

For the People of B.C.

Much of British Columbia face an incredible summer of drought and fire ...

Merciful God, hear our prayers.

We remember the people from the interior of British Columbia, where drought, fire and smoke have threatened their lives and livelihood.

- The smoke was so heavy that hospital surgeries and procedures were temporarily cancelled.
- Herds of livestock had to be brought in from their forest pastures. Not only have pastures and feed supplies been burned, but so have hundreds of miles of fence lines. The smoke seeped deep into the cattle's lungs. Many of those that survived needed veterinary treatments.
- An evacuee waited in a nearby refuge for news of whether or not her farmstead had burned. She found relief in the fact that the answering machine clicked in each time she phoned home – a sign that she would still have a home when she returned.

Stories of people standing fearful and helpless before the ravages of nature. Still they work together and do what they can to survive.

As these moments pass and life resumes, we pray for courage and strength and hope for the survivors. And we pray that we may stand as a cloud of witness to the realities they have faced. Ever-loving God, hold those in pain close to your bosom. Amen.

(written by Joyce Sasse, 2010)

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