

An Update on the Situation in Los Angeles (as of January 13, 9pm PST)

*The below incorporates fellowship shared in the church in Los Angeles on Lord's day 1/12. As of the time of this writing, the LA fires have resulted in:*

- Consuming over 40,000 acres (solely for reference, this is over twice the size of Manhattan, and comparable to the size of Washington D.C.)
- Approximately 200,000 locals under evacuation orders or displaced due to safety factors.
- Dangerous winds and conditions are still forecasted for this week of January 13, even if at the moment there is a reprieve in the weather.
- While direct damage to property among the church members is relatively limited, over 12,000 structures across the city have been lost (and counting).
- Early estimates indicate this will be among the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history with economic losses in the \$135 to \$150 billion range (and counting).

***God is our refuge and strength;  
A help in distress, He is most readily found.***

***Therefore we will not fear, though the earth change,  
And the mountains slip into the heart of the seas;***

***Though the waters of the sea roar and foam;  
Though the mountains shake at its swelling.***

***There is a river whose streams gladden the city of God,  
The holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.***

***God is in the midst of her; she will not be moved;  
God helps her at the dawn of the morning.***

Psalm 46:1-5

In the church in Los Angeles, our prayer and attention is in three directions (cf. 1 Kings 8:48):

**First**, our prayer is for the fulfillment of God's economy, which is for all things to be headed up in Christ (Eph. 1:10). We are painfully aware of the chaos and destruction in our community, but our attention is not merely on the crisis, but for the furtherance of the constructive divine economy and the enlargement of Christ in and through the church (1:22-23). We bless our God and Father for His good intention and exalt Christ during this time. We thank Him and praise Him for His care for His members in the church. As we sang in one of our meetings:

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Sing now in glad adoration! (Hymn #166).***

**Second**, our prayer and burden is for one another in the household of the faith. This past week we have exercised to vigilantly contact one another in all corners of this vast city, across all of our halls, districts, and languages. There are some who are bearing direct loss and suffering, and many more who will be subsequently impacted through loss of livelihood, health challenges, and financial burdens. Any suffering is shared by the fellow members (1 Cor. 12:26). Our responsibility is to care for one another and we ask the brothers and sisters to remain attentive to and to bring such needs into fellowship (1 John 3:17-18; Hebrews 13:16; Acts 20:35).

**Third**, our prayer and burden is for the city of Los Angeles, where the Lord has placed us to be His testimony (1 Thes. 1:7-8; 1 Cor. 1:2). We are burdened that our existing campus gospel labor, especially at UCLA and USC, could continue despite the interruption to classes. We are also burdened for the strengthening of the *community gospel* at this time. Each of us have neighbors, colleagues, or classmates who have been impacted. May we be one with the Lord in His compassion and care for our fellow Angelenos. Our presence in our communities can bring the Lord's healing presence to those who interact with us (Matt. 9:20-22).

Finally, in addition to praying for the above, on the practical side:

- **Safety:** let us continue to consider and watch over one another this week, and to be ready to comply with any evacuation orders that impact us;
- **Giving:** the Lord sovereignly led the church this month to review *Material Offerings and the Lord's Move Today*, thus we remind the saints:
  - Locally, the church maintains a fund to help ones in need, for all of us "to do good, to be rich in good works, to be ready to distribute, to be ones willing to share" (1 Tim. 6:18). You may designate a portion of your giving to this fund.
    - In addition, on a personal or household by household basis, saints may be led by the Spirit to care for the "unbelieving poor" in our community (see Week 1, Day 4, of "*Material Offerings and the Lord's Move Today*"), especially during such a time of catastrophe.
  - Extra-locally, we are particularly burdened for our ongoing participation in the Lord's move everywhere. Some of the recent burdens we have shared include the [meeting hall in Atlanta](#), as well as the Lord's move in Europe (see, for example, <https://lordsmove.org/reports.html>). Let us seize the opportunity to support the Lord's move in these areas, which also includes our support for the workers among us locally and extra-locally.
- **Prayer Meeting:** We will continue our customary prayer meetings on Tuesday night in our respective halls, unless health or safety circumstances warrant otherwise.

May the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

The elders of the church in Los Angeles