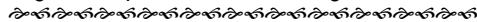


Prayer List For September 1, 2021



- **All those dealing with hurricane Ida; other storms & flooding.** Remember the caregivers & their patients where the power is out, especially in intensive care units. Remember those who cannot return home because their areas are “uninhabitable”.
- **Fires in western states.** Fires continue to burn in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, California, Wyoming, & Minnesota.
- **Children forced to work** – the number of children forced to work has increased due to COVID. Families have been thrown into extreme poverty due to loss of work or the loss of the family breadwinner to the virus. UNICEF reports, as of June there are 160 million children working in the world, many in dangerous conditions. 9 million more may be at risk by the end of 2022 due to the pandemic.
- **The people of Afghanistan – especially the women & girls** as they face life under extreme Islamic fundamentalism & the continuing terrors of violence.
- **Water Shortages** – serious water shortages continue in western states. The lack of clean water is a daily struggle in much of the world.
- **The number of COVID cases is climbing fast in the U.S. & elsewhere.** Especially remember children too young to be vaccinated. Children are more vulnerable as they go back to school. Experts fear as many as 80% of children may get COVID because they are not protected. Schools are starting to close due to outbreaks. Remember people with no access to medical care or vaccines. Remember health care workers who are again being overwhelmed in many places.
- **Nigeria** – The threat of violence continues, including the threat of kidnapping.
- **Europe, Asia, & Northern Africa** – people continue to deal with massive wildfires in Spain, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus & Algeria. The fires in Siberia are the largest in the world – larger than all the rest of the world’s fires combined. Remember all firefighters.
- **Haiti** – people continue to recover from the earthquake & tropical storm in August. They also continue to face the results of government corruption & the threat of kidnapping.
- **Flooding in Europe, Asia, & Africa – Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, China, & India.** People are struggling to recover.
- **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 seeking asylum because their safety is at risk. 82.4 million people have been forcibly displaced in the world. COVID has made their situation even more difficult. Nearly all of them would return home if they could. For most, this will never be possible. For many, finding a new place to call home will be difficult. Many are not welcomed where they end up. For many, life in a refugee camp will become a long-term situation with no end in sight.



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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