

# THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES



November 2015

## Press Release of the Diaconal Committee to all Member Churches of the ICRC

During the meeting of the ICRC in Wales 2013, a ***Diaconal Committee*** was established to facilitate and promote cooperation among the ICRC member churches in ***ministries of mercy***.

As a *Diaconal Committee* we endeavour to act according to the principle of Galatians 6:10 "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." There is a Protocol to respond to major disasters. It was previously placed under the Missions Committee, but never used. It is one thing to have a Protocol, yet another thing to make effective and responsible use of it. A properly functioning Protocol is something that has to grow. Disaster relief is very complicated and the risk of making mistakes is high. Money as such is not the solution. Money can become a curse. This should be realised by both those who receive and those who give.

As *Diaconal Committee* we will never be able to work effectively, if we are not informed about the existing diaconal activities and ministries of mercy within the ICRC family of churches. We have sent a questionnaire to all the churches. Yet only about half of the 33 ICRC denominations have responded thus far. On the ICRC website ([www.icrconline.com](http://www.icrconline.com)) you will find a list of those churches who have responded and those who haven't. Visit this website to make sure your denomination does not stay behind! Please share with us the following information with regards to your local church and / or federation. (see opposite side of this page or the second attachment)

We also want to call on the churches to share information with us on how to reach out to the persecuted Christians. Presently in the Middle East things are very tense for our "family of believers" over there.

With greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'P. Boon'.

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Members Diaconal Committee:

**Dirk van Garderen** Minister of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Bucklands Beach, Auckland, New Zealand  
**David Nakhla** Administrator of the Committee on Diaconal Ministries of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in the USA  
**Rick Postma** Director of Public Relations of Word & Deed Ministries, Canada  
**Pieter Boon** Minister of the Free Reformed Church Pretoria-Maranata, South Africa