



HOPE FORCE INTERNATIONAL

A COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO CRISIS AND DISASTER

Throughout history, the failure to cope with natural disasters has produced devastating consequences, from countless lives lost to ruined homes, businesses and economies. Although today's technology is improving the ability to forecast calamities, our best efforts at disaster preparedness and management are still inadequate to prevent severe suffering and loss.

The statistics from the World Health Organization and International Red Cross confirm what we already know: disasters are on a dramatic increase, especially over the past 25 years. **The number of people affected by disasters rose 54% in the last two decades of the 20th Century.** Weather-related disasters continue to be a major contributor to untold damage and loss. Along with war, violence and poverty, tens of millions of people are regularly forced to leave their homes and join the ranks of the internally displaced.

Hope Force International (HFI) is a Christian response to the need that surrounds us at home and abroad, reaching out to those who experience suffering and loss. As a leading non-profit organization dedicated to disaster response, HFI is comprised of individuals who are dedicated to utilizing their expertise to inspire, equip and empower thousands of volunteers to intervene in areas of crisis around the world.

The motivating purpose of Hope Force is to equip willing responders and mobilize them onto pathways of service. **HFI trains volunteers in advance** so they are prepared and allowed to respond, often in restricted areas, when disaster strikes. Not all will be doctors, nurses, or even first responders such as firemen and paramedics, but everyone is needed. HFI emphasizes "the ministry of presence"—walking sensitively and appropriately alongside those affected by crisis or disaster. **Hope Force International is committed to:**

- Preparing for disasters through training and equipping
- Immediate response and relief
- Recovery and development
- Reaching areas of chronic, pre-existing need

According to Jack Minton, Hope Force President/CEO, "We believe that followers of Christ have a mandate to respond to the plight of those suffering from disaster or chronic need. While the need is great, the relative numbers of responders are few." **HFI was founded by Jack and Cherie Minton in May 2003** and serves as a catalyst for mobilizing the global Christian community to compassionately and effectively respond in times of crisis. HFI Reservists have responded to floods in the Midwest, tornados in the South, wildfires in the West and severe storms in the South. Teams responded to the horrific Tsunami in Southeast Asia through agency partnerships.

Hope Force endeavors to become a leading volunteer response force, bringing hope to those affected by crisis or disaster.