

Our Mission Motto

*“Because Jesus Came,
We Come.”*

Our Mission Statement

ABMen’s Disaster Relief ministry seeks to serve those affected by federally declared disasters, as well as disasters within Illinois and Missouri, in cooperation with ABMen/USA, the Great Rivers Region of American Baptists and the wider disaster response community.

In so doing we further fulfill our Christian mission by demonstrating the compassion of Christ and the ministry of wholeness and renewal.

Our Mission Field

Where there is a need within the Great Rivers Region.

FIELD GUIDELINES

- (1) At a meeting of the American Baptist Men’s Board of Directors for the Great Rivers Region, meeting on December 3, 2004, the following action was taken:**
 - **No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to use or run power equipment.**
 - **Youth between 16-18 years of age need a permission slip signed by a parent or legal guardian.**
 - **Youth under 16 years of age need to be accompanied by an adult (parent or legal guardian).**
- (2) At the same December meeting, the board of Directors decided to tag**
 - **\$2,000.00 in our Disaster Relief budget for Emergency only. These funds will be used when we are called to a disaster and need funds for transportation, meals, lodging, additional equipment and related expenses.**
- (3) Each team member must wear a photo identification badge. These will be provided at training sessions and on site.**
- (4) “When we arrive at a new disaster location, we bring many things with us. Experience, skills, our tools, clothes appropriate to the climate, a willingness to serve, and many other parts of us come along. The people we work with in communities oppressed by the effects of racism will note them all. Our bearing as Christians is also noted.”+**
- (5) “As we work in the midst of the effects of racism whether for ABMen’s Disaster Relief or upon returning home, may we be given the grace to speak with respect, see with new eyes, and act with understanding.”+**
- (6) “Given that we seek to treat all disaster victims as equals, the most important part of speaking with respect is to speak with people, not about them. Get to know people as individuals with**

hopes, fears, insights, and shortcomings. Just like you (and me!)”+

+ Taken from the appendix in our first edition workbook and printed with permission from the Mennonite Disaster Service. For the entire text, locate a copy of our first edition.