

## **Operation Blessing International Coordinating Tornado Cleanup Efforts In Albany, GA Starting Wednesday**

### **-Residents Whose Homes Damaged Can Request Free Volunteer Help-**

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (January 24, 2017) – One of the largest humanitarian organizations in America, Operation Blessing International has deployed its U.S. Disaster Relief team to Albany, Georgia to assist residents with cleanup from tornadoes that killed at least 19 people throughout the Southeast over the weekend. The group will begin coordinating volunteer efforts beginning tomorrow (Wednesday) at 8am (see below).

The Operation Blessing advance team arrived in Albany late Monday and met with emergency management officials and local partners to determine the greatest area of need and to set up a base of operations at New Birth Fellowship (2106 Radium Springs Rd).

Specializing in disaster relief and logistics, Operation Blessing's convoy of equipment has arrived from the organization's Ocala, FL warehouse and includes a construction trailer loaded with tools, a box truck full of volunteer equipment and supplies, a mobile kitchen capable of serving 2,000 hot meals each day, and a skid steer for debris removal.

#### **RESIDENTS NEEDING HELP:**

Residents are invited come in person to fill out a work request for FREE volunteer help at New Birth Fellowship church (2106 Radium Springs Rd) from 9:30 am – 4:30pm daily (except Sunday), or by calling 757.274.8650. All residents must sign a work order form and a release form in person allowing volunteer teams access to your property.

Volunteers will not be able to do work without a form SIGNED BY THE HOMEOWNER. Priority is given based on need (elderly, sick, disabled, etc) and is based on volunteer availability. Volunteer services offered include general debris removal, help finding and sorting salvageable belongings, chainsaw work, heavy equipment debris removal and installing tarps on damaged roofs.

#### **VOLUNTEER INFO: WANT TO HELP?**

Operation Blessing will be accepting volunteers daily (Monday–Saturday) at 8:30am and also at 1:00pm. Volunteers should meet at the Operation Blessing Mobile Command Center located at New Birth Fellowship church (2106 Radium Springs Rd). Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, dress appropriately for work in the field (long pants and hard soled shoes or work boots) and also provide their own transportation to and from the work site. Operation Blessing will provide lunch, work assignments, management, tools and an OB T-shirt. For more information on how to volunteer, please call the OB Volunteer Hotline: 757.374.0944.

For more information or to donate directly to the tornado relief efforts please log on to [www.ob.org](http://www.ob.org).

#### **ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:**

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America,

providing humanitarian services such as strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 37 countries in the last year. Forbes currently 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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