

Dear Brothers,

The following is a report from the elders in the church in Los Angeles concerning the wildfires that are burning in the LA area.

A brief report from LA, as of Wed 1/8 at 5:30pm Pacific time:

We thank the saints for prayerfully inquiring about the situation in Los Angeles. Below is a composite report based on what we know right now:

The fires have impacted large portions of the city in proximity to the saints:

—the Palisades fire (on the westside) is at 15,000+ acres with 0% containment; the evacuation zones are nearing where some of the Hall 5 saints live; we are closely watching this as UCLA is not too far away and the quarter has just begun. It is probable that at least one of the saints' homes has been destroyed by this fire.

—the Woodley and Hurst fires are impacting the San Fernando Valley, where Hall 2 (Haskell Hall) is; some saints live close by but are not in immediate danger as far as we know

—the Eaton fire (impacting Altadena, the San Gabriel Valley, and foothill communities) is at 10,000 acres with 0% containment; we know many saints along these areas have had to evacuate.

In parts of LA where the fires are not directly threatening, the smoke is quite strong and the air quality is quite low (in northern LA, the AQI this morning was 436, and in downtown LA it was at 256). Saints have also had to leave their homes due to long power outages. Tomorrow, Thurs, 1/9, all LA Unified schools will be closed.

The brothers and saints in LA are praying to the Lord as the One with authority over the wind and the environment, for the preservation and protection of His persons, interests, and assets across not just LA but also adjacent areas, including Orange County and the Inland Empire (where Oak Glen Christian Conference Center is), all of which can be in harm's way. We are praying for the Lord to be our wisdom and for Him to open our eyes to the needs among any saints who may be in dire situations, and also more broadly for our community and many friends and neighbors who are impacted (beyond the saints directly, most of us have colleagues or friends or acquaintances who have suffered material loss). We have prepared various contingency plans to care for the saints in different areas should evacuation orders advance, although at the moment it seems things have abated. May the Lord's will be done, the gospel be preached, and His economy be furthered.

For the saints in other localities asking how to pray, we suggest prayers to:

- 1) Guard the saints, to bountifully supply them, and to be magnified in them in all circumstances
- 2) Cause the people of LA to know the Lord as their real refuge, and to not trust in storing up treasure on the earth.
- 3) Minimize any impact on the work with the college students, as the UCLA quarter just began, and we have a large number of positive, new contacts.
- 4) Protect the interests, assets, and properties for His move in this city, and in adjacent communities in the southland. There is a Southern California young people's blending conference this weekend in Anaheim which we hope will continue unhindered with high participation.
- 5) Head up all things in Christ through His constructive economy amidst the destructive chaos.

The brothers are exercising to be vigilant in prayer to follow His leading to care for the church and the community, please contact any of the leading brothers in LA if you are aware of needs impacting your relatives or friends that we can help with. Jesus is in our boat. Thank you for your care and prayers.

The brothers in Los Angeles