

Prayer Needs This Week

- **Madagascar** – the country has been hit by 2 cyclones in the last 2 weeks. 70 people were killed & 130,000 were displaced after the first one. At least 92 were killed & 60,000 displaced by the second which hit on the 5th. Not all affected areas have been reached so these numbers may climb. The destruction caused has been devastating. Part of the country is also facing drought and a food emergency. Most of the population was desperately poor before the storms hit.
- **The COVID Pandemic.** The number of new COVID cases is declining, though still very high. The number of deaths is higher this week than last. Nearly all hospitalized people are unvaccinated. The U.S has seen more than 77 million cases of COVID and more than 900,000 deaths.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – there have been 42 mass shootings (up from 34 last week) in 2022 in which 53 people died & 136 people were injured. The 2022 gun death total is now 4,577. 154 deaths & 390 of the injured have been children (17 or younger).
- **Continue remembering the Bridgewater College community.** The funerals of the 2 campus security officers shot & killed on the 1st, will be this week. (The shooter is a former student.) (Bridgewater is a Church of the Brethren school in Virginia.).
- **The people of Myanmar (Burma)** International observers report that the country is now in a state of civil war. In February 2020, the military seized power from the elected government & continues waging a violent & brutal terror campaign against all who oppose them. Civilian protests against the military continue, & some groups of civilians are now engaging in armed combat with the military to try to restore democracy. The civilians are primarily armed with makeshift weapons including slingshots & sticks. Most of the armed civilians are young people.
- **Haiti** is still recovering from 2 earthquakes in January. They also continue to deal with a devastation & deteriorating political situation. 7 months ago this week, their president was assassinated. Some scheduled elections were not held, & many people question the legitimacy of the current government.



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!

Prayer Needs This Week

- **Madagascar** – the country has been hit by 2 cyclones in the last 2 weeks. 70 people were killed & 130,000 were displaced after the first one. At least 92 were killed & 60,000 displaced by the second which hit on the 5th. Not all affected areas have been reached so these numbers may climb. The destruction caused has been devastating. Part of the country is also facing drought and a food emergency. Most of the population was desperately poor before the storms hit.
- **The COVID Pandemic.** The number of new COVID cases is declining, though still very high. The number of deaths is higher this week than last. Nearly all hospitalized people are unvaccinated. The U.S has seen more than 77 million cases of COVID and more than 900,000 deaths.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – there have been 42 mass shootings (up from 34 last week) in 2022 in which 53 people died & 136 people were injured. The 2022 gun death total is now 4,577. 154 deaths & 390 of the injured have been children (17 or younger).
- **Continue remembering the Bridgewater College community.** The funerals of the 2 campus security officers shot & killed on the 1st, will be this week. (The shooter is a former student.) (Bridgewater is a Church of the Brethren school in Virginia.).
- **The people of Myanmar (Burma)** International observers report that the country is now in a state of civil war. In February 2020, the military seized power from the elected government & continues waging a violent & brutal terror campaign against all who oppose them. Civilian protests against the military continue, & some groups of civilians are now engaging in armed combat with the military to try to restore democracy. The civilians are primarily armed with makeshift weapons including slingshots & sticks. Most of the armed civilians are young people.
- **Haiti** is still recovering from 2 earthquakes in January. They also continue to deal with a devastation & deteriorating political situation. 7 months ago this week, their president was assassinated. Some scheduled elections were not held, & many people question the legitimacy of the current government.



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!