

**Providing relief in Venezuela;
LAM short-term team to help “in the name of Jesus Christ”**

By Kenneth D. MacHarg
LAM News Service

Miami (LAMNS)—Volunteers who want to help in Venezuelan flood recovery efforts can join a Latin America Mission work team this coming July.

“We will be working to provide humanitarian aid in the name of Jesus Christ,” says Polly MacHarg, LAM’s Short Term Ministries Coordinator. “Participants will be helping to sort and distribute much needed supplies to victims of December’s devastating floods.”

Walls of mud, tree trunks and boulders came roaring down mountain ravines along coastal Venezuela during unseasonal torrential rains Dec. 15-16. Entire communities were destroyed and thousands killed in the floods and resulting landslides.

The disaster destroyed 5,400 homes, isolated some of the Atlantic coast for weeks, buried parts of towns under 10 and 20 feet of mud, and left the nation stunned by what some described as the most calamitous natural disaster in a century. Some 67,000 homeless people remain in tent camps or army bases scattered across the nation as work crews build low-cost housing.

Latin America Mission President David Befus recently returned from Venezuela where he was able to visit church programs underway through the Evangelical Council of Venezuela.

"They are still in the relief stage," David says. "LAM is using contributions to our Venezuela Flood Relief project to help with support and logistics." David said that local workers are distributing food and clothing and helping many residents to relocate to new communities in the interior of the country.

“We are looking for people who have a heart for missions and a servant attitude,” Polly says. “They must also be flexible and willing to do whatever needs to be done. Despite three months of relief work, much more needs to be done to relieve the suffering that still exists”.

The short-term mission team will arrive in Miami on July 16 for an evening orientation session. While in Venezuela the group will be working at a center along the devastated Caribbean coast. Meals, lodging and air transportation are included in the cost of approximately \$1,160. The mission team will return to Miami for a debriefing session on July 29.

Those desiring further information can call Polly MacHarg at 1-800-275-8410, or may write to LAM, Box 52-7900, Miami, Florida, 33152. Or, she may be contacted by e-mail at pmacharg@lam.org.

The Latin America Mission works in partnership with churches and Christian agencies throughout Latin America and supports missionaries and projects in many Latin countries as well as in Spain. LAM is seeking to place new missionaries throughout the region. The U.S. headquarters can be reached at Latin America Mission, Box 52-7900, Miami Springs, FL 33152, by e-mail at info@lam.org, or by calling 1-800-275-8410. The mission’s web site may be found at <http://www.lam.org>. LAM’s Canadian office is at 3075 Ridgeway Drive, Unit 14, Mississauga, ON L5L 5M6.

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