

## **PRAYER FOR BUSHFIRE VICTIMS**

In Psalm 46, we read these words of encouragement and comfort:

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

Almighty God,

Creator and preserver of our world. We ask you to hear our humble prayers for all those afflicted by the ravaging bushfires in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the Central Coast & across NSW.

We pray for those still threatened by fire. Protect both life and property. In your mercy, send rain to all affected areas.

We pray for the sick and injured, for the homeless and for the bereaved in this great tragedy. Have compassion, merciful Lord, in the midst of their profound suffering, comforting and relieving them according to their needs.

Heal those broken in body and spirit. Give courage and hope in the midst of despair. Through the generosity of our government and individuals across our State, provide a future for those whose present circumstances are marked by loss and desperation. And by your gracious hand, rebuild communities where men, women and children are nurtured with care and love.

And turn the hearts of all to you, the God of all comfort - through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

**AMEN.**

## **PRAYER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL**

*The Lord is at hand. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

Everlasting God,

You know our necessities before we ask. We pray for all emergency services personnel in Sydney & NSW.

We thank you for the unstinting dedication and efforts of our emergency services and their supporting organizations. Give them courage in adversity, safety in service and protection from harm. We ask that you would also watch over their loved ones. In the service of others, may assistance be rendered to those in greatest need with speed and efficiency, justice and compassion.

We pray also for medical personnel caring for the injured. Provide ample resources and energy to doctors and nurses coping with prolonged work hours and distressing circumstances.

In the midst of this tragedy, we thank you for the compassion and generosity of governments, welfare organizations and individuals. We ask for an ongoing spirit of care and generosity as local and state bodies help to reconstruct communities and bring hope to victims.

Give wisdom to the Premier of NSW, Barry O'Farrell, to the Mayor of the Blue Mountains, Mark Greenhill, and to all who provide community leadership at this time. Enable them to chart a course through complex concerns in the weeks and months to come. In Jesus' name we pray. **AMEN.**

## **PRAYER FOR GOSPEL MINISTRY TO BUSHFIRE-AFFECTED AREAS**

In Revelation 21, the Lord says:

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.*

Heavenly Father, we thank you that through the death and resurrection of your Son we have been adopted as your children. We pray on this day for all Christians who live and work in the bushfire-affected areas of NSW.

Strengthen them by your grace to be faithful witnesses in the midst of hardship. By word and deed, help them to serve others.

We pray for ANGLICARE and other Christian welfare agencies in their critical role as part of disaster recovery plans. We ask that the resources and expertise of these organizations will be utilized to best effect.

We pray for Christian pastors and ministers. Enable them to proclaim the message of eternal life in our Lord Jesus Christ that all people might come to him and drink from the spring of the water of life freely offered.

And, Father, we pray for ourselves. Forgive us for our complacency and inward-looking perspectives. By your Spirit, create in us an ongoing concern and generous hearts for our fellow Australians affected by these bushfires. Make us ever-prayerful and may these fellow citizens in our great nation know the prayers and support of Christians everywhere.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**