



PASTOR BOB RIETH

Dear MFI Friends,

We need your immediate prayers and your help.

An important arm of Media Fellowship has always been our Media Support Team (MST). One week ago, our own community suffered incredible tragedy as a mile and a half wide landslide that took out US Hwy 530 between the towns of Darrington and Arlington. The slide is closest to the small town of Oso, Washington. The area is greatly affected, as the slide caused major flooding behind the slide. While those living in the Stillaguamish River Valley are known to be resilient and self sufficient, the sheer size of the disaster is hard to grasp. [In this brief interview with CBS Evening News](#), Pastor Bob explains the gravity of the tragedy.

Who is there to help the media?

There are about 30 chaplains there to help the families of victims and first responders and there has been an outpouring of food, clothing and donations. HOWEVER, there has been no support for the media. As we have found on other disaster sites, the members of the media are ignored and even resented - yet the public is anxiously waiting for news of the tragedy and victims. The media are often seen as fixtures, as non-entities, even though behind the lens of their camera, the tears flow. One often forgets how terribly hard it is for those covering this event. This is the need our MFI MST has met in past years. We've been there in past years to support the Media covering such tragic events as the Oklahoma City bombing, Columbine, Virginia Tech, Katrina, and 9/11 in New York City and Washington DC as well as others.



Pastor Bob was out of town for the first few days following the landslide but has been going up every day since talking with members of the news crews and giving them encouragement. While the media had been given access to a room in Arlington, which is near Oso, there were no amenities. Our MST has set up coffee service and snacks for them and is offering some good old fashioned 'hospitality.' We want to thank members of Our Redeemer

Lutheran Church for helping to provide some supplies and baked goods.

Pastor Bob also attended the church service yesterday in Oso. He is hoping to be permitted to go on a media tour in the next day or two to the slide area.

How can you help?

Please pray for Pastor Bob and our MST as they need energy, endurance and discernment from the Lord as they minister to those needing comfort and the message that Jesus brings.

We are there to be supportive and available to the Media covering the event. To listen as they need to talk, to pray for and to provide physical comforts as they endure long days of reporting this tragedy.

For current updates and photos, please visit us at our website, www.mediafellowship.org.

Your donations make it possible for MFI to reach out to the Media men and women who are on site there. Donations can be made to Media Fellowship via our secure website at <http://www.mediafellowship.org/Donate.html> Your gifts will help defray the expenses MFI MST incurs as it travels daily to the towns of Oso, Darrington and Arlington (about a three to four hour round trip), and as we provide materials and supplies for our media support.

Thank you for partnering with us in this Media Support Team effort,
Pastor Bob Rieth