

As the World Faces New Warfare, Pray For:

- **Ukraine:** As the invasion of Ukraine continues, pray that a way to peace can be found. Attacks on civilians are escalating including the use of devastating indiscriminate weapons like cluster bombs & vacuum weapons (some of which are banned by International Law) that will lead to more civilian casualties. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees says nearly 680,000 Ukrainians have fled the country. At least a million are displaced within the country by the constant attacks. Russia is starting siege tactics against some cities. How many people have been injured or killed is not clear. The numbers are likely in the thousands.
- **All People Living With Warfare.** As Europe sees war on a scale not seen for decades, do not forget the people in other parts of the world who have been living with warfare (whether sporadic or ongoing) for years, even decades. The Middle East & Asia (including Palestine/Israel, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria); Africa (including Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia); Central & South America (including drug wars in Mexico & elsewhere). . .
- **People facing flooding** in the U.S, Australia, South America, and elsewhere flooding which is destroying homes and lives.
- **The people of Tonga** continuing recovery efforts from the Jan. 15 volcanic eruption, & to dealing with COVID.
- **The people of La Palma** continuing to recover from a 4 month long (September - December) volcanic eruption.
- **Madagascar** – where most people are desperately poor, continues to face sever cyclones and their aftermath. Part of the country is also facing drought & food shortages.
- **The COVID Pandemic.** The number of reported new COVID cases is declining. The U.S has seen more than 78.9 million cases of COVID and more than 950,000 deaths. More than 12 million children have had COVID. While many places are moving to lift safety protocols, the pandemic is not yet over. Worldwide there have been more than 435,241,000 cases & more than 5,948,000 deaths.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – there have been 71 mass shootings (up from 64 last week) in 2022 in which 76 people died & 277 people were injured. The 2022 gun death total is now 7,078. 250 deaths & 583 of the injured have been children (17 or younger). Many states, including Ohio, are weakening gun laws, despite the fact that the number of homicides & other gun crimes has increased where gun laws have been weakened.



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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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