

Pray

About the recent disasters of fire that we have experienced over the last few weeks, mankind has been through our share of disasters, and all we have to do is look to the bible for guidance on the proper ways to offer help to those affected.

[Acts 11:27-30 ESV]

27 Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

29 So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.

30 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

We have seen a great outpouring of aid from our neighbors in the community, from our fellow churches and from our own small fellowship, many of our membership gave of their time to help Mission Solano distribute supplies to affected areas, I think it is a true reflection of Christ, for us to show his love that is shining through us, to be seen and brought to life here in our little community.

[2Corinthians 8:3-8 ESV]

3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,

4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.

7 But as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you--see that you excel in this act of grace also.

8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

The membership of the Refuge has proven “by the earnestness of others” how genuine their love is for our neighbors.

So, the fires are mostly contained, people are being let back into their homes, if they indeed have a home to return to, they have been clothed and fed, sheltered treated for injury.

Job done, pack your kit, head home, take a break...right.....wrong

[Galatians 6:9-10 ESV]

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Guess what everybody, we have opportunity, in abundance.

It is that time of the year to be thinking about the upcoming holidays, our brother Wordsmith is in the process of ramping up his annual toy drive, I know many of you have participated in this worthy cause over the last few years, I know that the idea of getting up before the crack of dawn, spending hours in the freezing cold on Christmas morning, might not sound like a fun time, it didn't sound like it to me either, but if you stop and think about it for a moment, that that toy you hand

out might be the only thing that a child receives for Christmas, the discomfort and the cold, even the lack of sleep, fade away.

We also hope to be able to participate in the nomadic sheltering of the homeless starting the first of the year.

More hard, but rewarding work, think of all the blessing you have, and how little some of these folks have in their life, put yourself in the place of the one thing you had to look forward to all year, was a warm, safe place to sleep for a few weeks.

We that have received so much, salvation through Christ, remember what he endured for us

[Mat 27:28-31 ESV]

28 And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,

29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

30 And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.

31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

His love for us led him to the cross, in the same way his words exhort us.

[Mat 5:14-16 ESV]

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Tonight, we need to pray for our nation, and our community, we need to seek the face of God on behalf of all of our land

[2Chronicles 7:13-14 ESV]

13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,

14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Let's pray