

CALL TO PRAYER

OCTOBER 2020



PRAY FOR U.S. ALLIANCE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DISASTERS

In the face of threatening fires raging in Oregon and California, Alliance churches have been determined to care for their communities. At this writing, more than 3 million acres in California and 1 million acres in Oregon have burned; hundreds of thousands have been evacuated; at least 36 people have died; and nearly 2 dozen are missing. Entire towns have been destroyed.

In the Alliance Northwest District, a church plant in Central Point, Oregon, partners with a Hispanic church whose pastor lost his home. Lee Gregory, pastor of Medford (Oregon) Neighborhood Church, and his wife, Doreen, had to evacuate but were able to return home. Their church survived; however, 10–15 Alliance families have lost their homes in Talent and Phoenix, Oregon, just outside of Medford.

To care for their community, Lee has been driving a school bus to take people back to their burned homes, and the Medford Neighborhood Church has set up a relief fund to assist those who have lost their homes. They have been working with other churches and local businesses to support these

people, and CAMA is providing funds to assist in their efforts.

At this writing, Alliance churches and church members in California are unharmed. No churches in the South Pacific District are currently threatened by fires, but heavy smoke from the fires has impacted Central Pacific District churches. Pray for these communities as well the firefighters who have put themselves at risk for people's lives and livelihoods.

Meanwhile, all three Alliance churches in Gulf Shores, Alabama; and Pensacola, Florida, sustained varying degrees of wind and water damage as a result of Hurricane Sally. One family from Genesis Church (Foley, Alabama) lost their home completely, and countless others have experienced damage to their homes—some significant.

Genesis Church members sprang into action to minister to the needs of the Foley community, using their church parking lot as a staging area to distribute essential items and opening their gymnasium to those requiring shelter. CAMA has donated funds to the Southern District to assist Genesis Church with relief efforts. Please continue to pray for those affected by these disasters, asking God to draw hurting people to His Son.

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THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

Recently, one of our local West African pastors heard the following story from a gendarme (military police officer) who put his faith in Jesus several years ago. He had burned all his fetishes (idols and charms from demon worship) in the presence of his parents, who were not believers.

Assigned to subdue a terrorist threat in an especially dangerous area, the gendarme was in battle along with 40 of his fellow gendarmes against more than 100 armed extremists. Knowing their forces were vastly outnumbered, the officer cried out to the Lord. Amazingly, the regiment succeeded in killing all the extremists who had come against them—a miraculous answer to prayer.

Our pastor's friend was injured only mildly, and today he has been called to join the Presidential Guard of this country where we serve!

Our local pastor asks for continued prayer for his country as it resists terrorist threats; for the many pastors who have refused to flee their villages despite great threat to their lives; and for nationals who depend on farming to survive and whose fields the terrorists destroyed or looted. The people we serve need our prayers and support as they daily battle these evil forces.

| adapted from an update by an Alliance worker couple in West Africa

GOD IS GROWING HIS FAMILY AMID PERSECUTION

Religious persecution has intensified where we serve, yet God continues to gather His lost sheep to Himself. Recently, six people attending our seekers' classes chose to undergo baptism as Jesus' followers. Following are two of their testimonies.

"I grew up in an atheistic home; personal ambition was the religion. I worked to excel in life, but my marriage was failing, and I realized I was never in the driver's seat. Thankfully, a Christian friend listened to my pain and said, "You need Jesus." She brought me to this ministry where I instantly experienced a deep warmth when I heard the gospel; it just felt so right to accept Jesus. Praise God—I am finally home."

"Religion for me was constantly burning incense to idols. Eventually, I longed to reconcile my actions with my beliefs and looked for people with consistent behavior. When I saw my exercise coach reading a Bible, I asked if she was a Christian. She introduced me to this ministry. When I began daily reading the Bible and the assigned devotions, I learned about myself and God. I'm grateful to be baptized, and I am ready to grow."

In this increasingly hostile environment, baptism is a declaration that can mean family and societal ostracism. Please lift these six up in prayer!

| adapted from a report by an Alliance international worker serving in a creative-access location.



Thank you for praying for Alliance workers and for the people with whom they share the gospel.
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Alliance ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund and CAMA.

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