

Pray

Pray for **people who live with ongoing racism**, bigotry, or prejudice. There are many people living today who must continue to live with the trauma and pain of past events, the legacy of which is not over. There was a reminder of such an event from the past this week. May 31 & June 1st marked the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre. The Greenwood District in Tulsa, OK, called the Black Wall Street, was the wealthiest Black community in the country at the turn of the century. After an alleged assault of a White girl by a Black boy, an armed White mob descended on Greenwood & over 2 days, they looted, shot Black residents on site, & burned 35 square blocks to the ground, even using airplanes to drop incendiary devices on homes & businesses. More than 800 people were injured, at least 6,000 Black residents were imprisoned without charges, some for days. 10,000 Black people were left homeless. Thousands fled the city never to return. The death toll could be as high as 300 Black citizens. Many of the bodies are still missing. Living survivors & relatives still do not know what became of them. No charges were ever filed in the alleged assault case or for any of the mob actions. "Official" records of the event "disappeared" shortly after the massacre. Whites covered it up; Blacks were too afraid to speak of it. Pray for those who continue to live with the reality of this & other instances of racism & those who continue to ferment racism.

Pray for **refugees, especially children**. Church World Service & other groups are calling on the government to 're-imagine' how the country relates to asylum seekers. They are calling for congress to create "an effective, humane, & just immigration system that upholds the dignity of all asylum seekers, unaccompanied children, & immigrants." "The proposal would provide case management services & legal representation for asylum seekers & offer humanitarian assistance at community-based border shelters & respite centers, shifting responsibility from ICE & immigration enforcement to the Office of Refugee Resettlement within the Department of Health & Human Services." (See resources on the issues at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CHDgJea26j5RoKeDLcjTU2VWq_OIA3B0FDoySpl_B-E/edit#. An action alert is at <https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-urge-your-senator-to-invest-in-capacity-to-welcome-asylum-seekers-unaccompanied-children>.)

Pray for **victims of gun violence**. Violence continues with at least 13 mass shooting since last Wednesday & the number of gun deaths has gone up by 391 people since last week (plus 462 more suicides by gun). There was a mass shooting in Springfield, Ohio today. . .

Pray for the Middle East. Pray for all who continue to suffer, especially those who have lost loved ones or been injured, been left homeless, had work places destroyed, or been left without basic utilities (power, water & sanitation services) & food. Pray that all parties will seek a workable nonviolent resolution to the issues involved. (Churches for Middle East Peace & more than 50 other church leaders call for the underlying issues in the conflict to be addressed including occupation, land dispossession, displacement, & the withholding of basic human rights.) Pray for **Nigeria**. Kidnappings for ransom continues. May 30th 150 children were kidnapped from a school in north central Nigeria. Some are as young as 4. One report says some of the youngest were released because they were too young to walk. Another source says at least 100 of the kidnapped children are 5 or younger. More than 700 students from elementary to college age have been kidnapped for ransom in Nigeria since December. On May 29th the last of a group of college students, kidnapped in April, were released.

Pray for **people dealing with COVID-19** worldwide. Even as the UK reports a COVID death toll of 0, other places remain in a COVID crisis. Among them: the situation in all of Venezuela is very serious. COVID has also hit the church there very hard. A number of church leaders have been lost to the virus. The same remains true in India as well.



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