

# CALL TO Prayer

JANUARY 2018

## Pray for Those Affected by California Wildfires

Alliance people are reported to be safe after several destructive wildfires erupted last month in Southern California, including the Los Angeles area, Ventura County, and San Diego. At this writing, six fires have scorched hundreds of thousands of acres, destroyed more than 1,000 structures, and affected 100,000 Californians, many of whom were forced to flee their homes. The biggest of the blazes, the Thomas Fire, caused at least two deaths and is on course to become the largest wildfire in the state's modern history. Meanwhile, The Alliance continues to provide for those affected by the Santa Rosa wildfires in October. Ray Van Gilst, Central Pacific District superintendent, attended a standing-room only service on October 22 at The Bridge Church in Santa Rosa. The message was "Hope Out of Chaos."

"I have rarely heard a more poignant and timely message," said Ray. The focus was on the fact that although 2 of their pastors and 40 of their families lost their homes, God is still on the throne. Church members embraced the reality that they were in this together with their community. Amid the pain, God has been their strength. "And not

only does He redeem us—He redeems our circumstances!" Ray said. "God is bringing hope out of the chaos of this tragedy and . . . redemption to the city of Santa Rosa out of their shared suffering."

For Ray, "it was incredibly humbling" to worship with people amid such hardship who focused not on their own needs but on the needs of others. They housed and served evacuees and sought ways to unite area churches, including through a special service with Francis Chan.

In addition, Alliance Redwoods Conference Grounds in Occidental served their community by housing and feeding firefighters and evacuees. Although the camp was not directly threatened by the fires, families who work there have lost homes.

Thank the Lord for His protection of Alliance people during the December wildfires. Continue to pray that those who have suffered devastating loss throughout the state will find comfort and hope in Jesus. Intercede as well for Alliance church members "as they minister to a broken world, pointing them to the One who has the answers, because He is the answer!" said Ray.

## God Is Able

BY AN ALLIANCE WORKER SERVING IN A CREATIVE-ACCESS COUNTRY



Vadim, 46, had lived in a state-run institution since he was 3. I met him when I joined a ministry team from an Alliance partner church that visits the residents. I shared his story, "A Beautiful Brother," in the December 1, 2013, *Alliance Life*.

In that article Vadim shared three prayer requests, and I reminded him, "[God] is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine . . ." (Ephesians 3:20). This past year, Vadim's prayers were answered! Vadim wanted to live with a family that loved him. He's now living with a Christian couple he's known for years who have been granted guardianship. He also was concerned that if he left the state home it would be hard for his friends. Because of his frequent calls and visits, they now know he won't abandon them.

Also, Vadim wasn't given permission to leave the state-home grounds to be baptized. One of his dearest dreams came true when he was baptized in August. As a bonus, the state has granted his best friend, Zenhya, permission to move into Vadim's new home.

Continue to intercede for Alliance workers as they minister to overlooked people like Vadim.

## God Is Doing a New Work in Papua

BY TODD AND DEBBIE ADAMS, SERVING IN INDONESIA

God is doing a new work in the Ibele District in Papua, Indonesia's easternmost province, where we have served for the past 15 years. In this mountainous district, there are 24 Alliance churches, including village congregations in Kissimo and Muliama.

Last month during evangelistic services in Kissimo, many turned their hearts back to God. In addition, 16 came to Christ for the first time and committed to being baptized. Recently, Todd spoke at a youth service held in Muliama, where seven determined to follow the Lord in baptism.

Additionally, our youth evangelism team—young people from the Ibele District whom we have disciplined—was invited to show gospel films in an unreached area outside of the C&MA district. After the team led worship, preached the Word, and showed the films, the people exclaimed, "We didn't know this about Jesus and the gospel. We have not been taught these things!"

We praise the Lord for these outreaches and the decisions made to follow Him. Pray that God will seal these commitments! Intercede too for the believers' ongoing discipleship.

Thank you for praying for Alliance workers and for the people with whom they share the gospel. To receive The Alliance Call to Prayer and weekly Alliance Prayer Requests via e-mail, subscribe at [www.cmalliance.org/pray](http://www.cmalliance.org/pray). Alliance Ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund and the CAMA Advance Fund.



THE ALLIANCE

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