

## Pray This Week

- **Nigeria** – there have been more Boko Haram attacks in the Chibok area. (more than a 100 of the school girls abducted from a Chibok school in 2014 are still missing. . .) Three churches have been burned & two people were killed. Many families lost their homes, shops, cattle, & other property in the attacks. Corruption has been a longstanding problem in Nigeria at all levels. In the past, much of the country's wealth went into the hands of military & government officials. The country also had crippling international debt, though in 2006, they became the first African country to pay off their international debt. Corruption has been a major factor in Nigerian life, hindering even recent elected governments from helping or protecting the people. Also, 35 displaced people have died in a cholera (a water born disease) outbreak in the Pulka area. The number of displaced people sheltering round Pulka has over whelmed the local clean water supply & sanitation. In the midst of all this, the church in Pulka is growing! Up to 500 people are now attending Sunday services & 22 people were baptized there on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **The people of Myanmar (Burma)** The current government is the result of a military coup. The military forced the elected government into exile. The military has killed or imprisoned thousands of people for opposing them. More than 5,000 political prisoners have just been released, though opposition leaders are not among them. This prisoner release, apparently does not mean the military has had a change of heart. Extreme prison over-crowding, the desire to win support in the country where people still support the elected government, & an attempt to win international acceptance, are likely reasons for the release. Rejoice with those now free & their families who are welcoming them home! Also, continue praying for the people who still face an oppressive government which does not allow decent.
- **Continue prayers for those affected by Storms, flooding, & fires in the U.S. & elsewhere.** India has suffered more serious flooding & mud slides this week.
- **Pray for those dealing with COVID.** Some of our congregations have experienced multiple cases in the last few weeks. Some of our pastors have been among them. Many of our communities are experiencing high case numbers. There has been progress toward ending the pandemic, but there are still major gaps in immunity which allow COVID to spread. How bad the winter surge will be "is up to us." (Jennifer Nuzzo, a senior scholar at Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security) The measures each of us takes to stop the spread of COVID & keep each other safe will make the difference. Anger, frustration, fear, & mistrust surrounding the pandemic are still at least as serious & dangerous as the virus itself.



*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!*



## Pray This Week

- **Nigeria** – there have been more Boko Haram attacks in the Chibok area. (more than a 100 of the school girls abducted from a Chibok school in 2014 are still missing. . .) Three churches have been burned & two people were killed. Many families lost their homes, shops, cattle, & other property in the attacks. Corruption has been a longstanding problem in Nigeria at all levels. In the past, much of the country's wealth went into the hands of military & government officials. The country also had crippling international debt, though in 2006, they became the first African country to pay off their international debt. Corruption has been a major factor in Nigerian life, hindering even recent elected governments from helping or protecting the people. Also, 35 displaced people have died in a cholera (a water born disease) outbreak in the Pulka area. The number of displaced people sheltering round Pulka has over whelmed the local clean water supply & sanitation. In the midst of all this, the church in Pulka is growing! Up to 500 people are now attending Sunday services & 22 people were baptized there on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **The people of Myanmar (Burma)** The current government is the result of a military coup. The military forced the elected government into exile. The military has killed or imprisoned thousands of people for opposing them. More than 5,000 political prisoners have just been released, though opposition leaders are not among them. This prisoner release, apparently does not mean the military has had a change of heart. Extreme prison over-crowding, the desire to win support in the country where people still support the elected government, & an attempt to win international acceptance, are likely reasons for the release. Rejoice with those now free & their families who are welcoming them home! Also, continue praying for the people who still face an oppressive government which does not allow decent.
- **Continue prayers for those affected by Storms, flooding, & fires in the U.S. & elsewhere.** India has suffered more serious flooding & mud slides this week.
- **Pray for those dealing with COVID.** Some of our congregations have experienced multiple cases in the last few weeks. Some of our pastors have been among them. Many of our communities are experiencing high case numbers. There has been progress toward ending the pandemic, but there are still major gaps in immunity which allow COVID to spread. How bad the winter surge will be "is up to us." (Jennifer Nuzzo, a senior scholar at Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security) The measures each of us takes to stop the spread of COVID & keep each other safe will make the difference. Anger, frustration, fear, & mistrust surrounding the pandemic are still at least as serious & dangerous as the virus itself.



*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!*

