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**Name:** Jim Schultz  
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**Title:** Thank You, Firefighters  
KURY Voices

Hi, I'm Jim Schultz, Pastor of Lighthouse Assembly of God.

Our church is hosting crews of firefighters who battle the Chetco Bar Fire all night and come back here to sleep during the day. Listening to their stories, we have gotten a clearer picture of the kinds of dangers they face. The other night the winds were gusting up to 26 miles per hour while they were working near the edge of the fire. Well, the wind carried the burning embers over them and ignited the forest, leap-frogging them and putting them in danger of being surrounded by flames. But their crew chief got his people out of there and lived to fight another day. They're stomping around in the dark, dealing with displaced wildlife, trying to make lines hold in spite of the weather and difficult terrain. And I think I can speak for all of us when I say thank you, firefighters, for braving the conditions to fight for us, our homes, our town, and our forests. And thank you to everyone in our community who has pulled together to help each other through this.

But we have recently seen that we are not the only ones in our country facing danger from nature. Wildfires threaten other areas today throughout Oregon, Washington, California, Montana, and elsewhere. Houston was just flooded by Hurricane Harvey in the worst natural disaster in our nation's history. And now Hurricane Irma threatens the Caribbean islands and Florida. If ever there was a time to pray for the Lord's help, it is now. Humans can only do so much in the face of the power of nature.

So let's pray and seek Him. Let's try to learn what we are to learn and help our neighbors however we can. Saints of God have reached out to me to offer prayer and other help from around the nation. May we proceed with wisdom, courage, faith, and above all, love.

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