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- Ministry with disabled adults, 6A
- Reaching into Hispanic communities, 7A

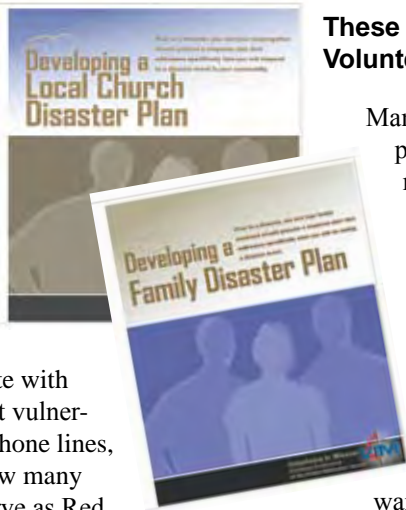
How can we help?

Advance planning builds Disaster Response Ministry

By **RICHARD NORMAN**
Disaster Response
Coordinator

What do you do when disaster strikes? Some of us have a personal plan, but many of us do not. Some of our churches have a disaster response plan, but many do not.

How many churches have established a plan to communicate with each other and care for their most vulnerable members when electricity, phone lines, water and other systems fail? How many congregations are prepared to serve as Red Cross shelters in times of disaster? How many would know the steps to function as a Point of Distribution for Oklahoma Emergency Management or the Federal Emergency Management Agency?



These booklets are available through the
Volunteers In Mission office.

Many more of our congregations should be prepared to do these things. Within the most recent one-year span, tornadoes, wildfires, and snow and ice storms have all affected Oklahomans. Each community's resources are crucial, as well as outside aid.

Who better to provide relief than those of us who know how important it is to find a "shelter in time of a storm," to quote an old hymn? Those who trust in God as our "refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1)

want to extend help especially in times of disaster and difficulty.

This is possible through adequate and proper **education, preparation, leadership, training, and communication.**

To assist victims of disaster, Oklahoma United Method-



At New Light UMC in Lawton, Steven Clay of Carnegie UMC maneuvers carefully while trimming a tree damaged by the late January ice storm.

ists can choose to be a part of the **short-term fix** and/or the **long-term ministry of compassion and hope.** To be effective in either of these areas, we must understand Disaster Response and Recovery Ministry. This ministry is an amazing story of God's people carrying out God's mission.

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Bowling for dollars



At Centenary UMC in Lawton, creativity and cash combine in a campaign to feed the coffers of the city's food bank. Above, Sierra Brady examines her design work on a pottery soup bowl. During a silent auction at the church on Super Bowl Sunday, Maddie Crimmins, right, licks her lips over the completed bowls as her grandfather, Jim Cothren, ponders bids. Below, youth members take their turn decorating the bowls. Courtney Offield is at left, and Makaila Rodriguez sits beside her. Story, page 6A.

