

Pray for People In Need – Pray for Peace



- **November 11th.** After the horrendous destruction & loss of life in WWI (it ended November 11, 1918), people were soul sick & despairing. When the end finally came, the grief coupled with gratitude for peace brought forth, in all the countries effected, a ground swell of desire for the “Great War” (as WWI was called) to be the last war ever to be waged so that no one would ever suffer or die in a war again. In 1938, the U.S. congress did what many nations had done; declared November 11th a legal holiday: “a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace & to be thereafter celebrated & known as 'Armistice Day'”. Also known as Remembrance Day, it was marked by a time of silence & a somber mood of mourning & reflection. It was also a day of renewing a commitment to preventing war in the future. After it became clear that WWI would not be the last war, the focus of November 11th shifted as its new name (changed in 1954) ‘Veterans Day’ indicates. It became a day to remember everyone who fought in a war & increasingly, a day to celebrate war. The emphasis on working for peace & an end to war was lost. Veterans For Peace have taken the lead in calling for a return to the original intention of Armistice Day – as a day for peace. They say: “As veterans we know that a day that celebrates peace, not war, is the best way to honor the sacrifices of veterans. We want generations after us to never know the destruction war has wrought on people & the earth.” On November 11th this year, remember those who have fought & suffered the horrors of war. Also, pray for & work for peace in the world so that no one else will have to engage in war again.
- **Palestinian Human Rights Groups** Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) work with peacemakers in Palestine, Israel & elsewhere in the world. They put their lives on the line, without using violence, for the lives of people facing violence & oppression. CPT reports that on October 22 Israel declared 6 well known Palestinian human rights groups, that are involved in direct support, community development, & exposing human rights abuses, as “terrorist groups”. The intention is to justify seizing their records & to criminalize those exposing human rights violations stemming from the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Those working for human rights around the world are concerned about this action because it is an attempt to shield abusers not protect the abused. So far, the governments of the world have not spoken out against Israel's action.
- **Pray for the people of Afghanistan – especially the women & girls** as they face life under extreme Islamic fundamentalism. As winter comes, the economy has collapsed making poverty & hunger a growing part of life for many. Starvation on a large scale is a real possibility this winter.
- **Pray for those dealing with COVID.** COVID is surging again in many countries in Europe. Case numbers are growing in Ohio and elsewhere in the U.S. too. 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.

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