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October 28, 2025
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATION OF HURRICANE MELLISA IN THE CARIBBEAN

Today, we face the devastation left behind by the historic Category 5 Hurricane *Mellisa*, one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record, which made landfall in Jamaica on Tuesday morning, October 27. Hurricane *Mellisa* has left irreparable damage to critical infrastructure, rendering roads impassable, hospitals and essential services and resources inaccessible, and many rural communities vulnerable and isolated. Hurricane Mellisa has also caused significant damage to the neighboring islands of Cuba, Haiti, the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic.

Our hearts ache for our brothers and sisters who are enduring unimaginable hardship and loss in the wake of this disaster. We are also sensitive to the reality that many of our constituents are currently eagerly trying to make contact and verify the safety of families and loved ones. As a Conference family, we stand with you and commit our prayerful support, and we hold fast to the promise of God's unfailing presence and sustaining grace even amid destruction. Be reminded of the words of Psalm 46:1, "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*"

Our Adventist Community Service department is actively coordinating with agencies to assess needs and mobilize resources to assist affected areas. We are calling on our Conference family to respond with compassion and generosity. Here are some ways you can help:

- **Pray:** Continue to pray for those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. Pray for safety, healing, and hope.
- **Give:** Give online: <https://gnyc.org/adventist-community-services/donate>
 - **By Mail:** Adventist Community Services, 4126 58th St, Woodside, NY 11377.
- **Serve:** Members interested in volunteering or supporting relief coordination may contact the Greater New York Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) Department at acs@gnyc.org for information on upcoming opportunities.

We thank you for your continued support as together we bring hope and healing to those in need.

Yours in hope

Dr. Alanzo Smith
President
Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists