Operation Blessing Deploying U.S. Disaster Relief Team To Columbia, SC

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (October 5, 2015) – Operation Blessing International (OBI) is deploying its U.S. Disaster Relief team to Columbia, South Carolina to assist with flood relief after parts of the region received 25 inches of rain over the weekend.

An advance team led by Dan Moore, director of U.S. Disaster Relief, departed from Hampton Roads overnight and arrived in Columbia at 10am. Team leaders are meeting with local officials to assess the damages and determine the greatest areas of need. Operation Blessing expects to call for volunteers to begin the cleanup as early as Wednesday.

A convoy of Operation Blessing vehicles will depart from the charity's Chesapeake warehouse this afternoon and includes a high tech mobile command center with computers and communications equipment, a mobile kitchen that is capable of serving up to 2,000 meals a day and is stocked with enough food for 3,000 meals, a dehumidifier trailer equipped with moisture meters, commercial dehumidifiers, fans, and blowers to dry out flooded homes, 2 construction trailers packed full of tools and equipment to support volunteer operations, and other support vehicles including tractor trailers and box trucks containing bottled water, thousands of MRE meals, tool, protective equipment and additional food items.

When the convoy arrives arrive, the OBI team will set up at Christian Life Church (2700 Bush River Rd., Columbia, SC). Please stay tuned for information on how to volunteer.

For more information on Operation Blessing International, please visit <u>www.ob.org</u>

ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America, providing strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 27 countries around the world on a daily basis. In 2014, OBI was awarded Charity Navigator's coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management marking 8 years the charity has received this prestigious ranking. Forbes also ranks OBI as one of its "100 Largest Charities" with an efficiency rating of 99%. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 292 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$4.2 billion.

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