

THE BISHOP OF THE BAHAMAS AND THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

The Rt. Rev'd. Laish Zane Boyd, Sr.

ADDINGTON HOUSE
Sands Road
Telephone: (242) 322-3015, 6 or 7
Fax: (242) 322-4670 (Private)
(242) 322-7943 (General)



P.O. Box N-7107
Nassau, N.P, Bahamas
www.bahamas.anglican.org
Email: bishopboyd@bahamasanglican.org

HURRICANE DORIAN **REPORT NO. 1**

Hurricane Dorian struck The Bahamas at Abaco on Saturday 31st August, 2019, as a category 5 system. On Sunday 1st September Dorian struck Grand Bahama, slowing right down to 1 m.p.h. and, for a time, being stationary.

New Providence Island, where Nassau is, and where I live, had rain, wind, flooding in low areas, and some loss of power, but nothing to speak about. Other islands, like Bimini and The Berry Islands, had rain and high wind.

It was sheer agony and deeply worrying to wait for the system to leave the jurisdiction, which it did earlier this morning. We had not heard from many of the clergy in the two islands but, since yesterday, we have been hearing of or hearing from most of them.

Dorian is a monster storm, unprecedented and extensive. Dorian visited an historic tragedy upon these islands: the devastation has been catastrophic, such as has never been seen or imagined in these parts.

Images and video in social media have been heartbreaking. I had the opportunity to fly over Marsh Harbour in South Abaco yesterday. (We wanted to go to North Abaco and on to Grand Bahama but the winds were too high). The actual damage is incomprehensible.

I will share more information with you once we are able to get on the ground and make assessments. At this point all I can say is that Abaco and Grand Bahama have been decimated, there is widespread flooding and standing water, and the damage to buildings and infrastructure is unimaginable. Homes and businesses of members and church property are among these.

Most heartbreaking is the humanitarian crisis of the two islands: 65,000 plus persons in upheaval and displacement, suffering and anguished.

At this point we know of 7 persons confirmed dead in Abaco. There are more deaths than that between the two islands. Please continue to pray for us.

As part of our response to Hurricane Dorian, The Diocese has established a **GoFundMe** Account for the ease of international donors in particular. **The link is: [gf.me/u/u6xsi7](https://www.gofundme.com/u/u6xsi7)**. Please share widely with your relatives and friends abroad.

Any assistance that you can give would be greatly appreciated. I will say more about this in due course.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev'd. Laish Boyd
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4th September, 2019