

## Life Is Bigger Than Just Me

Lord, just now, we are consumed by our own health concerns, and national politics. Both do involve critically important issues that must be addressed for the good of everyone. Health concerns because they impact our own survival *and* that of all the people around us; the political issues because they involve our integrity as people, as followers of Jesus, and whether we are in fact the leaders for good in the world we like to think we are. In this time, we must take particular care to consider the consequences of our choices selflessly not selfishly. Lord, help all of us not to make choices based on political expediency rather than on the welfare of all the people God created for us to share this planet with.

### This week, remember in prayer:

- **Chibok Girls** – There are reports that several of the Chibok girls, still missing 7 years after they were abducted by Boko Haram in 2014, have escaped their captors. CNN reports that one girl's father received a call from his daughter to say she had escaped, was safe, & being 'looked after' by the Nigerian military. How many girls may have escaped is not clear. None are back with their families. Pray for the girls who escaped, those still missing, & all their families.
- **The Church in Haiti** – & all people there. Demonstrations and lockdowns in Port-au-Prince are making travel difficult. There is an "epidemic of kidnappings [for ransom] in the country". Little is done by the government to stop this & many of the demonstrations are people calling for this to change. Estimates are that at least 160 people are kidnapped in Haiti each month. Many kidnappers do not even try to hide who or where they are because police will not go into 'gang' controlled areas to rescue victims or make arrests. There is concern that some police and government officials may be involved in the kidnapping schemes. It used to be that only 'rich' people had to worry about being abducted. Now, even poor people and all foreign visitors are at risk. (Miami Herald report)
- **Rwanda** – COVID is affecting many people. People living where communities straddle the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, are especially affected since nearly 60,000 people cross the border daily to do their business. Now, border crossing is not allowed due to COVID.
- **People who live with the ugliness of racism, bigotry, or prejudice** because we have not learned the lessons Jesus taught about how we should treat each other, or the lessons our past has tried to teach us about the dehumanizing nature of fear & the all-consuming & destructive power of hate.



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