

As the World Continues to Face 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. says at least 2 million Ukrainians have now fled the country. At least a million are displaced within the country by the constant attacks. Russia is using siege tactics against some cities. How many people have been injured or killed is not clear. The numbers are likely in the thousands. Nuclear power plants have also been targeted (at least 2 have been taken by the invaders).
- **The COVID Pandemic.** The number of reported new COVID cases is declining. While many places are moving to lift safety protocols, the pandemic is not yet over. Dr. Anthony Fauci and more than 2 dozen other experts have said (in a report released March 7th) “the U.S. can safely return to a more normal way of life when the disease burden from Covid resembles viruses like the flu.” That means when the weekly death toll from COVID is in the same range as that from the flu or other viruses. The COVID death toll is still 10 times higher. The U.S has seen 79,271,466 million cases of COVID and 959,578 deaths. More than 12 million children have had COVID. Worldwide there have been more than 446,274,843 cases & more than 5,999,193 deaths. The long-term effects of even light cases of COVID are still not fully understood.
- **People facing flooding** in the U.S, Australia, South America, and elsewhere flooding which is destroying homes and lives.
- **Those dealing with natural disasters.** Iowa saw at least 7 deaths due to a **tornado** March 5th. There are also **fires** in a number of places – Florida, the American West, Argentina, & elsewhere.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – there have been 82 mass shootings (up from 71 last week) in 2022 in which 85 people died & 326 people were injured. The 2022 gun death total is now 7,798. 274 deaths & 643 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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