Becoming Catastrophic Ready

Dear ADRN Family,

ADRN has launched into 2022 with high expectations! We're planning towards the goal of Greater Austin becoming the first Catastrophic Ready city in the nation by March 31, 2024. But we look to the Lord to prepare the way and make these plans a reality. We pray that He will move in church leaders’ hearts to say “yes,” embracing and putting these plans in motion. We also pray that He will rally the Body of Christ in Greater Austin to train, prepare, and take on critical roles to achieve this monumental task.

Last year’s winter storms were a great reminder of why we need to prepare for disasters and why the Church needs to be ready to respond. In their February 2021 edition, the Texas Tribune reported that Texas was just “seconds and minutes” away from months-long blackouts. This catastrophe would have had a monumental impact on Texans for years to come. Also, for the second time in 12 months, local grocery stores ran out of food, and long lines formed for food assistance. How did you and your family do during this event? Were you ready?

(Continued inside)
Looking back, not many of us could say we were ready for the snow and ice, the frozen pipes, and the days without power. But if we take action now, we can be far better prepared for whatever comes next. We can work together to become Catastrophic Ready and equip our local churches to sustain life and offer the hope of Jesus in even the worst disasters.

### 2022 GOALS FOR THE CHURCH AND CHRISTIANS IN GREATER AUSTIN

In 2022, we must meet five specific milestones to achieve the goal of becoming Catastrophic Ready by March 2024:

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Level up current ADRN badged volunteers by at least one or two levels in the I AM Ready™ training program. <em>Visit ADRN’s Volunteer Portal to find the courses you need to level up!</em> <a href="http://portal.adrn.org">portal.adrn.org</a></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Help every church on the network designate a Disaster Relief Coordinator (DRC) and Core Team to develop and implement a training and disaster plan.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Ensure that every church on the network facilitates I AM Ready™ Basic Training and Orientation for their church community.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Hire 12 Sector Leaders to support churches in their region as they advance two or three Life-Sustaining Church™ levels over the next year.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Locate and develop 36 Points of Distribution (PODS) at network churches to house and distribute disaster goods and supplies and 12 FDA-approved food distribution sites at network churches to store and deliver perishable foods around Greater Austin.</td>
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When we have an opportunity to be prepared in advance so that in the blinking of an eye when something goes wrong, the world can look to the church as a source of stability, as a source of preparation, as a source of help, then I think we as the church ought to do everything we can possible so that when the world is in the midst of chaos they can look to the church for a place of calm.

Rev. Dr. Daryl Horton, Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Chair of Christ Together Greater Austin ADRN City-Wide Pastor’s Gathering, January 27, 2022

**SEVEN WAYS YOU CAN HELP GREATER AUSTIN BECOME A CATASTROPHIC READY CITY**

- **Talk to your pastor or church leaders and encourage them to participate and become a Catastrophic Ready Church.** ADRN’s Network Development Team will be happy to meet with them to talk about their best next steps. Email our staff at churchnetwork@adrntx.org.

- **Join your church’s Disaster Relief Core Team** by contacting your Disaster Relief Coordinator (DRC). If your church doesn’t have a DRC, you can become one by contacting your Senior Pastor and completing the DRC training.

- **Become an ADRN volunteer** by completing an in-person or online version of I AM Ready™ Basic Training and Orientation. Visit adrn.org/volunteer.

- **Level up in the I AM Ready™ Training program** by completing advanced training courses. Sign up in the Volunteer Portal—portal.adrn.org.

- **Take the Preparedness Peace course** and gather the resources and knowledge you need for you and your family to be personally prepared. Sign up in the Volunteer Portal—portal.adrn.org.

- **Share ADRN’s vision** of becoming a Catastrophic Ready city with others in your church, neighborhood, and other spheres of influence.

- **Help us find 12 mighty men and women of God** that can step into the Sector Leader role. Email churchnetwork@adrntx.org for more information.

**HOW WOULD IT LOOK?**

When Austin becomes a Catastrophic Ready city with a Life-Sustaining Church Network™, I believe we will be ready to face even the worst of disasters.

Imagine if a hurricane on the scale of Katrina strikes the Texas coast sending 85,000 survivors our way. The city opens its emergency shelters, but they can house only 25,000 people, leaving thousands with no place to go. (Continued on back)

**GOD STORY**

On January 7, 2022, a fire broke out at the Ventura Apartment Complex forcing all 33 families out of their homes. Many of these people lost everything and turned to the Red Cross and ADRN for help. Our volunteers responded within hours, providing emergency resources, comfort, and connections with Disaster Relief Shepherds.

Soon after, one of these survivors began attending church with his shepherd, and a few weeks later, he accepted Christ as His Savior and Lord. While this man may have temporarily lost his earthly home and belongings, his heavenly home is now safe and secure.

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The network mobilizes with the strength of 400 equipped network churches, thousands of trained volunteers, and the hope of Jesus. The city's 12 sector leaders put their disaster plans in motion, and ADRN activates an online automated Shepherd program. Two thousand trained Disaster Relief Shepherds (DRS) log on and immediately receive families into their homes. Church leaders call for more help, and an additional 7,000 volunteers take on-demand DRS training to join the effort. Evacuees continue to pour in, and many call the ADRN Survivor Hotline from the road. Call Center volunteers answer their questions, pray for them, and help them complete the online form to find Shepherd matches before they even reach city limits.

Meanwhile, ADRN also activates a region-wide plan to distribute food, emergency supplies, and donated funds. Evacuees need to look no further than only a handful of miles to get the help they need from the local church. Three churches in each sector receive goods from ADRN Headquarters and distribute them in their area. Each sector also has a church site that is FDA-approved for food distribution and a Resource Center offering financial support, casework, and emotional and spiritual care through trained Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) volunteer teams.

Within a few weeks, 25,000 families have their most urgent needs met and connect with a DRS to meet their emotional, spiritual, and physical needs. As their stories pour in, we soon learn that over 12,000 survivors have given their life to Christ, and that number increases each day.

We have the opportunity now to prepare for an event like this. Please join me in praying for the Church of Greater Austin, and let’s all work together to level up our I AM Ready™ training and preparedness so we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to thousands!

To God be all the glory!

Sincerely,

Daniel Geraci
Executive Director

P.S.—Great news! ADRN has signed the lease on a 40,000 sq. ft. facility at the corner of Wells Branch Parkway and Mopac. This facility will become ADRN and UDRN’s new headquarters and quadruple our warehouse space to house more disaster preparedness items. It will also offer space for HOPE Prayer Center and host our second Hope Family Thrift Store scheduled to open on May 9. Hope Family Thrift Store has a huge need for volunteers over the next 2.5 months to help launch the second Thrift Store. Let us know if you’re available! Email volunteer@adrntx.org.