



Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church • May 2015

Devastating earthquake in Nepal claims lives, destroys property

Nepal, April 25, 2015: A shallow earthquake measuring 7.9 magnitude struck west of the ancient Nepali capital of Kathmandu on Saturday; killing thousands of people, injuring many more, and destroying buildings.

The General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, through its disaster-relief arm and in conjunction with longtime local and international partners and Nepal-based Global Ministries missionaries, is responding to the devastating earthquake that rocked Nepal April 25.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Global Ministries' relief and development unit, approved a grant of \$90,000 for international partner GlobalMedic to bring sorely needed clean water to survivors through provision of household and public water-filtration units.

UMCOR also is in conversation with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), a partner in community-based health and education projects in Nepal for more than 60 years.

"Global Ministries has been in mission with the people of Nepal a long time, and that is a great grace in this time of need," said Thomas Kemper, who heads the organization. "Our long-established and current work in the communities, especially through UMN, spurs our response."

That response is assisted further by the fact that UMN had the foresight to assign one of its officers to participate in UMCOR's most recent regional disaster



The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25, the most powerful quake in 81 years to hit the region, caused significant loss of life and damage. Photo by ACT Alliance, DCA

readiness and response training, which was just held in the Philippines in February.

Rev. J. Denise Honeycutt, who leads UMCOR, pointed out that the regional trainings "fortify our partners' capacity to respond quickly and efficiently to crises. The technical training UMN received helps UMCOR connect with UMN to respond to the most vulnerable people impacted by this earthquake."

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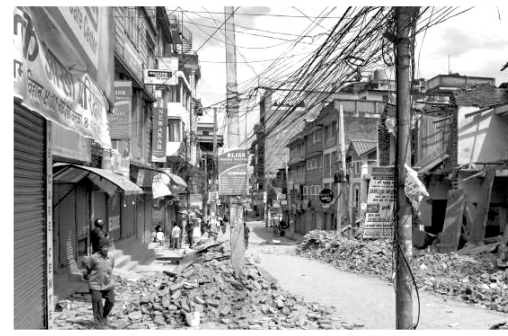
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A man runs past damaged houses as aftershocks of an earthquake are felt a day after the earthquake in Bhaktapur, Nepal April 26, 2015. Rescuers dug with their bare hands and bodies piled up in Nepal on Sunday after the earthquake devastated the heavily crowded Kathmandu valley, killing thousands, and triggering a deadly avalanche on Mount Everest. *Photo: REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar*



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How You Can Help

As events and needs continue to unfold in Nepal in the aftermath of the earthquake, you can help.

- Pray for all who have been impacted by this emergency: for the people of Nepal, for Global Ministries and UMCOR partners at work on the ground there, and for Global Ministries' five missionaries and their families assigned to serve there.
- Do not self-deploy to the disaster area. The situation in Nepal remains one of search and rescue and not a time for volunteers.
- Stay informed. Visit www.umcor.org and www.umcmision.org for updates and developments regarding Global Ministries' and UMCOR's response to and accompaniment of survivors.
- ***Give to UMCOR International Disaster Response, Advance #982450.*** Your gifts to UMCOR International Disaster Response make it possible for UMCOR to respond quickly to emergency situations through our local and international partners.



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