

# CALL TO PRAYER

SEPTEMBER 2023



## MAUI WILDFIRES: ALLIANCE CHAPLAINS RESPOND

The deadliest wildfires in U.S. history started August 8 after winds from Hurricane Dora, a Category 4 storm, fanned flames across several islands. The inferno spread rapidly, completely decimating the popular tourist destination of Lahaina. At this writing, the death toll is 106, with 1,300 missing. Rescue crews are scouring the affected areas for survivors.

Although there are no Alliance churches on Maui, The Alliance has five chaplains in Hawaii either actively involved in relief efforts or ready to assist. The Hawaii Army National Guard (HING) and other agencies are supporting relief operations to assist affected communities. One Alliance chaplain shares: "Lahaina and parts of Kehei are burned to ash and rubble. The likelihood of finding human remains in Lahaina is low as people were caught in what essentially became a crematorium; many who fled to the ocean drowned."

Kurt Mueller, the HING state chaplain, is among those working with Alliance service members to search for survivors. He is also implementing a spiritual recovery plan for responders and those impacted by the fire. Paige Morris, the C&MA's Veterans Administration chaplain at Tripler Army Medical Center

(TAMC), will be connecting veterans with resources that can provide further support such as housing assistance and mental health services. Brian Myers, stationed in Pearl Harbor, is on standby to assist with casualties at TAMC. Dave Bowlus is on temporary duty in Hawaii. He and his wife, Meridee, were visiting their son, David, who is stationed in the Army there. Together, they drove to COSTCO and collected supplies to bring to Maui as volunteers in relief efforts.

Kevin Pies, executive director for Alliance Chaplains Ministries, writes, "Praise God for our chaplains as they help those affected by the fires navigate the complex emotions and challenges in the aftermath of this disaster. Continue to pray for our chaplains, first responders, authorities, and relief organizations as they provide practical aid and spiritual support. Ask for wisdom and strength as they work long hours in the recovery process." Pray also for access to resources and opportunities for rebuilding lives, homes, and communities. Intercede as well for those affected by trauma as they recover from injuries and loss. Above all, pray that survivors will find hope in Christ during this time of overwhelming need.

Visit [cmalliance.org](https://cmalliance.org) to help support the relief effort.

## GOD DID MORE!

When our Envision team was preparing for a youth camp, I was worried we didn't have enough signups after we announced the event in our Aroma Church in Taipei, Taiwan. Initially, there were so few registrations that I was almost embarrassed—the only kid who registered was mine! I thought we would have to cancel the event, which was scheduled for July 3–7. But people started praying, and the registrations poured in. We were hoping for 10 kids, and we had 40 students ages 7–16. That's four times what we were expecting—more than we could have asked for or imagined (see Eph. 3:20.)! We are also grateful for 14 members of Agape Church in San Diego, California, who joined us.

This event was key to launching our youth ministry. We are currently planning for youth nights, youth study space, and an online presence to reach and help this age group as they navigate these difficult life seasons. Pray for those who attended the camp and that their experience will impact the Kingdom for generations to come. Pray also for the success of our youth ministry.

| by Chris, an Alliance international worker serving with Envision

## DEVASTATING ACCIDENT AFFECTS TWO FAMILIES

Our hearts are heavy after a multi-car accident involving two families from the San Sebastian campus of Breath of Life church while returning from ministering in a drug rehab center. At this writing, one

member is fighting for his life after saying “Yes” to Jesus just four weeks before the accident. A mother remains hospitalized with a collapsed lung. Her six- and 10-year-old sons were also injured, one of whom suffered two fractured legs. The children and two adults were released and are recovering at home.

The driver who caused the accident was drunk, and paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene. He was laid on the side of the road and covered with a sheet. The first news crews to arrive reported his death. Sometime later, the coroner discovered the driver was still alive. We do not know yet what has happened to him but are praying for his healing.

Following the accident, the family of one of the injured adults attended church with two daughters; they are not believers but are amazed at how our church family has responded with month-long love offerings and round-the-clock hospital shifts (in state hospitals, family members must stay with the patient because of limited nursing care).

Despite the challenges our church faces in the local community (including curses and other forms of opposition), the small congregation is growing and for the first time surpassed 50 attendees last month. Pray for the full recovery of all involved and that one day this community will see God glorified through this calamity.

| by Bob and Cheryl, Alliance international workers serving in Mexico



Thank you for praying for Alliance workers and for the people with whom they share the gospel. To receive the *Call to Prayer* and weekly prayer requests via email, subscribe at [cmalliance.org/pray](http://cmalliance.org/pray). Alliance ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund and CAMA.