

# CALL TO PRAYER

OCTOBER 2023



## THE HEARTBREAKING PLIGHT OF THE DISPLACED

It is a desperate plea, one that is heard throughout our community of believers in this West African country. “Please, would you take one of my children? We have left everything behind and are taking refuge in the church yard. But no schools are open, there is minimal food, and it is not good for our children to be here.” Families in various cities in our host country have received many relatives already. This is the new normal as Alliance national churches and international workers serve among the thousands of displaced people fleeing their home communities due to danger or violence.

A friend of ours, Elizabeth, received such a call from an Alliance pastor my husband and I have known through our Bible school ministry. At first, she told the pastor that she could not take in any more children. The pastor called again, desperate. Elizabeth still refused. He then sent an intermediary to see if that would help. In the end, our friend agreed. The 12-year-old, Grace, came with only the clothes on her back. Her dad is a pastor, and the family was chased from

their village about nine months ago. Grace recounted a harrowing story of fleeing their village, sleeping outside surrounded by many other displaced people and, of course, waiting to see if food would be found.

Grace is just one of the many displaced children who are living in the country where our team serves. Isaiah 16:2 compares displaced women to birds pushed from their nests. Their plight is not only desperate for them but also for their children, who, a few months before, had been playing, laughing, and going to school. But Isaiah goes on to say that one day, God will establish His King, and He will rule with mercy and truth. Pray that until that day, He will use us in helping the displaced among us find hope in Jesus. Intercede as well for protection for those in need of shelter, for wisdom in knowing how to help, and for finances to meet the overwhelming needs. Pray, too, for Grace as we enroll her in our Christian school and assist the family that is helping her.

by Esther, an Alliance international worker serving in West Africa

## **ALLIANCE CHURCHES SAFE AFTER RECENT STORMS**

As The Alliance continues to mourn with those affected by the catastrophic wildfires on the island of Maui, others in the Alliance family are thanking God for His protection amid devastating storms last month. Despite 130 MPH winds and storm surges of up to 15 feet, no Alliance churches suffered damage as category-4 Hurricane Idalia roared through northern Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Weeks earlier, as Hurricane Hilary devastated parts of southern California with gale-force winds and severe flooding, Joe Zanayed, pastor of Northgate Community Church in Cathedral City, says, “We are thanking God for His protection over our church and church members.” The highway near the church, which was covered in water and mud, closed for two days. A nearby intersection shut down for four days with homes in the area accumulating up to four feet of mud around their cars and houses. Several church attendees had to shovel out of mud or were confined to their neighborhoods while the city cleared roads. “Many people from our church went out into the neighborhoods to help strangers dig out of the mud. It was an amazing community effort! We are very grateful to God for His protection and the relatively minimal damage compared to what could have happened.”

Meanwhile, remember Alliance chaplains in Hawaii as they continue their ministry to military and federal

service members in the aftermath of the fires. “The devastation looks, smells, and feels like a warzone . . . it’s completely overwhelming,” says one chaplain. Pray for protection and wisdom about how to direct the chaplain response on Maui.

## **CHURCH PLANT IN MEXICO CELEBRATES MILESTONE**

On September 24, Breath of Life church’s Solares’ Campus officially launched with its first Sunday service. It is the fourth campus of this multisite congregation we serve in Guadalajara, Mexico. Leaders from Breath of Life, along with friends, neighbors, and others from the community, gathered to celebrate this milestone in what has been a long, challenging journey of faith. With area rentals very complicated and expensive, it looked impossible to officially launch in September as planned. At times things can be challenging, but for God nothing is impossible.

The Lord opened an opportunity for us to meet two nights a week in a restaurant strategically located to host a Bible academy and have services. Pray for a permanent site for this campus. Our team will continue to seek a larger facility that we can rent full time so we can have a presence in the community and continue to grow. Pray also as we continue to share God’s love in a variety of ways in our neighborhood and the community.

| by Julie and Zack Stutler, 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.