

COMPASSION SABBATH ACTION AGENDA

An Action Agenda for Congregations and Caring Individuals To Help the Victims of Hurricane Katrina

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The Most Rev. Robert Muench, Bishop of Baton Rouge: *“Hurricane Katrina brought upon us a rising tide of destruction and evil. I also see a rising tide of love and compassion that will finally be victorious.”*

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- 1. Organize a Viewing of “Compassion Sunday”:** Whether you are a faith-based congregation, a religious youth group, a neighborhood association or just an individual with a laptop, you can join our virtual community by watching the inter-faith service to be held in Lexington, Kentucky on September 11. With national religious leaders, it will serve as wonderful inspiration for service. Beginning sometime the week of September 12, you can access a video of the service at www.TheCompassionateCommunity.com. To receive an email alert when the video will be available, you can sign up for our list-serve at <http://capwiz.com/kychurches/mlm/>.
- 2. Take an Offering/Make a Contribution:** Simply put, the most effective way a congregation or an individual can make a big difference in the lives of those suffering from the impact of Hurricane Katrina is to make a financial contribution. Attached is a list of several reputable faith-based and secular charities and organizations that are helping leading the effort in the Gulf region. You can pool your resources and aid one charity, or diversify and aid many separate efforts.
- 3. Adopt a Displaced Family:** There are still tens of thousands of families who have been left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. A congregation can adopt one or more of these families, providing them with temporary housing and the means to provide for the necessities of life. To identify families in need of assistance, contact the Red Cross at (800) HELP-NOW or www.redcross.org or the Salvation Army at (800) SAL ARMY or www.salvationarmy.org.
- 4. Join in an Interfaith Charitable Effort:** Make this an opportunity to build interfaith bridges of understanding, as we all act from our compassion. Your church might help rebuild a mosque in New Orleans. Your synagogue might provide infrastructure and resources to a small church in Mississippi. You can lead an interfaith fundraising drive in your community. Through aiding our neighbors, inter-religious coalitions of compassionate people will help build bridges to hope and understanding and forge a unity that we desperately need in this nation. One ecumenical effort deserving your support is the Louisiana Interchurch Conference, which is coordinating recovery efforts in the affected region. They can be contacted at www.lainterchurch.org.
- 5. Give Blood/Challenge Others:** Set up a blood drive at your congregation or association and challenge another group to see which can donate the most. Contact your local blood bank or the Red Cross at (800) HELP-NOW or www.redcross.org.

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Isaiah 58:7: *“I want you to share your food with the hungry and to welcome poor wanderers into your homes. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.”*

James 2:14-16: *“What use is it if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body?”*

Forty Hadith of an-Nawawi 13: *“Not one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.”*

Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 3: *“But he who, with strong body serving mind gives up his mortal powers to worthy work, not seeking gain, Arjuna! such an one is honorable. Do thine allotted task!”*

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THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS ARE PROVIDING HELP TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA:

American Red Cross
(800) HELP-NOW
www.redcross.org

Adventist Community Services
(800) 381-7171
www.adventist.communityservices.org

American Baptist Churches USA
(800) ABC3-USA
www.abc-usa.org

AmeriCares
(800) 486-HELP
www.americares.org

America's Second Harvest
(800) 771-2303
www.secondharvest.org

Baptist World Aid
(703) 790-8980
www.bwanet.org

B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief Fund
(202) 857-6600
www.bnaibrith.org

Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund
www.bushclintonkatrinafund.org

Catholic Charities USA
(800) 919-9338
www.catholiccharitiesusa.org

Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
(317) 713-2450
www.weekofcompassion.org

Christian Contractors Association
(800) 278-7703
www.ccministry.org

Christian Disaster Response
(941) 956-5183
www.cdresponse.org

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Fourth Episcopal District
109 Holcomb Drive
Shreveport LA 71103
(318) 222-6884

Christian Reformed World Relief
(800) 848-5818
www.crwrc.org

Church of the Brethren
(800) 323-8039, x234
www.brethren.org

Church World Service
(800) 297-1516
www.churchworldservice.org

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
(800) 352.8741
www.thefellowship.info/Landing/relief.icm

Disaster Psychiatry Outreach
(212) 598-9995
www.disasterpsych.org/default.aspx

Episcopal Relief and Development
(800) 334-7626
www.er-d.org

Feed the Children
(800) 525-7575
www.feedthechildren.org

Greek Orthodox Church in America
(212) 570-3500
www.goarch.org

Habitat for Humanity International
(229) 924-6935
www.habitat.org

Humane Society of the United States
(Louisiana Chapter)
(888) 259-5431
www.la-spc.org

hurricanehousing.org

Islamic Circle of North America
(718) 658-7028
www.icnarelief.org

Islamic Relief
(888) 479-4968
www.irw.org/donate/

Louisiana Interchurch Conf.
527 North Boulevard, 4th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
www.lainterchurch.org

Lutheran Disaster Response
(800) 638-3522
www.lwr.org

Mennonite Disaster Service
(717) 859-2210
www.mds.mennonite.net

Mercy Corps
(888) 256-1900
www.mercycorps.org

NAACP
<http://store.yahoo.com/naacp-donate1/>

Nazarene Disaster Response
(888) 256-5886
www.nazarenedisasterresponse.org

Oxfam America
<https://secure.ga3.org/02/oxfamamerica>

PRC Compassion
(888) 966-6600
www.prccompassion.org

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
(800) 872-3283
www.pcusa.org/pda/

Salvation Army
(800) SAL ARMY
www.salvationarmy.org

Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief
(800) 462-8657, ext. 6440
www.namb.net/dr/

Union for Reform Judaism
(212) 650-4140
www.urj.org/give/index.cfm

United Church of Christ
(866) 822-8224
www.ucc.org

United Jewish Communities
(877) 277-2477
www.ujc.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief
(800) 554-8583
www.gbgn-umc.org

United Way
(800) 272-4630
www.national.unitedway.org

Please check with your tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for more information regarding the tax deductibility of your donation. The inclusion or omission of an institution or organization on this list does not refer to programmatic capability nor does it confer any official status, approval, or endorsement of the institution or organization itself. This listing does not purport to be a listing of all organizations that are providing relief in the affected area. Additionally, there may be organizations providing relief in the affected area that are not accepting donations at this time. It is not the purpose of this communication to make, or enable to be made, any representation to the public concerning the organizations listed. This listing is for informational purposes only. Any contributions you choose to make are at your sole discretion.