

Lift Up In Prayer

- **Ukraine:** The invasion continues. Pray that a way to peace can be found. Devastating Attacks on civilians are escalating. The cities are under siege & being destroyed. At least 4 million Ukrainians have fled the country. 6 million more are displaced within the country & some 12 million are trapped & unable to leave. Injury & death totals are not clear. New reports say that some people are being forcibly taken to Russia. . .
- **The COVID Pandemic.** New COVID case numbers are declining in much of the U.S., though a new variant is now gaining ground in the U.S. as in the rest of the world. The number of cases is climbing in many parts of the world. The U.S. still has had more cases than any other country. Many places are lifting safety protocols, even as the pandemic continues. The weekly death toll from COVID is still 10 times higher than for other respiratory viruses. As people stop wearing masks, colds and other viruses are also spreading.
- **Nigeria –** Boko Haram continues to be a threat in eastern Nigeria. Western Nigeria is dealing with bandits & criminal gangs along with corrupt military & government officials. Parts of the country have become “ungoverned spaces” where the people are at the mercy of these criminals. Roads are not safe & the only rail line (the most heavily used line in the country) that connects the capital with the north’s other largest city, has been shut down because of bandit attacks. Murder, rape, & kidnaping for ransom are favorite tactics. 2,600 civilians were killed in this violence in 2021 alone (way more than the number killed by Boko Haram in the same period). Between December 2020 & August 2021, more than 1,000 students & school staff were kidnapped; 830 more were kidnapped in July-September in one state alone.
- **The Philippines –** a volcanic eruption has caused the evacuation of more than 1,000 people
- **All those dealing with natural disasters.** The spring storm season is underway in the U.S. Record breaking flooding has hit Australia & elsewhere. The fires are also burning in a number of places – Florida, the American West, Texas, Argentina, & elsewhere.
- **Victims of Gun Violence –** there have been 113 mass shootings (up from 109 last week) in 2022 in which 121 people died & 448 were injured. The 2022 gun death total is now 10,339. 382 deaths & 880 of the injured are 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 are weakened. Access to guns is often more dangerous to gun owners than to others since more than half of gun deaths (5,874 so far this year) are suicides.



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