

## Finding Hope in the Midst of Despair

After describing the complete destruction of Jerusalem and the despair of homelessness, the author of Lamentations writes, “But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end” (Lam. 3:21-22). In all circumstances the love of God is steadfast. This is the source of our Christian hope.

In these days of uncertainty following the wide-spread devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, we are called to be living examples of God’s love and to provide a source of hope for so many experiencing seemingly hopeless situations.



Two brothers look for the remains of their home following Katrina.  
Credit: Reuters/Mark Wallheiser courtesy [www.alertnet.org](http://www.alertnet.org)

## How UMCOR is Giving Hope to Thousands

### **Seeking out and helping the most vulnerable.**

UMCOR is committed to helping the most vulnerable people affected by Hurricane Katrina. “As the media focuses on the major metropolitan areas affected by Katrina, UMCOR will be focusing on its mission to seek out the people left most vulnerable by the storm who often live in outlying rural areas,” says UMCOR Disaster Response executive, Tom Hazelwood. “We seek to help people who might be otherwise overlooked.”

### **Responding with knowledge that comes through experience.**

Through local United Methodist churches and trained disaster workers, UMCOR provides immediate relief. UMCOR will bring its years of experience, capable volunteers and creativity to the rebuilding of communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

### **Looking ahead to long-term recovery.**

UMCOR’s main focus in any disaster is the long-term rebuilding process. Recovery from some devastating storms may take up to five years—well after the media have stopped paying attention.

## How You Can Help

### Give Online

[www.methodistrelief.org](http://www.methodistrelief.org)

### Give by Phone

1-800-554-8583 8:45 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, where credit card donations are accepted

### Give by check

through your United Methodist church or by mail to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068. Please write Advance #982523, Hurricanes Global 2005 on the memo line of your check.

### Relief Supplies

Health kits and school kits are urgently needed. See <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/kits.cfm> for health kits, school kits, and UMCOR Sager Brown shipping information.

### Volunteer

Contact your United Methodist Volunteers in Mission jurisdictional and annual conference coordinators for volunteer opportunities. A list of these coordinators is available on the web at <http://gbgm-umc.org/vim/vimcoords.htm> or email: [voluntrs@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:voluntrs@gbgm-umc.org). They will provide details on creating and training a team as well as scheduling details. For information on what disaster sites are currently scheduling volunteers, call the Volunteer Hotline at 800-918-3100.

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[www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org)