



# CEN Fact Sheet

Christian Emergency Network | 2012

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## What is the Christian Emergency Network?

Christian Emergency Network (CEN) was formed after Sept 11, 2001, originally by several Mission America Coalition members, to respond effectively before, during, and after a national disaster through a united pray-care-share media and ministry response. The CEN mission is to equip every Christian to be ready to respond biblically to emergencies large or small. CEN assists over 7,000 Christian ministry and media organizations and 27,000 churches nationwide to be ready through its vast communication and collaboration network. During local, state or national incidents CEN responders locate each other; post prayer needs, and logistically collaborate through incident specific online response groups. CEN also works with the Department of Homeland Security to provide CEN partners with timely, accurate and actionable security information.

## What does CEN do during a disaster?

CEN networks to meet partner needs, communicates a biblical response through all forms of media nationally, provides national prayer alerts with timely information, hosts conference calls with national leaders on incident specific topics for collaboration, and continues to give direction to Christians in focused prayer, response to critical needs through advisories. CEN provides radio and TV interviews and conference calls with national Christian leaders to offer guidance on their pressing needs. CEN collaborates with government officials to provide timely information pertinent specifically to the greater church.

## What does CEN do during non-disaster times?

CEN networks with Department of Homeland Security, churches, national ministries, Christian media and local emergency and security professionals to provide biblical readiness training to individuals, churches, ministries, and media outlets. CEN also provides free Public Service Announcements, advisories, and newsletter updates on related disaster information as well as monitoring threats that may pose a concern to the Christian community.

**Founded** - Following September 11, 2001

**Message** - Be Aware, Be Ready, Be There!

**Mission** - Unite Christian volunteers, community leaders and emergency professionals in equipping the Church to be aware and ready to respond in emergencies large and small.

**Network** - over 7,000 Christian organizations including ministries and media are involved in CEN along with 27,000 churches who receive CEN resources in addition to millions of individuals

**Funded** - CEN is a U.S. based Christian Emergency Readiness Collaboration and Communication public service-based ministry funded by the Widow's Mite Foundation a 501c3 non-profit

**Media Reach** - 1200 radio, 1600 print outlets, TV outlets as needed

**Programs** – ReadyChristian, ReadyChurch, ReadyCity, Threat Information Service

### **Why was CEN needed?**

CEN was formed after 9/11 to rally and equip every Christian to be spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically ready to respond biblically to emergencies large and small. Recognizing the Church is uniquely positioned to respond to crisis as 87 percent of volunteers in disaster are faith-based, several national ministry leaders met and agreed we may have dropped the Kingdom expansion ball due to lack of unity; lack of immediate and focused prayer; ineffective and underrepresented media coverage of Christian relief efforts; lack of authorized volunteer direction; lack of personal preparedness; lack of doctrinal clarity on donating human and material resources; and most importantly a lack of understanding how to share Christ effectively and sensitively with those in crisis.

### **How does CEN provide Christian disaster focus, coordination, and mobilization?**

- **Prayer:** Draws individuals, churches and ministries together to pray for specific needs of our nation, state, city, family, neighbors, coworkers, and responding organizations during a crisis. During national incidents CEN collaborates with National Day of Prayer to provide National Emergency Prayer Alerts.
  
- **Care:** Communicates care/relief local, state and national human and material resource needs of individuals, churches, and responding ministries before, during, and after a crisis; alerting individuals and churches about regional and national efforts through online incident response groups, and coaching by seasoned expert compassionate care leaders during incidents to assist local efforts.
  
- **Share:** Informs individuals, churches and ministries about chaplaincy opportunities, collaborative efforts to share the love of Jesus Christ, tools to counsel those in crisis, and community wide events focused on a specific incident where the Hope of Christ is clearly presented with an opportunity to respond.
  
- **Christian news and crisis information through alerts, advisories, and CEN Threat Information Service**
  
- **Training for Christians, churches, and the Christian local community:**
  - Downloadable online training and printable guides
  - Products, training, and services from preferred Christian providers
  - Incident specific coaching from seasoned Christian professionals

### **What is the CEN Message?**

Crises are often opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ in tangible ways, which may transform the broken heart for all eternity. People do not forget a loving kindness offered during a personal crisis. All we need do is remember the person who prayed for us, who gave us a helping hand without payment, or the one who spoke words of Hope during our own crisis to know we must pass it on! Our message of His love is stronger when we live and give it together!

### **What does CEN consider a disaster?**

Christian Emergency Network activates when the secular media gives round-the clock coverage, when many lives are affected by any given natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other global or national crisis. The Christian Emergency Network will provide website response group updates, alerts, advisories, radio and TV interviews and other forms of communication to direct network participants to timely information and resources.

### **How does CEN Work?**

- CEN collaborates routinely with the national emergency leadership team and local ReadyChurches and ReadyCities to strengthen and support local Christian readiness and response efforts.
- CEN communicates readiness and response information to Christian media, ministries, ReadyChurches and ReadyCities. CEN provides a threat information service based upon working collaboratively with the Department of Homeland Security and Christian security experts.
- CEN equips individuals, churches, organizations, and media in biblical networking, preparing and responding to emergencies large and small. CEN's Biblical Readiness Project offers three core readiness trainings and numerous other services, products, expertise, and an online incident specific response network during emergencies to assist Christians worldwide:
  - **ReadyChristian** Training equips individuals to support one another in becoming spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically ready to give an answer in word and action with the Hope of Christ in the midst of any emergency.
  - **ReadyChurch** Training equips the staff, congregation and a church emergency team for the local church to be biblically ready to respond both inside and outside the church. ReadyChurch assists local churches to support each other in readiness and response.
  - **ReadyCity** Training equips city leaders to assess local capacities, form a city emergency team; assist churches to forge the ReadyChurch campaign and respond together.