

For This Week's Prayer List



- **Yemen** – the war there has reversed gains made to protect children. Poverty brought on by war has doubled the number of children forced out of school & into work to support their families. The number is now 2 million & many work in hazardous conditions. At least 3,600 thousand children have been forced to be soldiers. Girls are being forced to marry very young to ease family finances.
- **Flooding & fires in western states.** This fire season is already unprecedented. Again, this year, entire towns have been evacuated & some entire towns have burned to the ground in the fires. Other areas have had excessive rain & flooding.
- **The people of Afghanistan** – as they face the task of self-government & the continuing terrors of violence.
- **Women & Girls** who face domestic violence with no legal protections in countries like Pakistan. In Pakistan, domestic violence is considered 'a private matter between couples & families.' 28% of Afghan women between the ages of 15 & 49 have experienced physical violence. The violence ranges from abuse, to torture, & murder.
- **The number of COVID cases is climbing fast in the U.S & elsewhere. Poor countries are being hit hard now too.** Remember people who do not have access to medical care or vaccines. Remember those who are at great risk because they have not been vaccinated. Remember health care workers who are again being overwhelmed in many places. Remember children who are still unable to be vaccinated.
- **Flooding in Europe & Asia– Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, China & India.** The death toll there continues to climb as flooding continues. Flooding has caused landslides in India.
- **Southern Europe** – people are dealing with massive wildfires in which lives have been lost. Spain, Greece, & Turkey have been affected.
- **People dealing with excessive heat.** The European fires are the result of the heat wave. Also, arctic ice is melting at an unprecedented rate. On July 27th Greenland lost enough ice to cover the state of Florida in 2 inches of water.
- **People in Lebanon;** the country is in chaos because of years of government corruption. Many people are now homeless refugees in their own country, having lost everything. Hospitals are running out of basic medicines & people are dying as a result.
- **Refugees** – their struggles are even more difficult because of COVID.
- **Nigeria, Haiti & other countries where kidnapping for ransom** is a daily threat.
- **Nigeria** – There are reports that a number of Boko Haram fighters (several 100) & their families have surrendered to Nigerian military forces in recent days. Pray that there may be a reduction in violence.



When we pray for the people in need in our world, we are praying for peace. Peace is not just the absence of war, it is Shalom – living in harmony with each other and with God's creation. Shalom means health, safety, tranquility, wholeness, and rest – the welfare and prosperity of all. Praying for the needs of others is an important first step in loving people as God calls us to. Next steps include using our time, talents, and resources to help others when disaster strikes, offering comfort in times of need, and working for change when the suffering of others comes from discrimination, persecution, exploitation, or abuse. When shalom does not exist for everyone, no one is fully at peace!

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