

## **Presidential Communiqué**

Let me first thank all the members and friends of 100 Black Men of America for your inquiries to me, and to our World Headquarters, regarding the 100's assistance to those affected by Hurricane Katrina. I have had extensive discussions with Presidents and Members from chapters in the region, who are in dire need of our help. As you know, communication is difficult at this time, but we know that several chapters in the Gulf coast were directly impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

So far, we are unaware of any loss of life within the 100 family; however, many of our Members, Mentees and friends have lost their residences. While I have been in personal contact with several of our Members, there are many more from whom we want to hear. Also, each of us has witnessed the impact on our community, on our families, and on our children in the affected area. As a result, the 100 must and will play a role in assisting where we can.

Our chapters in Baton Rouge, LA , Jackson, MS, and Houston, TX have agreed to take a leadership role. I have asked them and they have agreed to help us direct our efforts, and to provide our members who have been temporarily displaced with emergency resources. There are other chapters in communities where persons from the affected areas have temporarily relocated. Those chapters too have been doing their part, and I ask that you continue to assist where you can in serving as a resource for our affected membership.

If you have been in contact with any 100 Member who has been displaced, and that member needs assistance, please refer them to the following points of contact:

Baton Rouge Chapter - (225) 356-9444  
Mr. Brace Godfrey (Past Chapter President)

Jackson - (601) 960-6861  
Mr. Robert Gibbs (Past Chapter President)

Houston - (832) 758-1970  
Mr. Darnell Joseph (Chapter President)

All three Chapters have locations where Members can have access to communication (telephones and internet) for their use. Also, all three Chapters have begun collections efforts, either directly or through the support of efforts launch by other community-based organizations. By Wednesday of next week, we will be sending out specific addresses where you can send items that are desperately needed by members, and others within our community. Our "on the ground" Chapters will be providing these addresses based on their knowledge of organizations servicing our community. And, for those who may be motivated to contribute financial resources directed at our community, we will also send specific information on where you might donate funds.

Right now, and for the next 10 days, our members have asked to assist in improving our Members' ability to receive information. There is an immediate need for battery-operated radios and batteries.

Our "on the ground" chapters have asked that those who want to make donations immediately send radios with batteries to the World Headquarters at: 141 Auburn Ave., Atlanta, GA 30303, and we will send out as needed. This intermediate step is necessary at this time. All future donations will be directed to the affected area without an intermediary.

As for the general relief effort, we encourage each member to participate in any way that you can. We are also setting up a link on our website to permit you to contribute directly to organization(s) that are involved the overall relief effort. We understand that in addition to our membership, you may have family, friends and associates affected by Hurricane Katrina. In case general information could assist you, please note that the [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) website has a wealth of information as do the organizations listed below.

You should rest assured that the 100 is also aware of the need for equitable distribution of resources and the need to be mindful of any permanent displacement of the affected communities. We have reached out to many of our organizational partners around these issues as well. You will hear more about this.

Until then, remember leaders understand the needs of others, and our willing to be in service to those in need.

Additional organizations:

Beware of charity fraud. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) resources on how to make donations wisely.

Please check with your tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for more information regarding the tax deductibility of your donation.

American Red Cross  
1-800-HELP NOW (435-7669) English,  
1-800-257-7575 Spanish;

Operation Blessing  
1-800-436-6348

America's Second Harvest  
1-800-344-8070

**Donate Cash and/or Volunteer**

Adventist Community Services  
1-800-381-7171

B'nai B'rith International  
1-888-388-4224

Catholic Charities, USA  
1-800-919-9338

Christian Disaster Response  
941-956-5183 or 941-551-9554

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee  
1-800-848-5818

Church World Service  
1-800-297-1516

Convoy of Hope  
417-823-8998

Corporation for National and Community Service Disaster Relief Fund  
(202) 606-6718

Feed the Children  
1-800-525-7575

Lutheran Disaster Response  
800-638-3522

Mennonite Disaster Service  
717-859-2210

Nazarene Disaster Response  
888-256-5886

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
800-872-3283

Salvation Army  
1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

Southern Baptist Convention -- Disaster Relief  
1-800-462-8657, ext. 6440

United Jewish Communities  
1-800-462-8657, ext. 6440

Union for Reform Judaism

United Methodist Committee on Relief  
1-877-277-2477

**Albert E. Dotson, Jr., Esquire**  
**Partner**  
**Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod LLP**  
**2500 Wachovia Financial Center**  
**200 South Biscayne Blvd.**  
**Miami Florida 33131-5340**  
305-374-7580 General  
305-350-2411 Direct  
305-351-2217 Fax  
🌐 [www.bilzin.com](http://www.bilzin.com)  
✉ [adotson@bilzin.com](mailto:adotson@bilzin.com)