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19 July 2021

To: Stake and Mission Presidencies; Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies; Members of Stake and Ward Councils in Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the Nancy France Stake

## Flooding in Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Switzerland

Due to extensive flooding, parts of Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Switzerland are in a state of emergency. Our thoughts and prayers are with those suffering. Bishops and Branch Presidents are asked to use fast offering funds to assist affected members with the basic needs. Funds from the Church's Humanitarian fund have been released to assist members and communities. The Welfare and Self-Reliance Services Department is currently coordinating with relief organizations and the authorities to identify initiatives with the greatest need and impact.

In the meantime, members may contribute in various ways:

First, pray for flood victims and their families. In James 5:16, we read: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Second, contact the county administration in areas where flooding caused damage or reputable charities to offer assistance. Whereas the rescue offers are conducted by government agencies, the clean-up will likely require many volunteers.

Third, consider joining with other groups to engage in or organize your own service projects. The Welfare and Self-Reliance Services Department may be able to assist with resources if you can provide volunteers and local contacts. Please contact your Welfare and Self-Reliance Manager for details:

For Germany, Austria and Switzerland – Matthew Mathias (mathiasmd@churchofjesuschrist.org)
For France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and The Netherlands – Momo Djemai (djemaimo@churchofjesuschrist.org)

Fourth, if you are aware of needs and service opportunities in your area, please inform your stake leaders. They are in contact with the area administration to coordinate further efforts.

Fifth, those who wish to make a financial contribution are invited to donate to the Church's Humanitarian Fund to enable projects which benefit people in need. Any donations not used for flood relief efforts will go towards other worthy projects.

Sixth, follow the Church's online newsrooms in your countries for updates regarding any possible relief efforts.

We appreciate your support regarding this matter.

THE EUROPE AREA PRESIDENCY

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Massimo De Feo

Erich W. Kopischke

Cc: Area Seventies