



## From David Acres, State Disaster Relief Director

**New Credentialing Policy and Process for Disaster Relief.** This is being put into place to comply with directives being handed down by Homeland Security, FEMA and other national agencies related to the training and screening of volunteer disaster relief workers.

A new credential or ID badge has been developed and adopted by the State Disaster Relief Directors and the North American Mission Board. This new ID follows the guidelines of Homeland Security, FEMA and others. Every state involved in Disaster Relief will use the same design. By using this new ID the national organizations will assume that we have done background checks on all our Disaster Relief volunteers. So beginning in January we will begin the process of doing new credentials on all volunteers and also doing background checks. We have been given until December, 2010 to accomplish this task.

Because of this new directive we must begin a cost recovery plan. The cost of a new 3 year credential will be \$36.00.

- For all credentials that expire in 2010, the volunteer will have to pay \$36.00 (which will then expire in 2013).
- If they have credentials that expire in 2011, they will pay \$12.00 for 2010. Then they would re-credential in 2011 at \$36.00 – which will then expire in 2014.
- If they have credentials that expire in 2012, they will pay \$24.00 for 2010 and 2011. Then they would re-credential in 2012 at \$36.00 – which will then expire in 2015.

During the year of 2010 while we are trying to accomplish this task, both the old and new ID's will be accepted. This fee will cover not only the cost of the ID and background check but also the cost of any of the basic training courses a volunteer wants to take (except for Chaplaincy, Childcare, and First Aid classes and other specialized classes such as ServSafe, etc.).

***There will also be a new hat and a special Disaster Relief members pin*** given to those involved. We are working hard on a couple of other things and will let you know about them soon.

Please know that we are doing this to stay in the loop with the other volunteer groups we work with. If you have questions you may address them to me at [dacres@tnbaptist.org](mailto:dacres@tnbaptist.org), or call me at (615) 428-7093.