

## Myanmar Situation Report #1: CBF Response to Cyclone Nargis

### **General:**

- ❖ Estimated death toll of 100,000 in the Irrawaddy Delta in southern Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis struck
- ❖ World's most devastating cyclone since a 1991 storm that killed 146,000 in Bangladesh
- ❖ 1 million homeless
- ❖ 5,000 square km of the delta region underwater
- ❖ First food drops have been conducted by Myanmar government, no overland convoys yet. Helicopters can't land in flooded areas.
- ❖ UN just got permission on Wednesday to go in with a ship of supplies.
- ❖ Many NGO's including UN still waiting for visas for their workers.
- ❖ 26 countries have committed \$30 million to date plus \$10 million from UN

### **Response:**

- ❖ A donation button has been set up in the middle of the CBF home page at [www.thefellowship.info](http://www.thefellowship.info) for contributions to Cyclone Response fund #17023. An initial contribution of \$5,000 has been made for immediate assistance. Our focus will be on the recovery effort rather than rescue.
- ❖ CBF will partner with BWAid, Asia Pacific Baptist Federation (APBF), International Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA, the Virginia Baptist Mission Board and others to assist the Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) in their response. BWAid has committed \$50,000 and ABC has sent \$5,000.
- ❖ 24 members of Baptist World Aid Rescue are assembling in Bangkok but have yet to be issued visas. The team includes 6 from Australia, 2 Hungarians, 4 Americans and standby's from Norway, Sweden, UK and Canada. This team specializes in immediate rescue response but this window is closing. Transition plans to recovery will be made.
- ❖ Rick Burnette, one of CBF's field personnel in SE Asia, had a previously planned trip to Myanmar, so he already has a visa and tickets to go in on May 15-17. He will connect with MBC and the Baptist team including Kabi Gangemi of APBF who is going in on May 15 as well.
- ❖ If you know of anyone who already has visas issued for travel to Myanmar, please let David Harding know at [dharding@thefellowship.info](mailto:dharding@thefellowship.info)
- ❖ If volunteers are requested by MBC and the Baptist team for recovery work, then CBF will be able to send qualified volunteers through the Disaster Relief Ministries of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board. For those interested in serving, please contact Nichole Bulls at [nichole.bulls@vbmb.org](mailto:nichole.bulls@vbmb.org) or 800-255-2428 ext 7242. All qualified volunteers will be placed on standby depending on the plans and resources that emerge in the weeks ahead.

### **Challenges:**

- ❖ Visas
- ❖ Communications are down in the affected area.
- ❖ In country transportation