

Anne Graham Lotz on Western North Carolina Apocalypse: Update and Prayer

“In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them” (Isa. 63:9a, KJV).

My heart is broken. My tears unending. My mind reeling from the images coming out of Western North Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Helene. The destruction is beyond belief!

So many of you have written, texted, emailed and called to express your heartfelt concern and prayers. Thank you!

Invariably I'm being asked, “How is your family?” “How is your father's house?” Every one of my family who live in the area has been accounted for. My father's house, as I understand, is intact, although the road to it is impassable.

The town of Montreat where I grew up, and which I still consider home, has no power, food, water or internet. The roads are washed away. People cannot get in or out. The town where my sister lives, Black Mountain, is underwater. In pictures, I can just see the top of the train station roof above the flood waters ... the same train station where we used to meet Daddy when he came home from his trips. The town where I went to high school, Swannanoa, has virtually been erased. Eradicated. It is no more. The village of Biltmore, where my mother loved to go for lunch, and where I still take my daughters and granddaughters, has been virtually destroyed by flood waters that went as high as 15 to 20 feet. Boone, where my brother lives, has been underwater also, with no food, water, power or cell service.

And those are only the places I am familiar with. I can't imagine people in Georgia, Tennessee and the mountain coves

where people are tucked away and may not be located for a long time. Everyone cut off without power, cell service, food, drinkable water, medicines, baby formula and the list goes on. God have mercy on us! While FEMA and the government have been absent, my brother's organization, Samaritan's Purse, has an army of volunteers on the ground, as well as helicopters in the air. I encourage you to volunteer or donate to Samaritan's Purse and designate it for Western North Carolina.

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Psalm 29:10 (NIV) has been emblazoned on my mind: "The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever." I know He is in charge. He is in control. He could have contained this flood. If He is Lord over it, why didn't He? This is one of those times when I simply bow to His sovereignty and trust Him when I have no answers to "why." But I cling to what His Word says: "Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it"" (Song 8:7, NKJV).

I know God loves the people of Western North Carolina. I am one of them. So I claim His promise in Psalm 29:11 (NIV): "The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace."

It's Time to Pray

Sovereign Lord,

Words fail me. What can I say? How can I pray? Nothing like this has ever happened to the place and the people that I love. My people. Like Isaiah when King Uzziah died, help me to look up. To see You on the throne (Isa. 6:1). I know You are righteous in everything You do (Dan. 9:14). You don't make mistakes. Your purpose is perfect. Your love unfailing. You are faithful to every generation.

Please! Strengthen Your people. Give them peace in the midst of the mud, destruction and death. Bring them help to cut down fallen trees, rebuild bridges, restore power and cell service, connect people with their loved ones. Energize churches and Your people outside the area to gather and distribute critical relief supplies. Give the volunteers multiple opportunities to have gospel conversations with those they help. Comfort those who are not only coping with the physical destruction, but who are grieving over family members or friends who have been lost or can't be found.

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God of mercy, cause the people struggling with the aftermath of Helene to look up. To turn to You. Please. Could this be one reason You have allowed such devastation? Use it to get people's attention, draw them to Yourself, then show up in power to strengthen, encourage and help them overcome the massive challenges they face. You have promised that when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You will be with us (Ps. 23:14). We claim the gentleness and quietness of Your presence, like the mist in the valleys, to settle on Western North Carolina, bringing life, healing and hope.

P.S. Please, dear God, we know You can multitask. So while you are at work in Western North Carolina, we praise you for giving supernatural, miraculous protection to Israel during the missile barrage from Iran. We know You used the Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow Air Defense Systems, but only You could possibly have made the systems 100% effective. Thank You! Now we continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Great Lion of Judah, defend and protect the land and the people upon whom You have placed Your name. Use the enemy attacks to turn the hearts of Your people to You. Open their

eyes to see Yeshua as Your Son and their Messiah.

We ask this humbly and boldly in His name, Amen.

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Anne Graham Lotz, second child of Billy and Ruth Graham, is the founder of AnGeL Ministries and former chairman for the National Day of Prayer Task Force. She has authored many books, including her 2023 release, "Preparing to Meet Jesus."