

## **Samaritan's Purse sending Alberta-supplied emergency relief to hurricane victims in Caribbean** *Equipment being loaded Monday onto a truck; special flight from YYC canceled*

**CALGARY, AB, Sept. 30, 2017** – Samaritan's Purse Canada is loading a transport truck on Monday with urgently needed emergency equipment and supplies from Alberta, for victims in the Caribbean of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

The materials were scheduled to depart from Calgary on Samaritan's Purse's DC-8 cargo plane but will instead be trucked to the organization's international headquarters in North Carolina, then flown on the DC-8 to the Caribbean. The DC-8 is needed too urgently in the Caribbean to come to Calgary now.

Included in the truck load will be a \$200,000 relocatable building, donated by Sprung Structures of Calgary. The roughly 16-meter-by-32-meter building will be erected in Barbuda to serve as Samaritan's Purse's operational and supply hub in the storm-battered region.

"We're launching a major reconstruction project in Antigua and Barbuda, and this structure will serve as an operations base to get supplies where they need to go to help survivors rebuild their lives," said Brent Davis, Samaritan's Purse Canada's Response Director. "With much of Barbuda destroyed, we need to bring in our own building to provide the level of aid the people need to move forward. We'll continue to respond to clean-up needs in Puerto Rico and Dominica as well."

Samaritan's Purse's DC-8 was scheduled to arrive Monday at Calgary International Airport. It has already made 12 recent trips to the Caribbean from North Carolina to deliver more than 244,000 kilograms of emergency supplies including hygiene kits, blankets, water purification units, and rolls of heavy-duty plastic sheeting to shelter thousands of families who lost their homes to Irma's destructive force in early September.

The need for the daily flights to the Caribbean is so urgent that Samaritan's Purse has concluded the plane can't be rerouted to Calgary for the two days needed to pick up and deliver the relocatable Sprung building. And so the building will be loaded onto a truck Monday at 11:00 a.m. It will travel from Calgary to North Carolina, then fly on the DC-8 to Antigua, for transport by barge to Barbuda where it will be erected.

**Truck loading time: 11:00 a.m. Monday** from Samaritan's Purse Canada at 20 Hopewell Way NE

### **News Media Opportunities:**

- Interviews with Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief Team leaders, including Wanda Burchert of Blairmore, AB, who will have just returned from helping hurricane victims in Puerto Rico; plus Samaritan's Purse employees traveling to the Caribbean to help assemble the Sprung structure
- Videotaping as truck departs

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“Hurricane Irma leveled islands in the Caribbean and devastated the Florida coast,” said Samaritan’s Purse President Franklin Graham. “We’re taking critically needed supplies to storm survivors and coming alongside affected families. We want to meet their physical needs while showing them the love of Jesus.”

Charity Navigator, a non-profit U.S. organization that assesses charities, has identified Samaritan’s Purse as one of the most effective disaster relief organizations helping victims of the recent hurricanes.

**Donations Needed:** Canadians can donate to Samaritan’s Purse disaster relief work by visiting [SamaritansPurse.ca](http://SamaritansPurse.ca) or calling 1-800-663-6500.

In commenting on the urgent need for one of his company’s key products, Sprung Structures President Phil Sprung said: “We are excited to partner with Samaritan’s Purse and its hurricane relief efforts by donating one of our Engineered Relocatable Structures. There are many, many people in the Caribbean who desperately need help from Canadians right now. We’re very proud, as an Alberta company, to do what we can to assist Samaritan’s Purse and the wonderful people of the Caribbean.”

Samaritan’s Purse deployed its DC-8 plane to Iraq last December to deliver an emergency field hospital and medical staff to the outskirts of Mosul when the ancient city was being liberated from ISIS terrorists. Residents fleeing the fighting were desperate for medical aid, with many suffering from bullet and shrapnel wounds inflicted by ISIS.

The DC-8 airlifted a similar emergency field hospital and medical personnel to Ecuador last June to treat victims of the South American country’s most devastating earthquake in decades.

The DC-8 has also transported many experienced Samaritan’s Purse staff and volunteers who are assisting with the massive hurricane relief effort. Capable of carrying 40 tons of emergency supplies and dozens of personnel, the DC-8 has become a vital new tool for the Christian international relief and development organization to bring aid in Jesus’ name to traumatized survivors of disasters worldwide.

Samaritan’s Purse has helped victims of a wide range of international disasters including the 2011 earthquake/tsunami in Japan, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, and Hurricane Matthew in Haiti in 2016. Samaritan’s Purse Canada has also assisted victims of many natural disasters in Canada including flooding in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, southern Alberta, and Nova Scotia, plus wildfires in Fort McMurray, AB and the B.C. interior.

### **About Samaritan’s Purse Canada**

Samaritan’s Purse is a Christian relief and development organization that takes its name from Jesus Christ’s biblical story of the Good Samaritan. Like that Good Samaritan, who found a beaten man and helped restore him, we aid victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution. Besides disaster relief, our work includes collecting and distributing gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, and providing safe water, vocational skills and agricultural supplies and training to families in the developing world. Learn more at [SamaritansPurse.ca](http://SamaritansPurse.ca)

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