

United Church of God *an International Association*

Robert Dick
Chairman

Clyde Kilough
President

Letter from the President September 1, 2005

Dear Fellow Elders and Members,

I know you and all the members around the world have been deeply concerned about the unfortunate people who were in the path of Hurricane Katrina. The images and news reports are continually conveying an unimaginable scene of devastation and human suffering, and the news seems to worsen every day.

Information has slowly been trickling in from several elders along the Gulf Coast, and we are relieved that at this point we have heard no reports of harm coming to any of our own Church members. However, due to the state of poor communications, not all of the affected members have been contacted, so we cannot make any kind of summary statement. Nor do we have more than sketchy reports about what kind of property damage they may have sustained.

Naturally, many members are inquiring as to what they can do to help. In the coming days a clearer picture will emerge concerning the specific needs of our brethren, and we are committed to help them as soon and effectively as we can. I'm sure we have Paul's words in the forefront of our minds at this time: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

Our advice at this time from the home office is that members who want to "do good to all" should contribute to the organizations that are best equipped and experienced to provide the food, clothing, shelter and medical attention needed. We recommend reputable groups the government is endorsing, such as the Red Cross.

For those who want to reach out particularly to "the household of faith," you can send a check to the home office, payable to the United Church of God, noting in the memo section that it is for the "Assistance Fund." We will likely be helping a number of our brethren in these affected areas using our "Assistance Fund"—beyond what was anticipated in the budget. We will draw on these funds in consultation with the local ministers to make sure we can effectively help members in their need.

Thank you for your prayers, empathy and generosity. As more information comes in, we will certainly share it with you.

On behalf of the home office staff,



Clyde Kilough