



The once-in-a-century floods that hit the southern Indian state of Kerala, where I come from, beginning July this year left nearly 500 dead and around 1.5 million displaced. The state faced its worst disaster since 1924, and it is now important to rebuild infrastructure and rehabilitate the displaced population. It will be a long road ahead for the authorities to restore normalcy.

Waters have receded, but the damage it left behind has displaced families, destroyed crops and ruined infrastructure in 14 of the state's districts. Public institutions like hospitals, offices and educational institutions too, bore the brunt of the flood. Tourism is another sector, a good source of income for the state, which experienced a setback following floods.

Many families remain in emergency shelters, unable to return home for at least six months. The worst affected are farmers whose livelihoods depend on agricultural work. With crops and fields destroyed, they are unlikely to find work anytime soon. Sad to say it is mostly affected the Catholic families and many of the Churches, convents and Catholic institutions suffered the worst damages and they are looking for emergency assistance.

The international community is working hard to bring assistance to those affected. I spent two weeks with the flood victims and personally witnessed the tragic situations. My religious community is trying to help out these victims in the best possible way. **There will be a Special collection here at St. Martin's, on October 14th, to help assist those in need.** All the donations will be sent to my Provincial Superior and whatever donations you may make small or big will be a great help in assisting the neediest.

Thank You,

Fr. Abraham K. George, MCBS.

