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## **Emergency Disaster Services Bulletin Monday, March 8, 2010**

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### **SALVATION ARMY EARTHQUAKE RELIEF IN CHILE "Brazos Fuertes Alrededor de Chile" - "Strong Arms Around Chile"**

**Alexandria, VA** – The Salvation Army in Chile continues to adapt to the changing conditions while expanding its emergency relief response in both Central and Southern Chile. A curfew has been established from 6:00 PM until 12:00 PM the next day in the Concepción and Talcahuano area in Southern Chile and cities closest to the epicenter. The Salvation Army is working with the Chilean government and Chilean Emergency Service Ministries to support their efforts to provide immediate assistance to those affected by the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Chile on Saturday, February 27. Salvation Army personnel have to have special authorization to travel during the tightly controlled curfew period. This authorization and assigning security personnel to Army staff members will allow safe travel during curfew and much needed distribution of supplies to those in need.

As the magnitude of devastation continues to escalate, Salvation Army officers, soldiers, and volunteers continue to work feverishly to provide support and comfort to those affected. In Santiago, several young Salvationist professionals are reaching out and creating databases to facilitate more efficient registration of clients by social workers. Additionally, they continue to strive to make contact with the Christian media in the Santiago metropolitan region.

On Thursday, March 4, the Christian media will be conducting a fundraising campaign in 12 locations throughout the city to collect donations. Funds raised in these locations are used to keep the media on air. On Saturday, March 6, at 4:00 AM, up to ten trucks will be utilized to deliver these donations to

Concepcion and surrounding areas. The trucks are owned by the media and some are TSA EDS vehicles.

The Salvation Army Corps in Concepcion is recognized for their League of Mercy ministry. The League of Mercy of the Hualpencillo Corps has stepped up to meet the needs and challenges caused by the earthquake and tsunami and are fully engaged in emergency response activities. Major Juan Carlos Alarcón, Divisional Commander of the Chile Southern Division, has arrived in Hualpencillo from Temuco. Major Alarcón had been given moving orders recently and was to have transferred this week; however, his leaving has been postponed.

As the Chilean Salvation Army works on the transition of officers and appointments, the Chilean government is also in transition. On March 12, the new governor of the country will be inaugurated. While many believed that the central region of Chile was not affected, many buildings in Santiago are now being condemned because of damage from the earthquake. The strong aftershocks which have reached up to 6.3 on the Richter scale have impacted the infrastructure of many buildings to the point where at least two to three 18 – 25 story apartment complexes in Santiago have had to turn their residents away and evacuate a five block radius so the buildings can be imploded in the near future. Many families have been displaced, and all socioeconomic levels are being affected by this disaster.

Salvation Army facilities have been severely damaged in both Central and Southern Chile. In the Central Division alone, the assessments were completed on Wednesday and damages are estimated at over \$500,000. In South Chile, it is too early to have estimates in dollar figures although it is known some structures are now uninhabitable. A Boys home, serving 35 children operates in the coastal town of Llolleo. The administration, dining and kitchen areas are heavily damaged. This is a structure that has withstood over 60 years of natural disasters. Aftershocks continue to inflict damage on the complex.

In El Faro, The Salvation Army has had to completely halt all services for fear of infrastructure collapse. This complex provided housing to college students whose hometowns are far from this community so they reside at The Salvation Army.

Lt. Colonel F. Bradford Bailey, Chief Secretary of The Salvation Army South America West explains that this has been a very deceiving earthquake. It

initially did not show signs of catastrophic proportions, but seems to be breaking down the infrastructure from the inside out. Lt. Colonel Bailey also notes *“this earthquake has not only caused physical damage but it has caused damage to the psyche and social conditions of Chile. It has brought out the best and the worst of Chileans. Many are very disappointed in their countrymen (i.e. looting, vandals), while others have stepped up to help and provide strength that is immeasurable.”*

He went on to say that *“this is where The Salvation Army has an opportunity to step up to offer a ministry of presence, and many church members are finding a chance to share their relationship with God. This combined catastrophe will continue to not only affect the pocketbooks of the Government and its citizens, but also the soul of the Chileans”*.

### **Santiago Metropolitan region:**

- The Salvation Army is now providing an average of 3,000 meals a day. These numbers continue to grow, and three meals a day are served. Water, first aid supplies, blankets, candles and other emergency supplies are to be distributed as needed.

### **Southern Chile:**

- Many towns are no longer in place, totally destroyed by the tsunami. Some of these towns include Tomé, Dichato, Constitución, Talca, and others.
- Much of the south is without water, electricity and other utilities making cooking and heating almost impossible.
- **Concepcion:**
  - Corps Officers, soldiers, and volunteers continue to provide emergency services to displaced residents.
- **Hualpen:**
  - The Hualpencillo Corps continues to serve as a headquarters for food distribution.
  - As of Wednesday, March 3, they now have three emergency disaster crews carrying provisions to outlying areas.
  - Additional teams are being deployed from Santiago.
  - The Corps Sgt. Major in this city lost her home to the tsunami, but is camped out in a tent at the courtyard of the property to help take care of people who are less fortunate and in greater need than she is at this time.
- **Talca:**
  - The Salvation Army has asked Chilean Emergency Disaster Ministries to open up a fourth front to provide emergency services.

The Salvation Army has offered to handle emergency distribution to this community.

Communication continues to be very difficult although it is becoming a little better. Lt. Colonel Bailey expresses sincere gratitude to International Headquarters for its financial support as well as the dedication and service of our officers, soldiers, and volunteers.

Additional information will be reported as it becomes available.

The Salvation Army set up a **Chile** relief fund and is accepting monetary donations. Donors may contribute \$10 by text messaging the word "CHILE" to 52000, and confirming the donation with the word, "Yes." Donors can also give via [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org), 1-800-SAL-ARMY and through the mail at: The Salvation Army World Service Office, International Disaster Relief Fund, and PO Box 630728, Baltimore, MD 21263-0728 with designation "Chile Earthquake."

Please pray for the people of Chile.

#### **About The Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army, an evangelical part of the universal Christian church established in 1865, has been supporting those in need in His name without discrimination for 130 years in the United States. Nearly 30 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through the broadest array of social services that range from providing food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children. 82 cents of every dollar spent is used to carry out those services in 5,000 communities nationwide. For more information, go to [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org).

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