

# PROCLAMATION

## A CLERGY CALL FOR PRAYER & DONATION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES ON BEHALF OF EAST PALESTINE, OHIO FOLLOWING TRAIN DERAILMENT

**WHEREAS**, on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 a Norfolk-Southern train with one hundred-fifty rail cars caught on fire and continued for twenty miles (1) before crashing in the eastern Ohio community of East Palestine; resulting in the derailment of fifty-three rail car tankers, with approximately twenty rail car tankers carrying hazardous chemicals, (2) and....

**WHEREAS**, on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Governor Mike DeWine's office released a statement (3), leading to the evacuation of 1,500 residents inside a one-mile radius from the ground zero area, informing residents "vinyl chloride contents of five rail cars were unstable and could potentially explode, causing deadly disbursement of shrapnel and toxic fumes," moreover, the Governor's office cited this risk as reason Norfolk Southern elected to conduct a "controlled release" of the vinyl chloride that afternoon, and....

**WHEREAS**, approximately one million pounds of vinyl chloride,(4) a flammable chemical linked to brain, liver, lung, and blood cancers, and three other hazardous chemicals were initially reported in the rail car tankers when twenty of the derailed rail car tankers were set on fire, moreover, after telling residents to return to their homes,(5) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the presence of three additional chemicals in the rail cars, including the carcinogenic ethylhexyl acrylate, (6) and....

**WHEREAS**, according to the EPA, materials released in the surrounding soil, air, ground water, and surface waters were detected in samples in five local creeks and the Ohio River;" moreover, with the Ohio River being the drinking source of five million people, (7) and a river plume of butyl acrylate observed moving downstream along the Ohio River, officials in West Virginia and Cincinnati shut down water production and transferred to an alternate source of water supply, and....

**WHEREAS**, residents who did not evacuate, and first responders on the scene in the aftermath of the accident, including large numbers of firefighters, police officers, sheriff's deputies, and state troopers, experienced many symptoms including bad coughs, headaches, sore throats, and diarrhea," (8) and....

**WHEREAS**, while local residents are still experiencing eyes and throats that burn,(9) these citizens are requesting independent testing agencies to test their homes; moreover, only a private contractor hired by a Norfolk Southern Railroad Company has been appointed to test households,(10) and testing on the condition homeowners waive their right to litigation against Norfolk Southern; (11) furthermore, this same testing contractor found air quality samples in the area of the train derailment and nearby residential neighborhoods consistently showing readings at safe levels for contaminants of concern, (12) and....

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources estimated in the areas located in close proximity to the train derailment and chemical burn, 38,000 fish and 5,000 other aquatic species died in nearby 7.5 miles of waterways as a result of contaminated water, (13) moreover, local residents have reported seeing sickly and dead animals, such as dogs, (14) foxes, (15) and chickens, (16) and....

**WHEREAS**, EPA Administrator Michael Regan requested residents of East Palestine, Ohio to "trust the government," (17) when he drinks tap water from a resident's home in front of news cameras and one week later says he would not allow his own children to play in the creeks and streams of East Palestine (18) and....

**WHEREAS**, local churches and ministries have become beacons of light in East Palestine, Ohio providing hope and support to residents during the disaster, serving as donation centers, food pantries, and the rail operator's assistance center, (19) and....

**WHEREAS**, the Bible is very practical and specific about the stewardship of land, and instructs individual persons and communities to corporately pray to the Heavenly Father, to publicly repent from sin, to pay full restitution to aggrieved parties, and to make every effort to bring reconciliation, and moreover, the Bible describes supernatural accounts where Moses turned bitter waters sweet (Exodus 15), where Elisha healed a spring of water so that no more death came from it (2 Kings 21), and where Jesus the Messiah took five loaves and two fish to feed the thousands (Matthew 14), and....

**WHEREAS**, contemporary examples of healing the land include villages in the Fiji Islands during the 2000's where on or around the same time repentance from idolatry, and reconciliation among different clans occurred, robust yields of mango and papaya were experienced,(20) a resurgence of fragile coral reefs was confirmed by scientists despite failing reef health globally,(21) and a tributary near the village of Nuku on the island of Viti Levu afflicted for decades with blindness and infertility from arsenic instantly became potable; (22) moreover, when clergy publicly repented and began combating drug addiction and corruption in the 2000's, not only did Manchester, Kentucky experience a social political renewal, the local community's quantum leap also included an ecological turnaround where the water supply rebounded, (23) the area became home of the largest elk herd east of the Mississippi River,(24) and biologists claimed the area had simultaneously become more hospitable to deer, turkey, fish, and even black bear after a century-long absence.(25)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Bible states in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, forgive their sin, and will heal their land." As lead clergymen representing one hundred-fifteen (115) congregations across Ohio, we believe the Heavenly Father can heal the land. We also believe Norfolk Southern Railway has a moral obligation to clean up to the best of its abilities the derailment site and surrounding areas adversely impacted by the hazardous chemical release. Furthermore, we are calling people of faith to pray for the welfare of the residents of East Palestine, Ohio, for an ecological turnaround, and for the donation of relief supplies to the community and region. May GOD vindicate them; as our state motto declares, "With GOD, all things are possible."

List of lead clergymen representing one hundred-fifteen (115) congregations across the State of Ohio calling for prayer and physical aid on behalf of the residents of East Palestine, Ohio and surrounding areas adversely impacted the hazardous chemical release:

Rabbi William Hallbrook, Ontario Sar Shalom  
Pastor John Temple, Loudonville Trinity  
Bishop Anthony Cooper, Shelby Life Church  
Pastor Dave Rentzel, Ontario Abundant Life  
Pastor Walter Moss, Canton Foursquare  
Pastor Layton Broome, Lakefork UMC  
Pastor J.C. Church, Victory in Truth Ministries  
Pastor Aaron Rose, Madison Fusion Church  
Pastor Ron Smals, Woodville Grace Brethren  
Pastor Russell Stanford, All Believers in Christ  
Pastor Brian Phillips, New Beginnings Freewill  
Pastor Brad Gentile, Shelby First Baptist  
Pastor Chad Berry, Lexington New Liberty  
Pastor Rick Sutter, Elm Street Freewill Baptist  
Pastor Paul Lintern, Oakland Lutheran Church  
Rabbi Bob Bauer, Crestline Beit El Elyon  
Pastor David Bates, Galion Unity Freewill  
Pastor Lucian Baker, Christ the King Church  
Pastor Jeff Mills, Mifflin Little Flock Fellowship  
Pastor Chris Spencer, Crestline Grace Baptist  
Pastor John Campos, Bowman Street COG  
Pastor George Lewis, Shelby Temple of GOD  
Pastor John Grimm, Greenwich UMC  
Pastor Ferlie Yates, Hanna Road Church GOD

Pastor Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community Church  
Pastor Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren  
Pastor Bryan Schatzinger, Calvary Chapel Mansfield  
Pastor Mike Rose, Hope on the Hill Chapel  
Pastor Chris Thomas, Diamond Hills Baptist  
Pastor Layton Broome, Hayesville UMC  
Pastor Art Kennard, Shelby Maranatha Christian Ctr.  
Pastor Rick Lewis, Shelby Connect Church  
Pastor Robert O'Brian, Mansfield Apostolic Faith  
Pastor Bobby Edwards, Jesus is Alive Holiness  
Pastor James Spencer, Peoples' Baptist Church  
Pastor Chad Hayes, Mansfield Caeserea Baptist  
Pastor Daniel Baer, Mansfield Gospel Assembly  
Pastor Paul Lintern, Mansfield Southside Christian  
Pastor Rich Hurles, Plymouth LifePoint Church  
Pastor Dr. Ricky Branham, Willard Ripley Chapel  
Pastor Rob Ratcliff, North Woodbury Freewill Baptist  
Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont Community Church  
Pastor David Koehler, Loudonville Baptist Temple  
Pastor Joe Maggelet, Ashland Fellowship Christian  
Pastor Justin Lawhorn, New Vision COG Prophecy  
Pastor Floyd Allen, Philippian Community Church  
Pastor John Grimm, Plymouth United Methodist  
Pastor Clint Zeigler, Sovereign Christ Church

Pastor Jerry O'Brien, Orville Harvest Fellowship  
 Pastor Michael Constantino, Girard New Life  
 Pastor John Bouquet, Savannah Bethel Chapel  
 Pastors Les & Grace Farley, Irresistible Church  
 Pastor Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Community  
 Bishop Sylvester Ginn, Hesed Agape Fellowship  
 Pastor Terry Garrett, Lexington Fusion Church  
 Pastor William Cole, Mansfield Recovery Church  
 Pastor Matt Merendino, Clear Fork Alliance  
 Pastor Dink Porter, Mansfield Open Bible  
 Pastor James Hill, Mansfield Paradise Church  
 Pastor Dr. DeWayne Smith, Newton Falls UMC  
 Pastor Wade Hartzell, Shiloh Full Gospel  
 Pastor Rick Wiseman, Promised Land Fellowship  
 Pastor Kevin Evans, Ganges Lifesong Ministries  
 Pastor Danny Akers, Victory Rock Praise & Worship  
 Pastor Mark Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal  
 Pastor Troy Thompson, Lorain Church North Coast  
 Pastor Dan Zediker, Mansfield Mission Point  
 Pastor Emeritus Steve Schag, Shelby Calvary Baptist  
 Pastor Robert Caw, Newark Church Triumphant  
 Pastor Joe Nichols, ARC Empowerment Center  
 Pastor David Mahon, Galion Apostolic Assembly  
 Pastor Randy Raynes, Mansfield Fellowship Baptist  
 Pastor Paul Mathewson, Maranatha Bible Church  
 Bishop Gregory Griffith, Willard Church of GOD  
 Elder Henry Bradley, New Community COGIC  
 Deacon Darryl Hall, Mansfield Holiness Chapel  
 Bishop Andy Keim, Amish Perry District 1  
 Pastor Larry Whited, Mansfield Church GOD Prophecy  
 Pastor David Natale, Warren Healing Center  
 Pastor James Mitchell, Polk New Liberty Baptist  
 Elder James DeWeese, Mansfield Providence Church  
 Pastor Cory Schnuerer, North Woodbury Alliance

Rev. El Akuchie, Godsfield House of Prayer  
 Pastor Rusty Wills, Christ Community Church  
 Pastor Dan Barker, Cortland Trinity Baptist  
 Pastor LaMont Lindsay, Book of Life Church  
 Pastor Taylor Howard, Apostolic Holiness  
 Pastor James Marshall, Ganges Community  
 Pastor Louis Blevins, Mansfield Latter Rain  
 Pastor Steve Burkhalter, Ontario Potter's House  
 Pastor Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center  
 Pastor Ben Gregg, Plymouth Church of GOD  
 Pastor Clyde Kerby, Hope & Healing Ministries  
 Pastor Dr. DeWayne Smith, Pricetown UMC  
 Pastor Larry Hill, Bethel Freewill Baptist  
 Pastor Steve Baldrige, Rome Community  
 Pastor Patrick Bailey, Danville Church Brethren  
 Pastor Patrick Bailey, Butler Church Brethren  
 Pastor Joe Silvestri, Wooster Bible Church  
 Pastor Tim Sheets, Middletown Oasis Church  
 Pastor Eric Byrom, Mansfield Grace Fellowship  
 Pastor Joe Smith, Ontario Westside Baptist  
 Pastor Berry Carter, Massillon City Bible  
 Pastor Jason Price, Mansfield Victory Baptist  
 Pastor Glen Phillips, Hillside First Church GOD  
 Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare  
 Pastor Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Temple Baptist  
 Pastor Joey Shannon, Living Hope Community  
 Pastor Jim Johnson, Mansfield Grace Temple  
 Bishop Eli Miller, Amish Perry District 2  
 Pastor Steve Brenneman, Awakening Christian  
 Pastor David Parsons, Zion's Refuge Baptist  
 Pastor Ed Colegrove, Edison Enterprise Baptist  
 Pastor Matthew Pond, Shelby First Freewill  
 Pastor Matt Potosky, Albion Church of Brethren

The above listed clergy co-signers are from 13 counties throughout Ohio. Counties with the most congregations represented: Richland (74), Ashland (8), Crawford (7), Morrow (5), Trumbull (5), Huron (4), Wayne (4), Knox (2), Stark (2), Licking (1), Lorain (1), Mahoning (1) & Warren (1).

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