, Vinyl Bags w/Handles, Fruit Juice, Gatorade, Fruit Cups, Ice Pops, Cooler Totes, Work Gloves, Duffle Bags, Tents, Sleeping Bags, Insulated Coolers, Diapers, Medical Supplies, Wet Ones Wipes, Medical Equipment (towels, drapes, scrubs, blankets, sheets, gowns, IV tubing, bandages, urinary catheters, gloves, masks, tape gauze), Ham Salad Lunch Kits, 50-lb bags Dry Beans, Cereal, Clothes, Tarps, Paper Plates, Adult Diapers, Dole Fruit Cups, Canned Meats, Veggies, Soups, Cliff Thirst Electrolyte Drinks, 12-Pks Paper Cups, Eye-glasses, Frames & Accessories, Baby Food, Ham, Shoes, Ice Chests, Skin Cream, Tarps/Pond Liners, Rice, Eye-glasses, Frames & Accessories, Dan Post Boots, Ladies Clothing, Chaco's Shoes, Flip Flops, Infant's Shoes, Food, Quilts, Tents, Mosquito Nets, Bath Blankets, Sheets/Liners, Tote Boxes, Canned Yams, Soy Milk, Baby Food Jars, Pasta, New Assorted Clothing/Ralph Lauren, Susan Lawrence, Family Resource, Maggie & Max, Blue Generation, Hooded.

We are still sending products on a monthly basis to Haiti. Help us continue to help the people of Haiti, support Operation Compassion today!

