PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The global humanitarian endeavor of disaster preparedness is a collaborative undertaking by all stakeholders who are collectively committed to address and implement effective plans to assist communities when a disaster occurs. Historically, disaster plans have been reactive. Looking forward, the direction of this humanitarian effort is to be proactive and prescriptive. Specifically, the emerging emphasis will be placed on recovery preparedness planning, not only to respond effectively during and after disasters, but also to successfully navigate challenges associated with short- and longer-term recovery.

Special thanks to Southern Adventist University for hosting this Symposium. This venue is significant because of the progressive academic emphasis placed on International Development of preparing individuals to meet the challenges of Disaster Preparedness and Recovery.

Our attendance at this Symposium affirms our dedication and willingness to be change agents in this important human endeavor.

On behalf of GR3 Inc., we would like to thank you for your attendance and valuable contribution at the Symposium. The information and feedback you shared provided valuable insights on disaster preparedness. For those of you unable to attend this time, we hope you can join us in the future. Following is a brief Summary of the various presentations. Please visit our website at www.gr3inc.com to view and download the materials summarized below. We are already at work planning the next Symposium and a Notice and Call for Presentations will be sent to you soon. Please continue the networking and collaboration! I personally invite you to contact me if you have any suggestions/comments on enhancing our future “sharing” experiences.

Cordially,

Malcolm Seheult, JD, PhD, FRSA
President/CEO
GR3 Inc.
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SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS

March 6, 2013

Devotional Presentation by Dr. Michael Duehrssen

A compelling and thought provoking autobiographical sketch of Dr. Mike’s search for himself and God. We must thank God and Praise Him to our “last dying breath”.

Ryan Shepard, COO | Goal Zero, Tifie

Mr. Shepherd provided a brief overview of the journey of Goal Zero and its’ business model, “A cause looking for a business, instead of a business looking for a cause.” Goal Zero uses its business of selling consumer solar panels, portable batteries and lights to support Tifie (Teaching Individuals and Families Independence through Enterprise) in DR Congo and elsewhere. They also donate their products to people affected by disaster. Goal Zero and Ground Zero (A Base of the Pyramid Company) have a wider vision of not just lighting the world, and “owning a piece of the Sun” but also to provide empowerment and sustainability to stakeholders.
A workshop/seminar was facilitated by Dr. Pittman and Mollie Murphy Dale on the importance of Writing Proposals and Grants correctly. Two groups, Introductory and Advanced met separately. Current trends in the grant writing process were presented for experienced writers and a basic outline of what is needed in grant writing was presented to less experienced individuals.

This Round Table discussion focused on the needs in the disaster response aspect of emergency relief work. The main points included the high cost of responding to disasters due to unpreparedness in the face of disasters, the difference in business cultures between relief and development agencies and the difficulties faced by suppliers in the face of disasters. Consistently, the panel agreed that current regulations are insufficient in dealing with disasters due to unpreparedness to respond to sudden emergencies and the lack of organizational planning and cooperation.
March 7, 2013

Dr. Gordon Bietz, President | Southern Adventist University

Dr. Bietz provided a warm welcome on behalf of SAU and the Biblical references to being prepared for the storms of life. His comments confirmed the importance of collaboration with all stakeholders in the arena of disaster preparedness.

Dr. Laura Seheult, Veterinarian

Dr. Seheult presented an interesting discussion on Basic Animal and Pet Care considerations in disaster preparedness planning. During Hurricane Katrina 40% of people who refused to evacuate did so because they could not take their pets with them. Animal care is an important consideration when responding to disasters. Pet and livestock owners often put their wellbeing behind that of their animals. Animals can also cause harm to rescuers if not handled properly. Dr. Seheult presented American Legislation concerning animal care in disaster as well as the need for disaster responders trained to deal with animals.
Maureen Baksh-Griffin, Professor | Cleveland State College

Professor Baksh-Griffin presented finding of her research relating to Social Media Messages following the 2010 Haiti earthquake. The implications of this important research provide direction and suggestions for better responder preparation and practice.

Eric Williams, Operations Manager | Fedex (retired), entrepreneur

“Networking for Sustainability”
Establishing rapport with someone by asking where they came from and collecting business cards at trade shows, are just some of the gems of wisdom that networking guru Eric Williams shared. He emphasized the importance of making connections and networks, by sharing stories from his experience. He provided practical wisdom in an engaging manner.
Jack Barker, President, and Cisco Perez | Innovative Water Technology, SunSpring®
Innovativeh2o.org

SunSpring® is a self-contained water filter that uses solar and wind power to filter up to 5000 gallons a day for ten years with little setup and maintenance. Mr. Barker presented compelling information about the necessity for water and practical solutions.

Barry Benton, Attorney at Law

Mr. Benton, former CIA profiler, shared how to profile people’s personality by using the Myers-Briggs system. By understanding how people approach life and relationships, leaders are able to match followers to positions where they can excel.

Ton van Zutphen, Senior Advisor Collaboration & Innovation | World Vision International

Mr. van Zutphen engaged the audience in a lively presentation and discussion on the practical aspects of being a responder. He related his vast experience of dealing with WVI personnel suffering from depression and compassion fatigue. His comments encouraged the audience to explore their ability and rationale for involvement in disaster preparedness.
Gerald Lewis, Director for Collaboration & Partnerships | World Vision International

Mr. Lewis presented a biblical perspective on partnership between organizations. He emphasized that while many individuals do work for separate companies and organizations, the common thread of striving to serve the same individuals and to meet their needs exists. Organizations and individuals within organizations should strive to work together and combine resources to perform the tasks as efficiently as possible and to help as many as possible. By putting aside differences and working together, we do God’s will by serving the less fortunate in a selfless manner.

March 8, 2013

Captain Ronnie King | SOUTHCOM

As head Chaplain at SouthCom, Capt. King presented an inspirational message to the attendees that anyone can overcome obstacles. The example of the famous Jackie Robinson was illustrated as an example of how and why we need to maintain a steady course amidst life’s challenges.
Dr. Richard Green, Psychologist

After the disaster has passed people must deal with the psychological trauma of the event. Dr. Green shared some of the psychological challenges that face disaster responders and victims. Resilience is the ability to recover from stress. Dr. Green shared how resiliency chaplaincy is a critical and integral part of disaster management.

Mickey Agnostini, Fire Chief | Greater Orlando Aviation Authority,
David Canther, President | R.E.S.C.U.E. LLC

Triage or categorizing victims according to how serious their injuries are is critical in incident response. Mr. Agnostini demonstrated how to triage using tape (Green=evacuate, Yellow=serious injury, Red=immediate medical attention needed, Black=Dead). David Canther assisted him to demonstrate how to simulate injuries or moulage for training purposes and he shared how training with lifelike injuries allows people to respond effectively when there are real injuries.

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Dr. Zeno Charles-Marcel, Medical Director | Wildwood Medical Center

The technology of Disaster management as well as development must be “High tech, but high touch”. Dr. Marcel shared examples of high tech and high touch systems which can be used for search and rescue, mass care and rehabilitation. He also presented “futuristic” examples of medical technology.
World Vision LACRO “Child Advocacy in Disasters”

Human traffickers seize the chaos of disasters to capture child slaves. World Vision shared how they have addressed this problem with safe zones for children in Haiti. They encouraged cooperation in maintaining the safety and security of child disaster victims. The Symposium provided attendees opportunities to participate in a variety of outdoor activities, including, Caving, Basic Rope Orientation, Tower Repelling, Mass Care, Mobile Kitchen, and visiting the sights and sounds of Chattanooga, Tennessee. We appreciate the skillful assistance received from Mike Hill (Technical Rescue Director of SAU), Dr. Mike Duehrssen and Mike Turnbull (owner of Rescue 3 International). These instructors provided highly technical practicum training in ropes, floodwater, repelling, knot tying and rescue in the afternoons for Skill Sheet check offs.
THANKS

David Canther, President, R.E.S.C.U.E.R. LLC, and Fabiano Franz, HEA DIRECTOR WV LACRO were invaluable resources in facilitating the varied experiences to World Vision representatives from over 14 countries in central and South America.

Dr. Mioara Diaconu, SAU coordinated and directed a superb logistics team, including Andrew Christiansen, Sara Saunders, and Sharon Robberson-Luke, Conference Services, SAU, to ensure a successful Symposium event.

Daphne Kirksey, representing Congressman Chuck Fleischmann read a letter from the Congressman and welcomed the attendees to participate in an essential collaborative session on Disaster Preparedness.

Ted Rogers, City Manager, City of Collegedale, sent a Welcome letter to the attendees and encouraged them to remain connected and engaged in disaster preparedness planning.

Special thanks to Dee Casper and Kevin Dice, our moulage experts from Heritage Academy who provided the Symposium with "realistic" disaster victims for our simulations.