



"I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation." Psalm 118:21

## God's Mercy amid the Holiday Farm Fire

In the midst of the Holiday Farm Fire's devastation, God's people are praying and respond – and seeing many evidences of God's mercy.

### Fire Fighting

- After the first initial days, weather conditions grew increasingly favorable for fire-fighting, and more rain than expected came over the weekend of September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- First responders were protected, only one non-life-threatening injury was reported by fire personnel.
- The fire is growing in containment, and many evacuation levels decreased, if not lifted.
- God gave wisdom to leadership to issue evacuation levels early.
- There has been tremendous inter-agency and outside agency coordination to fight the fire.

### God's Immediate Intervention

- Deputies and fire crews were blocked in by fallen debris on the roads up the McKenzie. Soon after, the road was cleared, and the crew safely escaped.
- An elderly couple were surrounded by fire and didn't have a path to get out. They began calling family members to say 'goodbye.' A family member mobilized her church to pray. That evening the report came that they were rescued by the forest service! They are now safe.

### Survivor Shelter Testimonies

In response to the immediate need of shelter for evacuees, people offered homes and RVs, and some churches supported hotel bills or opened their buildings/parking lots. One woman even opened her home to a stranger – who was released from the hospital and could not return home.

A mother with three children, two being kids in foster care, came to the Red Cross area looking for help. They had just learned they lost their home. They had one car, three dogs, and five people staying in one room at her nephew's home. Her greatest need was shelter for her three dogs. Volunteers discovered they know her church family! She was connected with her church family; they found dog shelter.

Two days early, another church member (of the same church) had offered a rental home as shelter for an evacuee. All the while, DHS was making connections with Every Child, on behalf of this family. The short story is, within 24 hours, this family went from hoping to have a place for their dogs, to having a house for the whole family, with space for the three dogs as well! The owner of the home was thrilled to serve another member of their church saying, "We love dogs! We love babies!"

### Salvation from the Ashes

KEZI aired a Jesus-survivor testimony, and it visibly impacted the reporter. It's a must watch, and you can find it at [onehopenetwork.org/testimonies](http://onehopenetwork.org/testimonies).

Following the interview, the man heard from his daughter in Las Vegas. The night of the fire, as they watched the church burn down, he called his daughter to say 'goodbye.' Later he learned, that his daughter prayed a "If you spare my dad, I'll go to church and follow You" prayer. She went to church the next Sunday, and called to tell her dad she chose to follow Jesus!

## **Living Water Fellowship**

Pastor Doug Farrington attended his first One Hope Pastors' & Leaders' Prayer Gathering in September – not two weeks after his church burned to the ground in Blue River. He called being surrounded by their love and support “like landing on a pillow.”

Additionally, New Life Church in Springfield welcomed the church to use their facility. Entering their first meeting, Pastor Doug expected to comfort his grieving congregation. Instead they praised, gave glory to God with their testimonies, and had the most powerful meeting they've ever had – the Spirit of the Overcomer is alive in them!

## **Red Cross, Mental Health and Lane County Invite Prayer Onsite**

Leaders at Silke Field, the Masonic Lodge Distribution Site, and Lane County's Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC), requested people and pastors be present onsite to listen, talk and pray with people. Through it, God knit the presence of the praying church further into the fabric of our county. One mental health professional was thankful for the partnership, saying, *“Many of the evacuees don't want to talk to us, but they will definitely receive prayer!”*

## **Foster Families**

Thanks to how God led Every Child to support foster families in the COVID-19 crisis, they were ready to wrap around evacuated foster families! Every Child identified 13 foster families who evacuated, two of which lost their home. They are surrounding them with caring community, and the stories of generosity are over the top!

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# **Project Hope: God's People Bringing Peace in a Chaotic Season**

Even in a pandemic, God graced His people to bring support and peace to families through Project Hope.

## **COVID-19 Changes = Peace for Families**

The six giveaway locations and thirty minute appointments *gave our guests a “back-to-school” memory, as if the pressures of the pandemic were suspended for a moment.*

## **Uplifting Weary Administrators & Staff**

One school secretary volunteered at the giveaway, and the reunion with students she hadn't seen since March brought her to tears. Superintendents and administrators also attended, beaming as students chose new shoes and took back-to-school photos. One said it “refilled her bucket in the worst of times.”

## **Good News on the Airwaves**

Both KEZI and KVAL covered the story with hope and accuracy – a specific prayer point on the prayer guide.

## **New Shoes: Just the Right Fit**

We pray for students to find shoes they like, and volunteers rejoiced they had so many happy customers.

**Together 50 churches and 20+ business/organizations partnered to make available 3,500 pairs of new shoes and socks, and 3,000 backpacks filled with school supplies to students at giveaways in Eugene, Springfield and Junction City.**

No one imagined a week after Project Hope we'd be facing a massive fire crisis.

We're thankful the outreach became a peaceful moment for families in the middle of a turbulent year.

**Thank you for joining in the prayer strategy God gave the churches of Lane County five years ago. He set One Church – One Day in place for such a time as this!**