



Jesus told a parable about two builders, one wise, one foolish. **Matthew 7:24–27** Jesus said, *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And every-*

one who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Of course, Jesus is using this metaphor to challenge all of us to build our lives upon his word, but what happens when story becomes reality. In Mid-September 2011, many communities in ABCOPAD experienced flooding unlike anything known in recent history. Edward Vielmetti in his on-line weather blog reported, “The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee have made their way slowly from the Gulf of Mexico to the northeastern United States, bringing a storm with a slow-moving heavy rain. There is widespread flooding in the Susquehanna River basin and flash floods across the area.”

Along with a record breaking rainfall, systems built to protect some communities from flooding, channeled streams and rivers in new directions, causing flooding in areas historically unaffected by high water levels. Numerous communities evacuated as rivers and streams spilled over their banks and jumped out of their beds. The flooding destroyed bridges, houses, businesses and churches as well as claiming human life and injuring others. As word of the widespread flooding hit the airwaves, congregations throughout ABCOPAD immediately started to ask the question, “How can we help?” Through the use of our ABCOPAD Web Site and our ABCOPAD Facebook Web Page, our Region was able to provide real time reports from pastors and church leaders as they responded to the flooding. A list of church closings was posted and prayer messages

were dispatched helping our regional family both stay informed as well as pray for churches damaged by the flood water, along with those providing assistance in their communities.



Within hours of the flooding, ABCOPAD was receiving donations to aid in flood relief efforts and within days of the storm, checks were being sent disbursing flood relief money. By the beginning of October, over \$10,000 was both received and distributed to congregations involved in flood relief efforts. In November and December, an additional \$10,000 plus was received including an \$8,000

check from American Baptist Home Mission Societies One Great Hour of Sharing funds.

Your support of our Regional Ministry, **“Aids us, to Aid Others.”** It is through your contributions to PIM that we are able to bring so many resources together during times of need. Regional Pastors, our ABCOPAD Web Site, a dedicated ABCOPAD Treasurer, Regional Secretaries and so much more are only available because you contribute. You can give to PIM through:

1. Your local congregation’s weekly offering, by designating your gift to **ABCOPAD-Partners in Ministry**.
2. Through ABCOPAD’s Online Giving option, available on the regional website (www.abcopad.org). Your church can receive mission-giving credit for your online gift.
3. Send your check (made out to ABCOPAD) to ABCOPAD, P.O. Box 421, Hatboro, PA 19040

Thank you for your giving to **Partners in Ministry** and for your partnership as we minister together In Pennsylvania and Delaware.

**THE AMERICAN BAPTIST
CHURCHES OF
PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE**

