

Chaplains Responding After Terrorism Strikes Brussels

In the aftermath of terrorist attacks yesterday in Belgium, the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team is sending chaplains to provide emotional and spiritual care to those affected by the tragedies.

“The entire city has been traumatized,” said Jack Munday, international director of the Rapid Response Team. “They are suffering grief, and our mission would be to work alongside the churches of Brussels, to follow the model of Christ where He went to the people.”

The goal is to share the hope of Jesus with an area that experienced utter tragedy on Tuesday when terrorists detonated bombs in the Brussels international airport and nearby metro station. At least 30 people were killed and hundreds more were wounded.

This is the Rapid Response Team’s first deployment to the capital of Belgium, and it will be a joint deployment with the international Rapid Response Team offices from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Jeff Naber and Ray Garcia, two United States chaplains who previously served in deployments to Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore, are in the process of heading to Brussels now. They hope to be in the Belgium capital by this weekend and stay for two weeks. In addition to working alongside the local churches, the chaplains initially will focus on being available for prayer at memorial sites.

Munday said his team is looking forward to working with churches in Brussels as the Rapid Response Team did with churches in Paris following terrorist attacks there in November 2015. Then, French-speaking chaplains offered a

ministry of presence after the France capital suffered a series of coordinated deadly bombings all linked to terrorism.

“[The Paris churches] were willing to gather and meet,” Munday said. “When chaplains met with them and encouraged them as to what they could do, they got excited about that. They developed prayer teams, went with the chaplains. We would hope that this would be the response of the church in Brussels as well. We recognize that not everyone would feel comfortable ministering on the streets, but we would hope there would be strong prayer support.”