



*"Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?'*

*The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.'" — Matthew 25:37-40*

**October 10, 2017**

**Dear PCA Family,**

MNA Disaster Response has been prayerfully and carefully working through a strategy to assist PCA pastors on the ground in Puerto Rico in response to Hurricane Maria; we now reveal our intentions to respond and ask for your help. Thanks for your prayers during this time as a strategy was prayerfully developed with PCA leaders who coordinate church planting in the Commonwealth.

Hurricane Maria was the strongest hurricane to make landfall in Puerto Rico since 1928. Puerto Rico has suffered catastrophic damage, including destruction of its previously damaged electrical grid. Total losses from the hurricane are estimated at around \$91 billion, making Maria's cost comparable to that of previous Hurricanes Irma and Harvey.

Briarwood Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Birmingham AL is engaged in establishing a presbytery in Puerto Rico under the oversight of Evangel Presbytery. Two congregations, Iglesia La Travesia, San Juan and Trinity Church, Dorado have been established by PCA church planters Ronnie Garcia and Bruce Clark. Briarwood has invited MNA Disaster Response to assist them in their response to this catastrophic disaster.

**At this point the paramount way to help the pastors on the ground and the congregations they serve is to supply them with designated funds to purchase food, water, medicine, shelter, fuel, and to reach out in their communities with Christ's love. Since Hurricane Maria made landfall the pastors have been spending upwards of \$3,000 each day to meet the most urgent and basic needs for their congregations.**

Please pray that the Lord will comfort our church family impacted by this storm and provide for their needs. Pray that God will provide PCA members with strengthened faith and opportunities to serve fellow believers; pray also for God's people as they serve others in these communities, demonstrating the Gospel through Spirit-led acts of mercy. "Pray.....that our service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there...." Romans 15:31. Pray for godly wisdom for the Briarwood PCA leadership, MNA Disaster Response staff and local church officers as we work together to coordinate the PCA response, that God will equip us with Godly wisdom.

Prayerfully consider a strong financial contribution. Briarwood is working directly with their PCA pastors on the ground, to meet immediate needs and to develop a long-term recovery strategy. Gifts will be used for immediate relief operations, first to meet the urgent needs of Iglesia La Travesia and Trinity members who are affected, and to provide resources for the congregations to serve others in the community. Let us wrap our arms around our family in the loving nature of our Savior Jesus Christ. To contribute online to these relief efforts, please [click here](#). MNA Disaster Response does not charge any fees for any services so 100% of your contribution will be channeled to relief efforts of Iglesia La Travesia and Trinity Church under the ecclesiastical oversight of Briarwood PCA.

Once a long-term strategy is in place, MNA Disaster Response will begin mobilizing rebuilding and outreach teams to assist as needed and defined by Briarwood leadership. Currently the conditions are unsafe for volunteers to serve in Puerto Rico.

Serving you with my whole heart,

Arklie

**Arklie Hooten**  
**MNA Disaster Response Director**  
**Mission to North America / Presbyterian Church in America**

To donate to the 2017 Puerto Rico Hurricane Fund: [click here](#).

To mail a designated gift for Puerto Rico:

Mission to North America, PCA  
PO Box 890233  
Charlotte NC 28289

To register your intent to serve, likely beginning late Spring 2018, please [click here](#).

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