

Pray Always!

- **Migrants & Refugees** – especially those who are exploited by smugglers. Remember those facing the excessive heat.
- **Mass Shooting Victims** – there have now been 356 mass shootings this year. 59 of them in July alone in which 46 people died & 257 were injured.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Pray for everyone affected by gun violence. 24,395 people have died in gun violence this year, including 923 children. 2,406 children have been injured. There are 393 million civilian owned guns in the U.S. – 120 guns for every 100 people. More children & teens die from gun violence than from any other single cause.
- **All those dealing with natural disasters. Among them:** Much of the world is experiencing periods of excessive heat this summer. In the U.S., drought continues in some of the west & south. Fires continue to burn in New Mexico, Nevada, & California. South Africa, Brazil, & Australia are among places where heavy rain has caused serious flooding. India & Bangladesh have had serious flooding that has left millions homeless & at least 100 dead. More than 1,000 people have died in an earthquake in Afghanistan. Major wild fires are burning in Spain, Greece, Croatia, & France. Fires in Portugal are contained but some 238 people died from the heat last week. Record heat is being felt in Europe this week. London has had several heat related fires. Most Europeans do not have air conditioning so they are working to stay cool.
- **Countries Dealing with Major Political and/or Economic Upheaval** making life difficult for everyone. Among them are Sri Lanka, Venezuela, the Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Columbia, Syria, Afghanistan. . .
- **Nigeria** – There is reason for thanksgiving, but also continued prayer. In June, 4 young women, previously abducted by Boko Haram or other radical Islamic groups, were found or escaped and have been returned to their families. 2 of them were Chibok school girls taken 8 years ago. 1 of the Chibok girls reports having been with other abducted Chibok school girls, all of whom have been married off to Boko Haram fighters & have children. The other 2 young women were 9 & 13 when abducted in separate attacks a number of years ago. They too were married off to their captors. 1 brought a baby with her. The other lost 2 children because she was not given healthcare while a captive. Pray for these women & their families. Also continue to pray for the girls still with their captors & their families.
- **Ukraine:** Pray for Ukrainians living with the daily bombardment, hunger, thirst, fear, danger, & the destruction of their world all around them. Pray for the millions of Ukrainians who continue to be displaced – including the millions still living as refugees in foreign lands. In Ukraine, food shortages & the growing risk of epidemic disease due to poor sanitary conditions & the lack of adequate health care services because of the war's destruction. Remember, in Russia, not everyone supports Putin's war despite intense pro-war propaganda & government control of the media. Many Russians are willing to run the risks & openly protest the war. More than 15,000 protestors have been arrested so far. Pray for them as well.
- **The continuing COVID Pandemic.** Case numbers are growing again in the U.S., including in much of Ohio. The risk of Long COVID is substantial for everyone who gets COVID. 1 in 4 seniors & 1 in 5 of the rest of the population will have Long COVID, even though most with Long COVID had only a light case of the virus initially. Be in prayer for the sick & their caregivers. Remember those who are continuing their study of the virus to understand its impact of people over the long term. Its impact on the brain is a particular concern.



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