

## Praying For People In Need Is Praying For Peace



- **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. For many, returning home is a dream that will never come true. Many are caught between political entities engaged in power struggles that lose sight of, or are not concerned about the misery they cause people. 35 million of the displaced (3 times the population of Ohio) are children. Pray for the refugees in places where winter is coming which makes their situation so much worse. Pray for a change of heart among the people who force people from their homes. Remember the refugees along the Belarus-Poland border.
- **Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria** (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) Rejoice with them that 100 new congregations have been started in Nigeria since 2016, even in the midst of the challenges they face. Continue to be in prayer for the people who still face the threat of violence from Boko Haram, tribal disputes, and military corruption. Continue to pray for those who have been kidnapped and are still missing – including 100 of the girls taken from the school in Chibok in 2014.
- **The church in the Dominican Republic** where a division has occurred, partly along ethnic lines. Remember the American Brethren leaders who have gone to the Dominican Republic to join Dominican leaders in an attempt to facilitate reconciliation.
- **Pray for those dealing with COVID.** COVID is surging again in Europe. Case numbers are growing in the U.S. too, including in Ohio. While the vast majority of new cases are among the unvaccinated, there are more cases among the vaccinated too, though they generally do not get as sick. The experts say, over time, there is a decline in vaccine effectiveness to prevent infection and the possibility of spreading it. This is contributing to a rise in cases among the vaccinated, and has led to the call for vaccinated people to get a third dose. Continue remembering the world's poor countries where people do not yet have access to the vaccines or adequate COVID treatment. The spread of COVID anywhere affects all us. Stopping it depends on the actions of all of us.
- **Ann Arbor Michigan** where there has been a sudden large flu outbreak. There have been 528 cases diagnosed at the University since October 6. A team from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has gone to Ann Arbor to help investigate. Remember the students as they make choices about traveling for Thanksgiving. (COVID safety measures resulted in very little flu last year.)

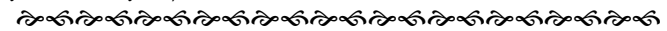


*When we pray for the people in need in our world, we are praying for peace. Peace is not just the absence of war, it is Shalom – living in harmony with each other & with God's creation. Shalom means health, safety, tranquility, wholeness, & rest – the welfare & prosperity of all. Praying for the needs 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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