

**The Family Prayer Center
615 Nassau Street
Immokalee, Fl. 34142**

Reporting After Hurricane Ian – October 2022 Letter

Dear Friend,

Please understand that this letter will serve as more of a report of the present circumstances of Southwest Florida than my usual biblically based teaching letter.

During this past week, I have had countless calls and texts from friends and church family checking on us to find out how we are doing in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

This past week has been a roller coaster of emotions as I have watched and firsthand shared in the devastation of others in our church and Southwest Florida. I wept privately as I walked into the home of one of our elders the day after Hurricane Ian to see their home totally devastated from the storm surge that measured in feet just the day before. I wept inside over the next two days as we hauled away trailer loads of furnishings and family heirlooms. But thank God that this couple was able to escape through a window from the rising water and were saved alive.

Can you imagine this story being repeated possibly thousands of times throughout Southwest Florida, but in many cases much worse? In many cases, there has been not just a loss of property, but a loss of life. We might not know for months how many people actually died during this storm in Southwest Florida. Governor Ron DeSantis said last night on the news that this is the largest search and rescue task force that has ever been assembled in the history of America, including 9/11. There are task forces here from at least 36 states. There at least 44,000 powerline workers working to restore power.

A great deal of my reporting is not just from what I am watching on the news, but a firsthand report from three men in our church who are working daily in a ground zero type position with these task forces. One of these men is a nurse and works at Golisano Children's Hospital in Fort Myers. This hospital has been totally evacuated and all patients sent to other hospitals. In fact, all five major hospitals in our area have had partial or total evacuation of their critical patients to other hospitals. Another one of these men is a law officer with the Lee County Sheriff's Office. He sends me pictures every morning as he is working alongside task forces from other states. Some of these pictures are heart wrenching as I watch army helicopters with part of their assignment to lift the deceased out of these neighborhoods. The last of these is my son-in-law who works firsthand with all of the sheriff, police, and fire departments in Southwest Florida. He owns a business that almost exclusively supplies all of the outfitting of these department vehicles, such as cruisers and rescue vehicles. He also had a 14 year career in Lee County as a firefighter. My son-in-law also owns a Motorola radio company that is helping supply communication among our rescuers. He was just transported last night by police boat to Sanibel Island where he set up a communication center for the search and rescue on that island. What I'm hearing from him on a personal basis is that the devastation of property and life is horrific.

I have tried in this past week not to report out of my emotions or overreach in the report of the devastation, but I can honestly say as a Floridian growing up in Southwest Florida that I have never witnessed such devastation of property and life. I have weathered many hurricanes, some of them having come directly through Immokalee. I have witnessed property damage to a great degree before, but nothing like this. I was a structural concrete builder in Southwest Florida for many years prior to the ministry. I have seen pictures on the news that defy logic. I have seen concrete structures ripped apart, and each time I see it, I say, "That can't happen in a hurricane." But it did! I can tell you this, that many of the structures that were framed and built not according to the recent hurricane building codes were blown away like toothpicks. Some of the scenes in our area look as if bombs went off, and you can't even tell that there was once a structure there.

Presently, there are 14 schools in our area that cannot reopen either due to structural damage or the fact that they are serving as rescue centers. There is some talk that these schools may not reopen for their students until January of 2023.

I have no idea what the actual count of the dead may be as a result of the storm. It's easy at a time like this to overestimate and I don't want to do that, but I am certain that there will be multitudes of people, and very possibly in the thousands, that will be displaced out of their homes for months as a result of Hurricane Ian. For Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, and all the coastal communities around Southwest Florida, it will be many years in the rebuilding process. Some things will never be replaced as they were before. Just like in every similar circumstance in this life, for those living at ground zero, the pictures and the reports can never convey to the outside world the depth of the tragedy. There are many reports circumventing in our area of heroic rescues of saved lives, and at the same time, there are heartbreaking reports of those who did not survive.

I totally understand and teach that these types of disasters originate from a Genesis chapter 3 cursed and fallen planet. When you're living in it however, it seems surreal, especially to those who have been hurt the worst. It looks and feels as if nature has been pushed by a very angry source.

Jesus Himself prophesied that the planet would convulse in intercession towards the end prior to His coming!

Mat 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

This planet that we live on will sustain us until Jesus comes back, but nevertheless, it is in a dying process and is crying out in intercession. I love what Paul wrote in Romans 8. I especially like how the Amplified Bible says it in this passage:

19 For [even the whole] creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known [waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship].

20 For the creation (nature) was subjected to frailty (to futility, condemned to frustration), not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it--[yet] with the hope

21 That nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God's children.

22 We know that the whole creation [of irrational creatures] has been moaning together in the pains of labor until now.

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves too, who have and enjoy the firstfruits of the [Holy] Spirit [a foretaste of the blissful things to come] groan inwardly as we wait for the redemption of our bodies [from sensuality and the grave, which will reveal] our adoption (our manifestation as God's sons).

So what does this passage tell us? It basically tells us that everything goes back to the fall of mankind through Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden. It tells us that the planet was subjected to that fall and became part of the curse, even though the planet itself was not responsible. It tells us that the planet will be crying out in intercession and groaning until the day that it is completely restored along with the sons of God. (That means you and I when we get our glorified bodies.) The earth will once again be glorified, but until then, she's crying out like a woman in birth pains. She's crying out with hurricanes, earthquakes, and every natural disaster possible. And according to Jesus, these things will only increase the closer we get to the end of time.

But the good news is this!

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

There is going to be a massive Revival and Harvest before all of this is totally shut down for good. We are confessing ONE BILLION SOULS to be won for Christ.

I CAN TELL YOU WITH ALL CERTAINTY THAT IMMOKALEE IS IN REVIVAL! THE BLIND SEE! THE LAME WALK! THE DEAF HEAR! THE DUMB SPEAK! THE OPPRESSED ARE SET FREE! THE DEAD ARE RAISED! AND THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS ARE SAVED IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA. AMEN!

My family and I are all doing well! Our home and the church property are all safe and sound. Thank you everyone for checking on us.

I want to thank everyone for reaching out with your prayers and support during this time. There may be many of our local church families who will not be able to contribute during this time due to their present circumstances, and we appreciate everyone who has helped make up the difference. Thank You!

Blessings,
Pastor Bronc