

CRISIS MINISTRY

One of the greatest problems in Central America is the effect on communities when natural disasters and other crisis situations occur. Natural disasters have long term impacts on communities, reducing the ability of individuals and communities to control and improve their lives.

The Crisis Ministry program began in 2009, with a focus on training community leaders to prepare for, and recover from, natural disasters. During 2010, the new ministry has been tested by Hurricane Agatha, Volcano Pacaya, and torrential rains and mudslides.



Sisters and brothers,

The wettest rainy season on record here in Guatemala continues to claim lives and cause damage. President Alvaro Colom declared a state of emergency yesterday afternoon. A total of 21 deaths have been reported from the rains so far and at least 150 people are missing. Yesterday a bus was buried in a landslide on the Interamerican Highway and 12 people lost their lives. Landslides continued throughout the day yesterday, burying vehicles and homes...

The worst of the rainy season is yet to come. Please keep the people of Guatemala and the entire region in your prayers.

I hope to have a prayer letter off to you today or tomorrow.

Blessings,

Karla

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Hurricanes, volcanoes, draughts, and floods will always be a fact of life in Central America. Today, these events cause terrible damage, creating a cycle of destruction of the fabric of communities.

We envision a day where communities can weather these storms without being hurt by them. The purpose of our training is to empower communities to protect themselves against natural disasters, and respond in their aftermath.