

A Message of Hope: When the Earth Shakes and the Mountains Give Way

*God is our refuge
and strength, a
very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should
change,
though the
mountains
shake in the heart of
the sea;
Though the waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*
—**Psalm 46:1-3**



Kashmiri woman cries after the Oct. 8, 2005 earthquake centered in Pakistan.
REUTERS/Danish Ismail courtesy www.alternet.org

God calls us to be fearless people of strength and of hope even in the worst circumstances. And we are also called to offer that hope to others.

In one week, two tragedies occurred thousands of miles apart. In Central America days of rain sent walls of mud sliding down mountainsides, burying villages. In South Asia, villages were flattened when the earth shook more violently than it has in the last century. Now, in the aftermath survivors are left grieving their lost loved ones, and repairing broken lives.

You are there with UMCOR offering God's hope through practical means.

Central America

Days of unrelenting rain from Hurricane Stan in early October 2005 spawned severe flooding and killer mudslides in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico. With more than 1,000 feared dead in Guatemala alone some villages have been completely destroyed and declared mass graves. Survivors are left destitute as aid agencies work to bring assistance through treacherous territory.

UMCOR is working with established local partners to provide hope in the form of food, water, clothing, and shelter to of displaced families in Tecpán, Patulul, and Chimaltenago, Guatemala. UMCOR is also working with GBGM missionary Eunice Arias to establish a long term recovery plan.

South Asia

The 7.6 magnitude earthquake that rocked Pakistan and surrounding countries killed an estimated 30,000 and displaced millions more just as the bitter Himalayan winter approaches.

UMCOR is working through local partners, International Blue Crescent (IBC) and Church World Service (CWS) to provide immediate assistance and long term recovery. Both organizations are engaged in giving medical assistance, food, and shelter to tens of thousands of survivors.

How to Help

You can help give hope to survivors through the practical ministries of giving food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, and compassion to the hurting.

Cash gifts are most needed right now to allow UMCOR to respond quickly and purchase needed items locally.

Please give generously to one of the following UMCOR Advances:

- ▶ UMCOR Advance #232000, Pakistan Earthquake
- ▶ UMCOR Advance #501300, Central American Emergency

Or you can give to:

- ▶ UMCOR Advance #982450, International Disaster Response

Your gift to this Advance goes to where it is most needed

Ways to Give

By Offering

For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

By Check

Make your check to **UMCOR** and mail to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087

By Credit Card

Call toll-free (800) 554-8583



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The United Methodist UMCOR
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