

## Hurricane IKE Update!

September 17, 2008

As the greater Houston area begins to recover from Hurricane Ike, many have been asking what affect the storm has had on the churches in that area. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church has only one church (without a church building) in the greater Houston area. Regional Home Missionary Gary Davenport reported the following on Saturday, immediately after the storm came through the area.

*“Rev. Adam York called this morning from his cell phone to convey that his home in Kingwood and homes in the surrounding north Houston area are without electricity due to the hurricane. He anticipates power not being restored for a few weeks. Debris,*



*downed trees, and other wind damage makes for difficult driving on his home street. The only visible damage to the York's home at this time is a fence blown down in their back yard. Many telephone landlines are not functioning, though ruling elder Coleman Simpkin's may be functioning. The church members Adam was able to reach by telephone are safe. One of the church families living in Galveston took refuge further inland. The condition of their Galveston home is*

*unknown at this time. Adam mentioned that the Orthodox Presbyterian Church presbytery and denominational diaconal committees have been contacted for assistance as needed.*

On Monday, David Haney, national coordinator for disaster response and president of the OPC Committee on Diaconal Ministries, drove from Louisiana into the Houston area to assess the needs and determine if a national response would be initiated. He was able to secure a generator for the York family and review with them the status of the families affected by the storm. All are safe and most of the families have minimal damage (relatively speaking) to their homes. The family from the Galveston area has not been back to their home yet.

The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) has seventeen churches in the area, many with their own facilities. A disaster response team headed by their national coordinator was due to arrive in Houston on Tuesday to begin their assessment of the needs of their approximately 4,000 members in the area. We are awaiting word of their needs.

As we become more aware of the specific needs in the OPC and PCA, a determination will be made regarding the need for volunteers to be mobilized. Please check this site for future updates.