

## ***Your Prayers Are Needed***



- **Earthquake in Ecuador & Peru** – at least 15 are dead & nearly 200 injured. Some people were trapped in the rubble.
- **Earthquake in Afghanistan & Pakistan** – at least 200 injured & a dozen dead. The quake hit remote areas. These numbers may climb.
- **Congo where there is a cholera outbreak in refugee camps**
- **Malawi, Mozambique, & Madagascar** cyclone Freddy hit causing tremendous destruction. These countries are among the poorest in Africa. Malawi was already dealing with cholera. The floods may spread the disease. 1,6000 people died of cholera in 2022.
- **Turkey & Syria** – earthquake recovery is ongoing. Aftershocks continue to bring unstable buildings down. Part of Turkey's earthquake zone is also dealing with flash flooding.
- **People seeking asylum in the United States.** Some make perilous journeys to the southern border. In April 2022, the state of Texas began arbitrarily bussing many of these asylum seekers 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 and the local Hill Havurah Jewish congregation continue to welcome and receive these people. Seeking asylum is a legal process by international and U.S. law. Asylum seekers are in the U.S. legally.
- **Around the world, thousands of people are fleeing their homes due to 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). Unknown numbers of refugees die trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, or the Gulf & Caribbean to reach the U.S. so some of these numbers are likely low.
- **Countries Dealing with Major Political and/or Economic Upheaval, or high violent crime rates** – including Afghanistan\*, Belarus\*, Burkina Faso\*, Central African Republic\*, Chili, Columbia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gaza\*, the country of Georgia, Haiti\*, Iran\*, Iraq\*. Libya\*, Mali\*, Mexico\*, Myanmar, the Philippines, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, South Africa, South Sudan\*, Sudan\*, Somalia\*, Syria\*, Venezuela\*, Yemen\* (an \* means these countries are deemed too unsafe for Americans the travel there). North Korea\*, Russia\*, & Ukraine\* are also on this 'no travel' list specifically because Americans are not safe there.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 9,181 people have died in gun violence (up 665 from last week) including 370 children (up 35 from last week). 6,881 people have been injured (up by 500 from last week) including 882 children (up 45 from last week). 5,280 of the deaths are suicides (up 396 from last week). There have already been 117 mass shootings (up 5 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, many of whom are taken from the prisons, 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.)