

Let's Pray

Pray for victims of gun violence. 7,791 people have died by gun violence this year (9,636 more by suicide using a gun). As I write this, the news of yet another **mass-shooting** is unfolding in the media. This time it is in California. The details are still coming out, but it appears that 8 people have been killed in addition to the shooter, and at least one person was critically injured. Lift all the families involved to the Lord in prayer.

This is the most recent of the 64 such events this month alone; an average of just over 2 a day. 5 of this month's mass shootings have been in Ohio. . .

Pray for the Middle East. The ceasefire between Palestinians and Israelis has held for 6 days now. Pray for it to continue. Pray for all who have suffered during this conflict – especially those who have lost loved ones or been injured. Do not forget those who have been left homeless, had work places destroyed, or been left without basic utilities (power, water & sanitation services). Perhaps one of the most enduring tragedies coming out of these events is that many communities in Israel, where Arabs and Jews have lived side-by-side as friends, have been torn apart. Pray that all parties will seek to find a workable resolution to the issues involved and not turn to violence as an option in the future. (Churches for Middle East Peace and more than 50 other church leaders have called for the underlying issues in the conflict to be addressed including occupation, land dispossession, displacement, and the withholding of basic human rights we take for granted.)

Pray for **Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria** (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). The threat of violence in Nigeria continues. The EYN is mourning the death of one of its young pastors, Rev. Bulus Zamdai, who was killed by unknown gunmen at his residence in Gombi. Continue to pray for those who have been abducted and are still missing, and those who have lost their homes.

Pray for **people dealing with COVID-19** worldwide. India continues to be one of the worst crisis places of the pandemic. The situation may be worse than reported. While officially 4,100 people have died in Gujarat, 130,000 death certificates have been issued there in the last 2 months. . . There are many children left orphaned, families that have lost more than 1 member, and families who have lost their bread winner to the disease. The Church of North India (CNI is one of 2 groups U.S. Brethren work with) has been affected. CNI has lost many members to COVID, including 11 pastors and 2 missionaries at this point. India has also suffered major death and destruction from a **cyclone** this week.

Pray for **people who live with racism**, bigotry, or prejudice. We see every day that we have not learned the lessons Jesus taught about how to treat each other, or the lessons from our past about the destructive power of fear & hate. Pray for those who live with the reality of racism & those who do not understand or acknowledge that they play a role in continuing it.

Pray for **refugees, especially children**. Though the number coming to the U.S. has slowed, remember those still fleeing their homes.



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