

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



675 Red Mills Road Walkill NY 12589-3292 Phone: (845) 306-1100

September 7, 2017

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

Re: Donations for Disaster Relief Work

Dear Brothers:

Many have expressed loving concern for the welfare of those affected by recent devastating hurricanes. Never underestimate the good effect that your prayers can have on the brothers in an area that has been struck by a disaster. (2 Cor. 1:8-11) You may also feel motivated to express your concern through a donation. Some have asked: "What is the best way to contribute financially to the disaster relief work being done by Jehovah's Witnesses?"

It is recommended that all donations for humanitarian and relief assistance be made to the worldwide work. Jehovah's Witnesses do not maintain a separate fund that is restricted to only assisting one disaster area such as that caused by Hurricane Harvey. Instead, the relief efforts for this hurricane and other natural disasters are funded by the worldwide work.

This fund is used for relief efforts as well as for advancing the spiritual needs of the Christian brotherhood. Indeed, victims of natural disasters need more than material relief. They especially need the comfort that only God's Word, the Bible, can provide. Contributions to the worldwide work can be made at your local Kingdom Hall or using the jw.org website. In addition, funds that congregations have already contributed to the Global Assistance Arrangement will also be used to repair hurricane-damaged Kingdom Halls.

Please do not send donated clothing, supplies, or materials to branch facilities or to the disaster area unless specifically requested to do so by the branch office or the relief committee. This will ensure an orderly relief effort and the proper distribution of goods. Congregation members can also give aid to victims by providing volunteer labor for property repairs.

Thank you for your kind support of those affected by natural disasters. We send our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

PS to bodies of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the first meeting after its receipt. Thereafter, it should be posted on the information board.

9/7/17-E Us