

## **OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL RESPONDING TO FLOODS IN MEXICO**

**VIRGINIA BEACH, VA** (September 24, 2013) – In response to the recent disaster that hit Mexico, Operation Blessing International (OBI) and its team based in Mexico City are in Guerrero, the state hardest hit by flooding, providing food and supplies, health and medical personnel, water purification systems and clean-up crews, said Scott Hill, OBI's Latin America director.

To date, more than 150 people are feared dead, an estimated 200,000 left without homes, tens of thousands of homes damaged, and some 60,000 people evacuated, as the result of two tropical storms that have wreaked-havoc on this country since mid-September. The storms hit both Mexico's west and east coasts causing flooding and landslides. According to news reports, Mexico had not been hit simultaneously by two powerful storms like this since 1958.

Since arriving, OBI has secured and distributed the following:

### Food and Supplies

- 4 mobile kitchens set-up that have initially provided 2350 hot meals over the past weekend
- 240 families, to date, have received food supply bags

### Health and Medical

- An initial medical team in place, which treated 75 people over the weekend
- Four towns with a total of 1400 people have been treated for parasites due to infected water. OBI has donated 200,000 doses of anti-parasite medicine and is working with the local authorities to quickly distribute them.

### Cleanup Teams

- A volunteer center has been set-up with a goal of mobilizing 10 cleanup teams, including a chain saw crew, a construction team, and two paint teams. The first team with a construction background arrived from Mexico City and is now deployed, helping victims.

### Water Purification

- In Oaxaca, OBI is working with its partner, Water Missions International, to install four water purification units to the north where more than 14 communities and some 148,000 people are affected. Each unit can generate 10,000 gallons of potable water each day.

- One water purification unit is being installed in one of the hardest hit suburbs of Acapulco.

- Today, OBI deployed a staff member from Virginia Beach with two additional water purification devices. The first is a SAN6 chlorine generator that can produce enough food-grade chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) to disinfect over 300,000 gallons of water each day. The second device is a portable chlorine generator that is the size of a briefcase, can run off of a car battery, and can provide enough food-grade chlorine to disinfect 60,000 gallons of water a day. Once set up, OBI will be treating water wells and providing food grade chlorine to flood victims for the purpose of disinfecting water.

Here is a B-roll/photo link -- Acapulco Flood Relief:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7bdoig7hxzvggiy/eLaAnVhcqd>

**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. Currently, Forbes ranks OBI as one of its “100 Largest Charities” with an efficiency rating of 99%, and Consumers Digest also named OBI as one of “America’s Top Charities” in 2012. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 255 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$3.3 billion to date.

To see an electronic press kit of OBI’s work please visit:

<http://ob.org/learnmore>

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