

Pray Everyday!

- **Mass Shooting Victims** – continue to remember all survivors & victim's families in Uvalde, TX. Also remember that since Uvalde, there have been 7 mass shootings in Michigan; 5 in Texas & in Illinois; 4 each in Arizona & Tennessee; 3 each in California, Georgia, Pennsylvania, & South Carolina; 2 each in Colorado, Maryland, Oklahoma, & Virginia; & 1 each in Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, & New York,
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Pray for everyone affected by gun violence. There have been 20 mass shootings in the last week! That means 267 mass shootings already this year. In the last week 1,024 people have died due to gun violence making the year's gun death toll 19,847. 754 of the deaths are children (17 or younger). There have also been 1,899 children injured by guns. Most Americans support basic gun safety and gun control laws. Despite this, a number of states, are weakening gun laws, even though lax gun laws bring more homicides & other gun crimes. Ohio is now one of these weak law states where people can carry concealed firearms without training or permits. Ohio police, like police in other states with such laws, say they now assume everyone is armed. The ramifications of that are frightening. There are 393 million civilian owned guns in the U.S. – 120 guns for every 100 people. More children & teens die from gun violence than from any other single cause. Pray for the victims. . . – but if we value life, we must also find a way to change our gun culture & stop this.
- **All those dealing with natural disasters. Among them:** In the U.S.; those facing spring storm season; & continuing drought in some of the west & south. Fires continue to burn in New Mexico, Nevada, & California. The Yellowstone National Park area has experienced serious flooding & damage. Thousands remain without power in Ohio after storms Monday night. Record heat is also a major issue for many of these people South Africa, Brazil, & India are among places where heavy rain has caused serious flooding. Australia is having more flooding & wildfires which are also larger, & deadlier due to climate change. Some countries including Somalia, are experiencing drought & food shortages in some areas & flooding in others.
- **Countries Dealing with Major Political and/or Economic Upheaval** making life difficult for everyone. Among them are Sri Lanka, Venezuela, the Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Columbia, Syria, Afghanistan. . .
- **Ukraine:** Pray for Ukrainians living with the daily bombardment, hunger, thirst, fear, danger, & the destruction of their world all around them. Pray for the 12 million Ukrainians who have been displaced – 5 million plus of them have fled their country & are living as refugees in foreign lands. Pray for those, desperate for home & willing to go home despite the risk, as the war continues. Mass graves & unburied bodies continue to be found in areas where the Russians have left. 20% of Ukraine is currently under Russian control. The fighting is heaviest in the east. Remember, in Russia, not everyone supports Putin's war despite intense pro-war propaganda & government control of the media. Many Russians are willing to run the risks & openly protest the war. More than 15,000 protestors have been arrested so far. Pray for them as well. Food shortages are an issue. There is also the growing risk in Ukraine of epidemic disease because of poor sanitary conditions & the lack of adequate health care services due to the destruction caused by the war.
- **The COVID Pandemic.** The COVID pandemic continues. Two new variants are fast becoming dominant. While the number of cases is steady in some areas, the numbers are not dropping as was hoped, & in some areas, the numbers are climbing. 1 in 4 seniors & 1 in 5 of the rest of the population will have Long COVID, most having had only a light case of COVID initially. Be in prayer for the sick & their caregivers. Pray that we will be able to find & accept a new normal that will let us keep each other as safe as possible as we move forward.



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