

Bulletin Announcement for Paradise Fire Recovery Special Offering:

This Sabbath, churches in the Oregon Conference are collecting a special offering to support the victims of the Camp Fire in Paradise, Calif. The money collected will be delivered to the Northern California Conference to provide support for those suffering after this tragedy. Mark your tithe envelope "Paradise Fire Recovery". Oregon Conference offering code #7518. Give online at AdventistGiving.org. – Look for the "Paradise Fire Recovery" offering. Or mail a check to the Oregon Conference (19800 Oatfield Rd., Gladstone, OR 97027) marked "Paradise Fire Recovery". 100% of what you give will go to help families in crisis. You can make a difference today—every dollar offers hope!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN TIME OF DISASTER:

1. Who will receive this special offering?

Oregon Conference will receive the donations through church remittance or direct donations. OC donations will be sent to Northern California Conference with the understanding that these funds are specifically given for those impacted by the Paradise fire (Camp Fire). Treasurers will also receive specific information from OC Treasury.

2. How much of the donated dollars of the special offering will be sent to Northern California Conference (NCC) for those impacted by the Paradise Fire?

100% The donation will be restricted to the Camp Fire relief/recovery that affected tens of thousands in Paradise, CA and at this writing has affected a limited number in surrounding communities.

3. Why do we need to send money? Aren't they insured?

While many fire victims are insured, there are still many needs that won't be covered by insurance. Some victims will have no fire coverage, while others will be underinsured. Even insured victims may not have the money on hand to pay for basic needs in the interim.

4. Will the conference send truckloads of clothing and household items to assist?

Certainly not at this time. Many times well-meaning individuals and organizations truck in, ship or mail clothing, furniture, toys, food, and other items. At this point, that is not what is needed.

In fact, decades of disaster experience have shown such donations can become a "secondary disaster." Why? Where will donated goods be stored or distributed? Who will distribute? Who will sort the items? What do you do with the mounds of poor quality items that often are sent? Who will pay for the shipping expenses?

Where are the individuals and families who have fled the fires? Some may be living in their cars with limited space. It may be weeks until individuals and families are even allowed back into the area and then where will they go?

5. Why in most cases is cash the best way to give in time of disaster?

- a. Cash is flexible -- The nature of disaster is chaos, complexity and a reality that changes by the minute. Today's need may not be tomorrow's need. We can be assured, however, *there will be needs in the days, weeks, months and years to come.*
- b. Cash can quickly be transferred to individuals or families in need by a check or gift card. The individuals and families are then able to make their own choices.
- c. Cash can be used immediately or the use can be delayed if that is best.
- d. Cash can be leveraged.
For example, if bottled water is needed, individuals will pay full price at the local box store. If a relief organization buys water by the semi-truck loads, the organization may purchase 5-10 times the amount of water for the same dollars.
- e. Cash supports the local economies that perhaps are struggling because of the disaster.

6. How can a donation be made?

- a. A special offering at church on Sabbath, November 17.
- b. On-line Giving – “Paradise Fire Recovery”
- c. Mail a check to Oregon Conference – marked Paradise Fire Recovery Offering.

Thank you for your generosity in assisting those so tragically impacted by this disaster.