



PERMA-CAMPING

Inspired by the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund's

"Gifts for Mission" Gift guide

TENTS FOR LIFE

Have you ever gone camping? And I mean *real* camping- in a tent. If so, have you ever forgotten something really important? Perhaps you didn't have the pump for your air mattress, your pink fuzzy slippers or- heaven forbid- you discover there's no electricity for your cell phone charger?! What did you do?

Many of us hear the word 'tent' and cringe at the thought of waking up covered in dew because a pillow was pressed against the side of it. Or maybe the worst part is crawling out of the flap door way too early in the morning after being woken by loud birds or noisy parents. Would you believe that a tent is a place of refuge, comfort and safety

for thousands of people worldwide? When disaster

strikes an area such as the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010 or the floods in Pakistan in November later that year, hundreds of thousands of people lose their homes. This leaves people and families of all ages and sizes stranded in the midst of chaos with nowhere to go for food, protection or a place to sleep.

In times of suffering and despair people often turn to God or strengthen their faith. Many beg or plead for God to send God's mercy and grace upon them.

We hear this pleading in Psalm 80:3- "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved."

"Let your face shine" was often considered a way to ask God for something good to happen to God's children. In a time of disaster when it seems as though the bad is never ending, people around the world pray that God will shine God's face on the

area and the people who suffer. Many times that doesn't feel like enough and we try to find ways in which we can help those in need in practical ways.

Enter PWRDF. For Pakistan Flood Relief, PWRDF's emergency shelter program distributed tents to 510 families in the



Woman outside her tent in Pakistan. Photo-DKH/ACT



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Tents for Life continued...

Sindh region, in South-Eastern Pakistan. Averaging 7 people per family, these tents provided safety and comfort to 3,613, individuals, 57% of whom were under the age of 18, until more permanent shelters could be constructed.

PWRDF hears the cries of the suffering and follows Psalm 80 by shining God's light, God's face, on disaster-struck areas where a tent can be the difference between life and death.

Check out www.pwrdf.org for more stories of PWRDF's disaster relief.



Tent city in Haiti. Photo: ACT/Catianne Tjjerina

Provide an Emergency Shelter in 3 easy steps...

1. Go to www.pwrdf.org
2. Click on the "Gifts for Mission" Gift Guide
3. Click 'Add to Cart' under 'Tents as Emergency Shelters'

Reflections

1. Think of a time in your life when it felt like a disaster. How did you handle the situation? What was the result?
2. Turning to God in times of trouble seems instinctive to many people, but is turning to God in our every day lives as natural? Which is easiest- trusting during disaster, success or routinely?
3. Whom do you trust more- humans or God?
4. How are we called to be God's face, God's light, for others in the midst of tragedy?

Prayer for Protection

The light of God surrounds us,
The love of God enfolds us,
The power of God protects us,
The presence of God watches over us,
Wherever we are, God is,
And wherever God is, all is well.

-Author Unknown



Tent city in Haiti March 2010. Photo- Naba Gurung