

HURRICANE IRMA: The rebuilding begins.



- Antigua and Barbuda—over 90 percent of buildings and vehicles destroyed.
- **Sint Maarten**—Dutch officials report that 70 percent of the homes on Sint Maarten were damaged or destroyed and are vulnerable to the next approaching storm.
- Cuba—the northern coast received "staggering" damage.
- **Puerto Rico**—30-foot waves battered the country.
- Haiti—mudslides, destroyed homes, damaged infrastructure, and flooded crops were reported in northern Haiti.

In late August, Hurricane Irma began forming in the Atlantic Ocean and swiftly became one of the most powerful hurricanes to strike the Caribbean and southern United States in over a decade. While news reports focused much of the attention on the potential impact it could have on Florida, the destruction experienced in the Caribbean was significant. Many of the hardest hit nations are among the world's poorest making the destruction caused by a storm of this magnitude unfathomable.

The Devastation

High winds, storm surges, and tornadoes had Caribbean Islands and parts of the United States bracing for what has been referred to as a "catastrophic event". Hurricane Irma's path tracked over many of the Caribbean Islands leaving behind extensive damage, power outages, and severe flooding. Many stories recounting the destruction left in Irma's wake continue to be told including the destruction experienced on the island of Barbuda where an estimated 95% of the buildings were damaged including hospitals, schools and hotels. The reported loss of life across the Caribbean region as of September 12 was 38 with many still reported missing.

The Need

As can be expected, the needs in this region are still being assessed. Teams are on the ground looking for survivors and assessing the needs. Clean up will take months; rebuilding will take years. The immediate need, however, is for clean water, food, and shelter.

FAIR's Response

FAIR will be supporting relief and rebuilding efforts through partner organizations with personnel already on the ground in the hardest hit areas. The priority use for funds raised will be to enable local churches to provide assistance to those within their community and to take every opportunity to share the love of Christ by meeting some of the practical needs of those devastated by the storm.

How Will You Respond?

We ask you to prayerfully consider your involvement with FAIR through this project as together we seek to extend the love of Christ to those most affected in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

Hurricane Irma Emergency Relief Response Form		
Note that donations can also be made online: fellowship.ca/HurricaneIrma. Cheques should be made payable to: FEBCC. Enclosed is my donation of \$ to assist in FAIR's relief work following Hurricane Irma. Please debit my credit card in the amount of \$ for this project.		
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