

From: Traci Rabenstein <sopadem@brethren.org>

Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 10:52 AM

To: Southern Pennsylvania District <SOPADistrict@brethren.org>

Subject: Prayer Request from PNW District

Good morning.

Over the weekend, the Council of District Executives received notice from the Pacific Northwest District (PNW) concerning the wildfires happening in North-Central Washington. On Saturday evening, the wildfire threatened two of their congregations in that area: Whitestone Church of the Brethren and Ellisford Church of the Brethren. Whitestone COB, their members and community had been under "go now" evacuation orders, while the Ellisford COB community had been told to "be ready."

I sent them a prayer on behalf of our district (refer to prayer further down in this message).

By Sunday mid-afternoon, we received word that the wildfire had come to the edge of the community, but that so far the churches, settlements, and town of Tonasket had been spared. They are not fully out of danger yet, but it was reported they were breathing "a big sigh of relief." They are asking for continued prayers for safety and for those who have lost their properties and the damage being done across the northwest portion of Washington state. The fires, as of yesterday, continue to spread across the region, with one moving towards Spokane, another in central Washington, and another in eastern Oregon. Please hold the emergency crews and those who inhabit those areas within the fires' path in prayer.

A prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Pacific Northwest District (sent by Traci on behalf of the So PA District to the District Executive in PNW):

God of mercy and steadfast love,

We come before You with heavy hearts for the people of the Okanogan Valley. As wildfire threatens homes, livelihoods, and communities, we lift to You those living under evacuation orders and those waiting anxiously for what may come next. Grant courage for each decision, strength for every weary moment, and peace that surpasses understanding amid uncertainty.

We pray especially for our brothers and sisters at Whitestone Church, who are under "go now" evacuation orders, and for the congregation of Ellisforde Church, who remain on alert under "be ready" orders. Surround these Pacific Northwest District congregations with Your protection and care. Comfort families who have left their homes, calm fearful hearts, and sustain the faith of Your people as they seek refuge and help one another.

We remember also their neighbors, friends, and entire communities. Inspire acts of compassion, hospitality, and courage. Strengthen firefighters, emergency personnel, medical workers, and volunteers who labor tirelessly to protect lives and property. Grant them wisdom, endurance, and safety in every task.

Prince of Peace, remind us that we belong to one another in the body of Christ. Though miles may separate us, bind us together in prayer, service, and hope. May those who feel vulnerable know Your presence. May those who grieve find comfort. May those who are weary be renewed.

We pray for rain and relief from the threat of fire. Above all, may Your love be made known through the care of neighbors, the faithfulness of Your church, and the assurance that nothing can separate us from Your presence.

O God, hear our prayers.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, we pray. Amen.

With gratitude,
Traci

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'The will of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us.' - Billy Graham