

Women Are Told How They Serve If Disaster Hits

By ALICE E. MORGAN

"Should disaster, man-made or natural, strike anywhere in this area, there will be a tremendous need for a smooth working organization prepared to offer immediate service," Mrs. Bradlee Pruden told the United Church Women of Birmingham Friday morning.

Speaking at the regular monthly meeting, held in the First Baptist church, Mrs. Pruden, chairman of Oakland County Volunteer American Red Cross, pulled no punches in describing the need for such an organization and what the church women can do about it.

"Among the first things we will need is a new survey of facilities. Since the first one, three years ago, the new high school and some new church buildings have been completed. Some churches have changed hands, and although the physical aspects probably remain the same, a new survey is necessary."

The first step, she told them, is to appoint one person to clear the way for emergency use of the church. This should be done with church officials who may be assured that the Red Cross holds itself financially responsible for any damages or wear-out expenses incurred while a building is being used for this purpose.

"There is no point in panic, but we must face the possibility of these things. We might do some praying but we must also prepare ourselves for survival."

"RED CROSS and Civil Defense units are working together, combining talents, personnel and work. It will give us a central plan with everyone working together, yet each having a specific job. It will conserve duplication of effort and cut confusion."

Mrs. Pruden showed a chart which gives the division of responsibilities. Civil Defense will work with the governmental units in warning, evacuation and rescue; public health and sanitation; law and order.

The job of emergency care, providing food, clothing, shelter, welfare and inquiries will fall to the Red Cross. This will encompass nursing and medical care, building and repair of household goods and occupational aid.

"IT IS HERED, under general Red Cross services, that the churches and the women will have the greatest burden," Mrs. Pruden told the group. "You are representatives of the various churches of Birmingham and its immediate area. You are the ones to carry the message to your church women, the guilds and societies."



MRS. BRADLEE PRUDEN

light, because work in rescue, medical treatment and the other necessary phases will be done on this basis.

"Menus will have to include light snacks and full meals for victims, with special emphasis on snacks for relief crews."

"In planning a church for this special attention should be paid to refrigeration facilities. Food spoilage means wasted work as well as wasted money and supplies."

MRS. PRUDEN said teams should also be trained in the handling of clothing for disaster victims.

"The Red Cross, she pointed out, issues purchase orders for one complete outfit of clothing."

"When these are soiled, used clothing must be on hand to meet the needs. It is important that in collecting clothing, usable material be obtained. Evening gowns, high heeled slippers and old fashioned corsets are not what is needed."

"Clothing must be sorted as to size, and so forth. A group of women can study these needs for an hour or two and save an unbelievable amount of time and effort."

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when the demands start coming in

In saying there were many jobs, other than those mentioned, which women will be asked to do, Mrs. Pruden said one of the most important features was to select workers not bound by other obligations.

"IF YOU HAVE a member in your church group who is a nurse, a trained first aider, a nurses' aide, a member of a Red Cross service group, do not ask her to work in the kitchen. Believe me, she will have plenty to do and will not be available for pouring coffee or wrapping sandwiches."

"Recruit the men's groups in your churches. Food trays, coffee pots, bundles of clothing, all can be more than a woman can handle. Make it a family project. Get your husband interested and those of your children who are in their late teens. They will want to do something and can do a better job if they have some inkling of what it's all about."

"In speaking of providing shelter, Mrs. Pruden said she, and Mrs. Hugh McLeese, United Church Women's president, are trained in this field. She suggested that training in this also be planned so the program could go into operation within a matter of hours after disaster struck."

"WE MUST remember too," Mrs. Pruden said, "that we may not be planning for Birmingham alone."

In the case of the hydrogen bomb, authorities claim that should one strike in the river area of Detroit, the disaster section would cover a ten mile radius.

"That means that there is going to be a terrific load placed on communities which lie outside this area. We must work on the assumption that Birmingham will be in operation within a matter of hours after disaster struck."

"In passing, I might mention the vital need right now of a good, sound airport service. Our Birmingham port is not good. About the best in the area is Milford."

Nurses Offered Scholarships By Kenny Group

Free scholarships providing \$275, tax free, along with other benefits including liberal vacations, are being made available to registered nurses male or female, by the Sister Elizabeth Kenny Foundation, according to Dexter Horton, Michigan president of the organization.

Horton explained that applicants which has round-the-clock staffing. That is just another phase of the program which should have our serious thought at this time."

IN CLOSING, Mrs. Pruden again urged the group to carry the urgency of the disaster committee plan back to their church groups. She said committees would meet with her to set up complete plans and map the over-all program.

"One church, St. James," she said, "is fairly well taken care of. It houses our emergency radio communication services for the area, including a generator to take over in case of power failures. It, too, may have additional duties to perform on the relief basis, but communications will be its foremost service."

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should not be over 40 years and that classes would start August 1. "Graduation leads to jobs with pay better than the average in the profession today, plus retirement benefits and vacations up to four weeks each year. Nurse candidates will be given a year of physical therapy training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn."

"The Kenny Foundation, Horton said, provides tuition for all courses and graduation will be in December 1956.

WITH COMPLETION of training, Kenny therapists are assured assignments to Kenny centers in various parts of the country and are provided opportunities for advancement, Horton stated.

"The Michigan Kenny Foundation operates the polio hospital near Farmington with funds from the United Foundation Torch Drive and the state's United Health and Welfare funds."

He concluded by saying that 1,393 polio patients, including outpatients, received treatment in 1953 through the Kenny hospital.

Applicants are asked to contact the Foundation offices in the Guardian building, Detroit, for full information.

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