

This Week's Prayer List



- **Fires in western states.** This fire season is already unprecedented. Fires are far from under control & people are still at risk.
- **Water Shortages** – Many places in the western states face serious water shortages. For many in the rest of the world, this is a daily issue.
- **The people of Afghanistan – especially the women & girls** as they face their new situation & the continuing terrors of violence.
- **The number of COVID cases is climbing fast in the U.S. & elsewhere.** Especially remember children too young to be vaccinated who rely on the adults around them to keep them safe. Children are more vulnerable as they go back to school. Remember people with no access to medical care or vaccines. Remember health care workers who are again being overwhelmed in many places.
- **Europe, Asia, & Northern Africa** – people are dealing with massive wildfires in which lives have been lost. Spain, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus & Algeria have been affected. Some of the fires in Algeria have been started by people. The fires in Siberia are now the largest in the world – larger than all the rest of the world's fires combined. Some are not being fought because there are not enough resourced to fight them.
- **Haiti** – There was an earthquake August 14 followed by a tropical storm. There has been considerable damage & loss of life (at least 1,900 people are dead). One of the worst blows for many communities has been the destruction of their churches, including some historic cathedrals. Some communities have no churches left standing. Government corruption is rampant. Most people rely on services & aid from the churches. Some Haitian Brethren have lost their homes; one temporary Brethren church building was destroyed; some members have been injured; one member has died. Homes in the quake area, which had been rebuilt by Brethren Disaster Ministries after the last earthquake, survived this one. Brethren Disaster Ministries is already helping again.
- **Flooding in Europe, Asia, & Africa – Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, China, & India.** People are struggling to recover.
- **Women & Girls** who face domestic violence.
- **Children robbed of education & opportunity by poverty, hunger, violence, or war**
- **People dealing with excessive heat.**
- **Refugees** – There are 26.4 million refugees in the world; 48 million internally displaced people (forced from their homes but still in their home country) & 4.1 million people are seeking asylum because their safety is at risk. 82.4 million people have been forcibly displaced in the world. Their struggles are even more difficult because of COVID.
- **Nigeria, Haiti & other countries where kidnapping for ransom** is a daily threat.

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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