

Prayer Needs This Week:



- **Ghana** – a massive explosion in Ghana's Western Region has left 17 people dead, 59 injured & hundreds displaced. The town of Apiate was destroyed when a truck, hauling explosives, exploded after a traffic accident, leveling the surrounding area, setting homes on fire, leaving a huge crater, & cutting power to a large area.
- **Yemen** – where the number of civilian deaths & injuries is rising, largely due to arial bombing, as the war there escalates.
- **La Palma** – people are just able to return this week to the island 4 months after a volcano erupted & caused major damage, 7,000 people had been forced to flee. The eruption, which started on September 19, was not declared over until Christmas Day. People returning have a major cleanup job ahead. Ash is piled everywhere – in places, deep enough to cover houses. People still risk further eruptions, toxic gas (possibly trapped in basements), & acid rain. La Palma is one of the Spanish Canary Islands off the coast of Africa.
- **Madagascar** – Nearly a month's worth of rain fell in 48 hours in some areas causing major flooding. At least 10 have died & 12,000 have been left homeless.
- **Haiti** – 2 earthquakes hit the island on Monday. 2 people have died & 50 have been injured. 190 homes were destroyed & 590 damaged, leaving 834 families homeless.
- **The COVID Pandemic.** Omicron continues to surge, though some places are seeing a decline in new cases. The vast majority of people hospitalized are unvaccinated. They are overwhelming hospitals, making it difficult for people needing other hospital care to get it. This is putting more lives at risk. Children continue to be hard hit.
- **The people of Tonga** as they continue to try to recover from the eruption of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano which caused unprecedented damage. Needed aid is arriving, but Tonga, which has had only 1 case of COVID, is not letting aid workers in to prevent the arrival of more COVID (1 ship bringing aid had a COVID outbreak on board in route). They do not need a pandemic on top of the eruption damage.
- **The Ukraine crisis** which threatens to lead to war.
- **All those dealing with winter storms & their aftermath**
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – there have been 27 mass shootings (up from 22 last week) in 2022 in which 34 people died & 91 people were injured. The 2022 gun death total is now 2,900. 100 deaths & 255 of the injured have been children (17 or younger).

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