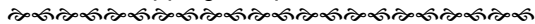


Prayer Needs This Week



- **People forced from their homes** by persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, & other serious disruptions of public order. More than 82 million people are forcibly displaced in the world. (That is more people than live in Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, & Ohio combined.) 35 million (3 times the population of Ohio) of them are children. More than 1 million children were born as refugees. Only some 285,000 refugees were able to return to their home countries in 2020.
- **People who live under oppressive leaders.** The people of Myanmar (Burma), North Korea, Venezuela, & Afghanistan are among them.
- **Continue prayers for those affected by Storms, flooding, & fires in the U.S. & elsewhere.** Italy, Australia, & India are among other places dealing with server weather.
- **Victims of kidnapping for ransom** including the 17 Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) missionaries who are still missing in Haiti. (CAM is connected with Amish, conservative Mennonite, & conservative Brethren groups. CAM has partnered with the Church of the Brethren on some projects, including disaster response in Haiti, & the Nigerian Crisis Response.) Haiti has the highest per capita kidnaping rate in the world & anyone in Haiti is at risk regardless of economic status or citizenship. Kidnapping for ransom is the primary source of income for Haitian gangs. It is a growing problem in some other parts of the world as well.
- **Pray for those dealing with COVID.** This week, a vaccine for children, age 5 to 11, has been approved as safe & 91% effective. Doses (one third the size of the adult dose) are ready for distribution right away. More than 8,300 children under 12 have been hospitalized with serious cases of COVID, & some have died. Getting children vaccinated will prevent thousands more such cases & help prevent children from spreading the virus to others. Continue remembering the world's poor countries where people do not yet have access to the vaccines or adequate COVID treatment. There has been some progress toward ending the pandemic in wealthier countries, but there are still major gaps in immunity, many due to people's choices, which allow COVID to spread. The spread of COVID anywhere affects all us. Stopping it depends on the actions of all of us.



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 & with God's creation. Shalom means health, safety, tranquility, wholeness, & rest – the welfare & 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, & resources to help others when disaster strikes, offering comfort in times of need, & 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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