

Melva's Corner



'Comfort In The Midst Of The Storm'

October 29, 2007

Central Truth: Many have no safety net in this hour of crisis.

The devastation of the California fires has brought unspeakable horror to thousands of people. Many of those have insurance and will have the ability to make some recovery of basic goods — of course pictures, keepsakes, pets, heirlooms, and other sorts of irreplaceable items can never be replaced and the loss of life can never be compensated. In addition, many who live in apartments, single parents without insurance and much margin in life, older adults who have no place to go and many others, will lose everything without any resources to begin again. Despite what you've seen on television regarding the country club relief effort, many have no safety net in this hour of crisis.

Some of the early relief has simply been to get water into the hands of displaced people. This reminds me of Jesus' statement, "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is known to be my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly be rewarded" (Matthew 10:42 TNIV).



Across Southern California, weary firefighters continued to try to contain the fires that have plagued seven counties since last weekend. Better weather, with slowing winds and the promise of falling temperatures and rising humidity, has become the key ally in the land and air war against the fires.

The acupuncture and massage stands where evacuees had been treated again became garlic-fries and beer stands in preparation for Sunday's Chargers game. City workers painted the end zones and yard markers.

Weariness has set in among evacuees, many of whom are returning to charred properties and dreams.

The disaster may cost as much as \$2.5 billion, including \$650 million for structures and the rest for cars, furniture and other household goods.

San Diego County

Witch Fire – 197,990 acres – 90% contained
Harris Fire – 90,750 acres – 65% contained
Poomacha Fire – 49,150 acres – 50% contained
Rice Fire – 9,000 acres – 100% contained
Horno/Ammo Fire – 21,084 acres – 100% contained
Wilcox Fire – 100 acres – 100% contained
Cajon Fire – 250 acres – 100% contained
McCoy Fire – 300 acres – 100% contained
Coronado Hills Fire – 300 acres – 100% contained

San Bernardino County

Slide Fire – 12,789 acres – 75% contained
Grass Valley Fire - 1,140 acres – 95% contained
Martin Fire – 123 acres – 100% contained
Walker Fire – 160 acres 100% contained

Orange County

Santiago Fire – 27,900 acres – 50% contained

Los Angeles County

Ranch Fire – 58,401 acres – 97% contained
Canyon Fire – 4,565 acres – 100% contained
Magic Fire – 2,824 acres – 100% contained
Buckweed Fire – 38,356 acres – 100% contained
Meadowridge Fire – 40 acres - 100% contained

Santa Barbara County

Sedgewick Fire – 710 acres – 100% contained

Riverside County

Rosa Fire – 411 acres – 100% contained
Roca Fire – 270 acres – 100% contained

Ventura County

Nightsky Fire – 35 acres – 100% contained

These folks need our prayers and support. Please remember the words of the Master, "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is known to be my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly be rewarded" (Matthew 10:42 TNIV).

Maybe you need comfort today. Perhaps you are weary and worn and need encouragement. The Word of God has just the message for you:

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (II Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV).

Comforting words to read. Easy words to speak. Difficult words to live. Especially when your heart is heavy, when you feel like your life is wasting away, troubles are weighing you down and seem to be so much more than momentary.

Yes, these very words may describe you are someone you know. Struggling to hold onto hope. Life has worn you out. Problems at work. Bills mounting. Broken relationships. Disappointments. Day after day facing life wondering if it will ever get better.

What you need is to believe the promises of God and let the "[R]od of the Word of God and the Staff of his promises" bring comfort to your heart. This comfort is not an arms length away; it is only an open Bible, a thought, and a prayer away.

Scriptural References:

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the PEACE OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus
(Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV)