

# Disaster relief is a vivid example of the Cooperative Program in action,

as you can tell by the images on these pages. When disaster strikes, Alabama Baptists respond, not only with a 'cup of cold water,' but with the encouraging message of the Gospel. But perhaps one of the lesser known ways your Cooperative Program gifts support disaster relief efforts is by providing for annual training opportunities at Shocco Springs and various associations.

That training is very important, says state missionary and disaster relief director Tommy Puckett. "Catastrophic disasters bring out the best in Alabama Baptists – praying, responding and giving – but with that comes an increased challenge for many interested people to be trained in order that they too may respond to the needs of those who are hurting," he said.

District 1 disaster relief coordinator Ross Covington sees two main reasons for such training – safety and effectiveness. "Chainsaws are dangerous, even for people who use them to make a living. If you're not trained in the safety aspects, it's very easy to hurt yourself," he said. "Also, when you're trained to do disaster relief, you're able to do it much more effectively. We want to respond to disasters in an

effective way so we can truly represent Jesus Christ as we go and minister to meet the needs of people."

Of course, our disaster relief efforts are also dependent on gifts designated specifically for disaster relief. You still have an opportunity to make such a gift. Send your contribution to the State Board of Missions, P.O. Box 11870, Montgomery, AL, 36111-0870. Be sure to mark your gift for "disaster relief."

That leads to another way the Cooperative Program makes a difference. Because the Cooperative Program provides the necessary funding for state missions work to continue even during times of disaster, you can be assured that 100% of your disaster relief donations go directly to support disaster relief victims.

*For more information on disaster relief ministries, contact state missionary Tommy Puckett, 1-800-264-1225, ext. 229, or [tpuckett@alsbom.org](mailto:tpuckett@alsbom.org)*

