

OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL HELPING TORNADO RELIEF IN BIRMINGHAM SUBURB OF PRATT CITY, ALABAMA

Relief Group Seeking Volunteers; Local Homeowners Can Submit Work Request Orders

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (May 2, 2011) – Operation Blessing International’s (OBI) domestic disaster relief team has deployed to Pratt City, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham that was devastated by tornadoes.

OBI left its Virginia Beach, VA headquarters on Thursday (April 28) and arrived in Birmingham later that evening. The convoy included a mobile command center, mobile kitchen that is capable of serving thousands of hot meals daily, along with a 20-ton crane, Cat 924 loader, 20 cubic yard dump truck, construction trailer and skid steer.

Under the direction of Jody Herrington-Gettys, director of U.S. disaster relief for Operation Blessing International, the team is working directly with the Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center. OBI has set up a base of operations at Westwood Baptist Church and has served over 7,765 meals to first responders and search and rescue teams from its mobile kitchen on the site.

NEED HELP:

OBI is currently accepting work orders from homeowners. Requests can be submitted at Daniel Payne Middle School (1500 Daniel Payne Hwy Birmingham). If you need help with debris removal and cleanup in the Pratt City area, please call 757.274.8650 or come to the school to fill out a work request form from 8:30AM–4:00PM Monday–Saturday.

WANT TO HELP:

If you would like to volunteer with Operation Blessing to help residents in the Pratt City area, please call 757.226.3407. Alternately, you can volunteer on-site Monday–Saturday by arriving at Daniel Payne Middle School at 8:15AM. The volunteer workday is from 8:30AM–4:30PM. The charity has limited lodging availability for out-of-town volunteers, however they must register by calling 757.226.3407 at least 48 hours in advance of arrival.

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 23 countries around the world on a daily basis. OBI was awarded Charity Navigator’s coveted 4 star rating for sound fiscal management for the fifth year in a row (2009), a feat that only 4% of rated charities have ever achieved. In November 2010, Forbes named OBI as the 6th most efficient charity in America. Additionally, the Chronicle of Philanthropy currently ranks OBI as the 23rd largest charity and the 6th largest international charity. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 235 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$2.7 billion to date.

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