

Austin Disaster Relief Network – History as of June, 2011

Contributed by Daniel Geraci

The received the vision for ADRN from the Lord in October 2005. It was originally written on a napkin. I went around the city talking to leaders about the idea. It was unanimous that the leaders felt it was from God. Unfortunately, it was not the right timing, so I laid it down - waiting. In August 2008, I was invited to one of Benjamin Anyacho's citywide Convergence meetings, and they had me share the vision (I literally had to dust off the doc from my files). After the meeting, many stated the timing was now for such a plan. In November 2008, Dan Davis took my hands and gave me (and ADRN) a father's blessing, for it to go forward and prosper. In Feb. 2009, I decided to go for it, met with Mike Macari and Craig Foster as potential board members. They joined and I officially became director and started full-time in March 2009.

March 2009

- ADRN became official; acting as network of churches
- Approached the City of Austin, Local Governments and Red Cross with an inquiry of how we (the Church) can best serve them
- Initial strategy meetings began
- Advisory Board and initial Core Team was established

April 2010

- Began contacting the 1,000+ churches in the Greater Austin area to become a part of the network

June – Sept 2009

- Enrolled volunteers to become Red Cross shelter trained for hurricane season
 - Approx. 800 people trained in shelter operations
 - Many of them received background checks

August 2009

- Officially became a 501(c)3 - Non Profit Organization

September 2009

- Implemented a network-wide Disaster Simulation, held at Hill Country Bible Church NW
 - This included an evacuation/shelter scenario, with active Call Center
 - Included multiple stages of alert status communication and activation
 - Enrolled participants to take roles as shelter volunteers and victims
 - Included an event briefing afterwards
 - Approx. 200 people were a part of this simulation
- Emergency Broadcast System (mass email, text and voice messaging) was implemented for the first time
- Mobile Emergency Call Center was activated for the first time

January 2010

- Began obtaining background checks through Lexis/Nexis
 - This gave us greater control over processing and verification
- Developed Credential and Badge system
 - Resulted in effective in identification; individual, level of training & background check
- Mobile Emergency Call Center activated for Haiti Relief
- An estimated 1,000 volunteers trained and 45 churches on the network to date

June 2010

- Developed and began offering Biblical Readiness training
- Produced the 1st annual citywide Disaster Relief Training Conference
 - This included both pre-conference and post-conference advanced training
 - Included national guest speakers focused on personal preparedness
- Began offering Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training
 - Internationally recognized 10 hour certification on Trauma Debriefing, often referred to as Psychological First Aid
 - Addresses the emotional upheaval one can experience through a disaster and helps those affected return to a state of normalcy
- Began offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training
 - Nationally recognized 22 hour certification on being a First Responder: the first on the site of a disaster site when other agencies cannot respond
 - Teaches assessing and treating basic medical needs, triage, etc. Includes a live disaster simulation with victims, time restrictions, etc

September 2010

- Hermine Relief in Round Rock (Historic Flood, 700 homes/families affected with over 200 homes destroyed or severely damaged)
 - Provided volunteer coordination for an estimated 1,000+ volunteers
 - Provided trained shelter volunteers to American Red Cross
 - Network of churches sponsored an estimated 85 families in some capacity
 - Estimated 100-120 people received CISM debriefing
 - Cleaned-up an estimated 100-125 homes
 - Coordinated the distribution of \$45,000+ for victims
 - Network of churches are rebuilding 6 homes to date with additional 5-6 starting soon
 - Spiritual impact (minimally 3 salvations, multiple re-dedications and powerful life changing encounters with God and His people)
- Held fundraising dinner to help Williamson County victims

January 2011

- An estimated 1,500 volunteers trained and 55 churches on the network to date

April 2011

- Oak Hill Fire Relief
 - Estimated 85 families received CISM debriefing

- Facilitated the sponsoring of families by churches on the network
- Coordinating the distribution of \$20,000+ for victims

June 2011

- Produced 2nd Annual citywide Disaster Relief Training Conference
 - Included many recognized experts addressing the areas of physical, emotional, and spiritual preparedness
- Began offering Psalm 91:1 – The Protection of the Lord training
- Launched Ready Christian, Ready Church
 - This a program designed to take individuals and churches through different levels of personal preparedness
- Launched Preparedness Peace
 - This is a 6-week small group study designed to create an atmosphere that fosters implementation of personal preparedness strategies
- An estimated 2,050 volunteers trained and 70 churches on the network to date