

## ***Your Prayers Can Go Anywhere***

- **Weather** – those dealing with weather issues including spring storms & flooding. **Remember especially the tornado victims in Mississippi and Alabama.** More storms may hit the same areas this week.
- **Recovery continues After Earthquakes in Turkey/Syria, Afghanistan/Pakistan, & Ecuador/Peru**
- **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 storm's floods may spread the disease. (In Malawi, 1,6000 people died of cholera in 2022).
- **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** – As of 2022 there were some 103 million people forcibly displaced (people forced out of their home countries). Of these, 32.5 million were refugees. There were 53.2 million internally displaced people (in 2021), 4.6 million asylum seekers, & 4.3 million stateless people (their countries will not grant them citizenship 72% (or more than 7 in 10) of all refugees come from just 5 countries – Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Ukraine, Afghanistan, & South Sudan. 36% of these refugees are hosted by just 5 countries – Türkiye, Colombia, Germany, Pakistan, & Uganda. 1.5 million children are born as refugees.
- **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 so unsafe, Americans are not permitted to 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, 10,125 people have died in gun violence (up 782 from last week) including 415 children (up 45 from last week). 7,673 people have been injured (up by 792 from last week) including 969 children (up 87 from last week). 5,808 of the deaths are suicides (up 528 from last week). There have already been 130 mass shootings (up 13 from last week) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics). There are, on average, 1.5 mass shootings every day in the U.S. There have been 13 school shootings in the U.S. this year. In these, 10 people were killed & 13 people were injured (Education Week School Shooting Tracker). No other developed country has anything like the gun violence seen in the U.S. 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 Russian prisons, against Ukraine.
- **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.)

