

National Disaster Response Ministry Continuing Education Conference

Submitted by Linda Lenhart and June Arnold

September 15-17, 2013

We gathered for our annual meeting in Oklahoma City, OK. In May 2013 this state was declared an emergency less than 24 hours after the one and a half mile tornado changed their lives forever.

Over 15,000 homes and businesses were swept away by the tornado. Elementary schools, medical building, post offices, bowling alleys, etc. once stood as land marks. Now what remains is the vision of flat land. The school children refer to the tornado as being a person. Their conversations start off with, "The tornado took our school, the tornado took our home, the tornado took our playground", etc.



Emmaus Baptist Church opened its doors to the school so the education continues. The elementary school plans to rebuild on the same foundation. The building itself will have a totally different design. There is a memorial placed in the area where the building once stood. The casualties of the tornado included one teacher and five students.



Our windshield tour guide was a resident of Moore, OK. He shared his story with the 30 plus coordinators of United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ. His brother was in his home when the tornado flattened it. Days later they found his brothers truck six blocks away. The truck was downsized to a Volkswagen Beetle with no paint.

It no longer is a case of if; it is now a case of when. We have been informed that the United Church of Christ is engaged in assisting the floods of September 2013 in Colorado.

I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things. Isaiah 45: 7.

Please continue to pray. Please continue to send monetary donations. For more information contact Linda Lenhart at lhart@ptd.net, 484-863-4588 or June Arnold, seashore_80@hotmail.com, 610-262-5181 or PNEC 610-826-3113.