



December 4, 2015

**Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of the officers of the Pacific Union and the presidents of our seven conferences!**

The shooting and deaths in San Bernardino this week leave us shocked and horrified. Our minds are filled with grief and frustration. There seem to be no answers to the questions in our hearts.

Even as we are discouraged and confused, as people of faith we turn to God for comfort during this time, especially for those who have lost loved ones or colleagues. We call on His great power to restore to health those who were injured, and to ease the pain caused by this tragedy.

As we survey the impact of violence in our communities and our world, we pray that God will heal our land. That our leaders will respond to the scourge of violence with courage and clarity. And that the power of evil to destroy will be turned aside by the power of God's love to save.

We call on all of our churches in the Pacific Union to designate December 5, 2015, a Day of Special Prayer. Let us join in praying that God will comfort those who mourn. That through grace, God will bind up the wounds of those who are broken-hearted. That God will heal our land. And that He will return soon to rescue His broken people.

We invite you to make this a matter of personal prayer in your daily lives—not just on December 5, but every day.

And we call on the leaders within our communities to respond with courage to the violence sweeping our land, and to do everything in their power to bring this crisis to an end.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, it says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

We believe those words. We place ourselves within the power of Christ to comfort, to heal, and to restore. And to heal our land.

In His Service,

Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union President