Relief Efforts Ongoing after Massive Ecuador Earthquake

On April 16, 2016, a 7.8–magnitude earthquake struck the coast of Ecuador, killing more than 650 people, injuring approximately 16,600, and leaving thousands homeless. It was the strongest quake in the country since 1979. “What has happened to our country is very sad and painful,” said David Muthre, president of the C&MA in Ecuador. “We are humbled and are praying and collecting funds for those who have lost everything.”

Although the quake was felt throughout Ecuador, its largest city, Guayaquil, suffered the most devastation. The Alliance church in the coastal city of Pedernales, the earthquake’s epicenter, was completely demolished. Church buildings in other towns and cities were severely damaged; one report is that as many as 20 Alliance churches were affected.

Several strong tremors and more than 700 aftershocks have rocked the country since the first quake. Another powerful quake, measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale, struck April 22. Its epicenter was 62 miles north-northwest of Portoviejo. There were no immediate reports of destruction. Tremors are expected to continue for several weeks.

The Alliance Academy International in Quito and Alliance churches have opened their doors for donations such as rice, oil, beans, sugar, diapers, baby formula, water, tents, blankets, tarps, and mosquito nets.

CAMA’s director for Global Disaster Response, Gary Fairchild, met with David Muthre and Pastor Victor Herrera of the Puemo Church in Quito. Together they are coordinating a network of C&MA urban churches to assist with relief efforts on the coast.

Pastor Victor is concerned for what will happen when the immediate crisis is over and people must restart their livelihoods. Help during this phase of the recovery will be critical.

The theme of Ecuador’s annual C&MA youth leaders’ conference, May 13–14, will focus on the crisis and opportunities to demonstrate Christ’s love. Experts in trauma healing will conduct training during the event to equip pastors to minister emotional healing to survivors.

Please continue to pray:

- For those who have lost loved ones and suffered devastation
- For physical and emotional healing of the injured
- For Alliance churches, CAMA, and partner organizations as they assist those who have been affected by the quake
- For God to use this tragedy to draw many to Himself

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**Freed from Darkness**

**BASED ON A REPORT FROM THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT**

Recently, Ahmad,* a man from Morocco, had a dream in which he was trapped in darkness. An Arabic–speaking C&MA pastor, Joseph Moussa, whom he had met previously, and one of his Christian friends invited Ahmad to join them in a place filled with light and glory.

During his dream, Ahmad screamed so loudly that he woke up his wife, Ranya.* He shouted because he was afraid that he would be unable to go to Joseph and his friend. Soon afterward, Ahmad and Ranya met with Joseph. They received Christ and will be baptized soon. Pray for this couple to become firmly established in their faith, to grow into committed disciples of Jesus, and to be bold witnesses for Him.

Pastor Joseph is one of the Arabic pastors/church planters featured in the article “Gone Fishing” in the March/April issue of *Alliance Life*. He is pastor of the Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) Arabic C&MA Church and the Arabic Christian Church in York, Pennsylvania. To read the article, visit: [www.cmalliance.org/alife/gone-fishing/](http://www.cmalliance.org/alife/gone-fishing/).

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**Who Will Take Their Place?**

**BASED ON A REPORT FROM THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT**

A few months ago, Grace,* an elderly woman from our home congregation, passed away. Later a friend sent me an e-mail, excerpted here:

Grace had a prayer ministry for you guys. When you spoke here, she would grab me and say, “I need their picture!” She would stick your prayer cards on her fridge and intercede for you regularly. When I received your newsletter, I printed it for her since she didn’t have e-mail.

When the Graces in our world graduate to heaven, I often ask, “Who will take their place?”

This hit me hard. I remember my Gramma, along with many others from her generation, praying for people to come to Christ. I feel impressed to challenge us all to ask Him to give us hearts to connect deeply with Him, to listen to His lead and intercede. Please join me in asking God to bless our faithful intercessors and to call more prayer warriors to join their ranks.

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Thank you for praying for Alliance workers and for the people with whom they share the gospel. To receive The Alliance Call to Prayer and weekly Alliance Prayer Requests via e-mail, subscribe at [www.cmalliance.org/pray](http://www.cmalliance.org/pray). Alliance Ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund and the CAMA Advance Fund.