

## Be in Prayer This Week

- **Nigeria** – 97 women & young children, who were kidnapped 2 months ago, have been freed. Give thanks with them & with their families. Also remember many other kidnaping victims who are still being held. As the agony Nigerians endure continues, help them as they keep hope alive & grow their churches even as they must live with the fear of being kidnapped; of violence; of losing their homes; of hunger; of COVID. . .
- **Pacific Northwest** – people are dealing with devastating flooding after record rainfall
- **People dealing with winter cold, especially those without adequate shelter**
- **Remember refugees & displaced people**
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – there have already been 15 mass shootings in 2022 in which 16 people have died & 52 people have been injured. The 2022 gun death total is already 1,322. 37 deaths & 105 of the injured have been children (17 of younger).
- **Brazil** – unusually heavy rain caused flooding with several dam failures which has left dozens dead & thousands homeless. The rain may also have contributed to a massive rock cliff fall what has killed at least 10 & injured dozens more.
- **Those dealing with COVID.** The Omicron surge has been relentless. The vast majority of the cases requiring hospital care are in unvaccinated people. Children are being hit hard by Omicron (there is a 5-fold increase in children hospitalized in some locations). Case numbers continue to climb worldwide, with the U.S. still the worst hit. Last week there were more than a million new cases a day in the U.S. alone. New case numbers are still hitting record numbers.
- **Afghanistan** where people continue to struggle to survive under inept leadership, & limited resources.



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*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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