



# American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware Gulf Coast Mission Trip: January 17 – 23, 2010

## Information Sheet

***When are we going?*** We will be traveling from January 17 through January 23, 2010.

***What will we be doing?***

We will be partnering with Rev. Tim and Jenn Schwartz, (former pastor of the Pughtown Baptist Church, SE/Central Union Baptist Association) who are currently serving in the Hurricane Ike Relief efforts taking place in the Gulf Coast. As we get closer to the date, we will have more specifics about what we are doing.

***There will be jobs for all skill and ability levels.***

***Who can go?***

Anyone and everyone who feels the calling to be God's hands for those on the Gulf Coast who are still trying to recover from Hurricane Katrina & Hurricane Ike. The trip is open to people of all ages and abilities.

***What is the cost?***

The approximate cost will be \$450. That price may vary depending on the airfare/van rental. Please register as soon as possible. We have reserved 40 tickets on Southwest Airlines. If you choose to fly on your own, please contact either Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith at 570-435-2001 [msmsmail@abcopad.com](mailto:msmsmail@abcopad.com) or the Pittsburgh office 412-687-3940 or [pghbaptist@aol.com](mailto:pghbaptist@aol.com) so we can coordinate arrival/departure times. Most airlines charge an additional fee for bags, so you might want to think in terms of one bag, and preferably as a carry on. If you book your own airfare, we are charging \$210 for food and transportation for the week.

***Are State Police and Child Abuse Clearances Required to Participate in the Gulf Coast Mission Trip?***

Yes. In 2005, the Texas Annual Convention enacted the Safe Sanctuary Policy to ensure the safety of children and youth the team may come in contact with. The cost is \$30 (\$10 Per Clearance/\$5 Per Money Order).

Takes Approximately 4 weeks. <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/PartnersProviders/ChildWelfare/003671038.htm>

***Where will we be staying?***

Housing is provided by the Disaster Recovery Office of the Galveston United Methodist Churches. Normally housing is at a local church. The sleeping accommodations are air mattresses placed on the floor. When we get down there, we will designate sleeping rooms for men and women. Showers will be available either at the church or at the local YMCA. Breakfast every day will be a continental breakfast and dinner will be served at the church. We will make our lunches every day and take them out to the work sites.

***What will the typical day look like?***

Following a morning prayer, work teams leave the church between 7:45 and 8:00 am. The team will work the entire day, usually cleaning up and heading back to the church between 4:00 and 5:00 pm. Dinner will be served at the church and there will be a short devotional and informational time at night before sleeping.

***When is the deadline for going on the trip?*** A deposit of \$225 is due by November 20, 2009. The final payment of \$225 is due by December 18, 2009. If you register after December 1, you will be responsible for your own flight reservations.

***How do I register for the trip?***

Fill out the attached registration forms and return them to the Gulf Coast Mission Trip; ABCOPAD; 159 N. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Telephone: 412-687-3940 or [pghbaptist@aol.com](mailto:pghbaptist@aol.com).

***Once I register, what then?***

We will have one planning meeting on (to be announced) to start to get to know people who we will be traveling with as well answer any questions that you may have. As we get closer to the trip, you will receive a packing list and other information that you will need to prepare for the trip.

For more information please contact Mark Mahserjian-Smith at  
570-435-2001 or [msmsmail@abcopad.com](mailto:msmsmail@abcopad.com)  
or the Pittsburgh office 412-687-3940 or [pghbaptist@aol.com](mailto:pghbaptist@aol.com)

