

## Be In Prayer

- **Malawi, Mozambique, & Madagascar** where cyclone Freddy has hit twice causing tremendous destruction. 20,000 have been displaced & 200 have been killed in Malawi. 50 were killed in Mozambique & Madagascar. The storm started near Australia & crossed the entire Indian Ocean before making landfall. This has only happened 3 times. This storm turned back to sea & then turned back to land again making it the longest lasting cyclone on record in the southern hemisphere. These countries are among the poorest in Africa. Malawi, which has had 3 days of continuous rain, was already dealing with a cholera outbreak. There is concern that the flood waters will spread the disease. 1,6000 people have died of cholera there in the last year.
- **Turkey & Syria** – The recovery is ongoing even as aftershocks continue to bring unstable buildings down. Part of Turkey, still dealing with the earthquake, is now experiencing flash flooding.
- “Due to numerous humanitarian crises around the world, thousands of **people are seeking asylum in the United States**, some of whom make perilous journeys to the southern border. In April 2022, the state of Texas began sending many of these asylum seekers in buses to Washington, D.C., without plans for their care or in coordination with the city government or others in the area.” These people have been arriving with no place to go and no one to help them. The Washington D.C. Church of the Brethren is working with a community group and the local Hill Havurah Jewish congregation to welcome and receive these people. The D.C. church is the host facility where meals, winter clothes, respite support (including care for children) is provided. The D.C. church and the Hill Havurah Jewish congregation helped 857 people between July and December 2022. The church generally gets 36 or less hours’ notice that a bus load of people is coming. The work is ongoing. Seeking asylum is a legal process by international and U.S. law. Asylum seekers are in the U.S. legally.
- **Refugees fleeing political crisis & violence** – At the end of 2021 there were 89.3 million people forcibly displaced (people forced out of their home countries). Of these, 27.1 million were refugees (half were under age 18). There were also 53.2 million internally displaced people, 4.6 million asylum seekers, & millions of people who are stateless (their countries will not grant them citizenship).
- **Countries Dealing with Major Political and/or Economic Upheaval** including Sri Lanka, Venezuela, the Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Columbia, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran, Mexico, the country of Georgia, Chili.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 8,516 people have died in gun violence (up 847 from last week) including 335 children (up 27 from last week). 6,381 people have been injured (up by 661 from last week) including 837 children (up 78 from last week). 4,884 of the deaths are suicides (up 526 from last week). There have already been 112 mass shootings (up 7 from last week) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics). Do not forget, these statistics are not just print on paper. These numbers represent precious lives, loved ones lost; futures cut short, none of which can be replaced.
- **Ukraine where the war, now over a year old, continues** – attacks against Ukrainian civilians are ongoing. Russia is using both Russian forces & private troops against Ukraine.
- **Weather** – those dealing with weather issues including winter storms & flooding.
- **The continuing COVID Pandemic** – COVID continues to be a serious issue. While vaccines & treatments have reduced COVID death rates, COVID continues to spread. (The number of new cases is increasing in some places while remaining flat in others.)



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