

Prayers Needed

- **Turkey & Syria** – On Monday a 7.8 earthquake affected southern Turkey & Syria. A second strong quake happened Tuesday morning. There have been at least 312 aftershocks, some also strong. The first quake came at night catching people asleep. More than 7,000 people have been killed & thousands more are injured. These numbers continue to climb. Much of the area housing is high-rise apartment buildings. At least 17,000 structures have collapsed. The worst affected areas are in the mountains where winter conditions are harsh. Turkey has skilled earthquake response teams that have often helped in other countries when quakes happen. These quakes were so big, & the damage so massive, Turkey has requested & is receiving aid from other countries including the US. Even so, some areas still have not been reached by desperately needed help. In Syria, where the years of war has already undermined healthcare systems, hospitals have been overwhelmed & some put out of service by the quake. Many Syrians affected by the quakes are already living in refugee camps because of the war.
- **New Zealand** – still recovering from record setting heavy rain & flooding
- **Refugees fleeing political crisis & violence – the US has put in place “a safe & lawful way” for qualifying Haitians, Cubans & Nicaraguans, with US-based supporters, to travel by air to & temporarily reside in the US. They may apply for work authorization while here. Numerical caps on a similar program for Venezuelans have been lifted. Also remember refugees who do not have access to this option.**
- **Haiti** –Gangs control the capital & most of the country. (There have been no elections since their president was assassinated in July 2021. The terms of all elected officials ended in January so there is no elected government.) Gang violence has forced hospitals to close & led to widespread malnutrition, famine & cholera. Kidnapping for ransom is also rampant (averaging 1 kidnapping every 6 hours). Pray for the country & for the Haitian Brethren there trying to survive in this crisis. Haiti is now on the US government no travel list because it is not safe to go there.
- **Those dealing with winter storms & cold weather** – especially those with no shelter.
- **Iran** – the extreme Islamic government, continues violent repression against all opposition.
- **China** – the COVID crisis there continues.
- **Ukraine where war continues** – attacks against Ukrainian civilians are ongoing. Russia is using both Russian forces & private troops against Ukraine. The Russians continue attacks that intentionally cutting power, heat, & water to civilians in the midst of winter.
- **Somalia** – severe food insecurity continues. Drought & violence have displaced millions.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 4,445 people have died in gun violence (up 736 from last week) including 180 children (up 29 from last week). 3,326 people have been injured (up by 592 from last week) including 417 children (up 74 people from last week). 2,508 of the deaths are suicides (up 396 from last week). There have already been 60 mass shootings (up 8 from last week) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics). In 2021 an estimated 4.6 million children in the U.S. were living in a home with at least one unlocked & loaded gun. 54% of guns in the U.S. are not stored safely (the National Firearm Survey).
- **The continuing COVID Pandemic** – COVID, RSV virus, & flu continue to be a serious issue. Vaccines & treatments have reduced COVID death rates, but COVID continues to spread. The new COVID variants, now circulating, are the most contagious yet. 2,500 people (including 90 in Ohio) are dying every day of COVID.



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