

## ***A Time to Pray***



- **Sudan** – 2 military groups are fighting for control of the country. The violence is cutting food & other essential services for many. Thousands are displaced & trying to flee the country. Health care & aid workers are being targeted for violence. Many foreign nationals have been trapped in the country. A number of countries are continuing to help their citizens leave. Some of these efforts have been attacked. Attempts at cease fires have not succeeded well.
- **Thailand** - spring storms are causing major damage.
- **Western Australia** where recovery from cyclone Ilsa continues.
- **People in the U.S. dealing with flooding, tornados, & spring storms**
- **Those who are sick, homeless, hungry, abused, alone.**
- **Earthquake recovery** continues in Turkey, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ecuador, & Peru.
- **Syria – war there continues.** Bombing & shelling by government forces did not stop, even for the massive February earthquake from which recovery continues. The now 12-year-old war has killed at least half a million people. At least 27,126 of the dead are children. Some estimates are that at least 55,000 more civilians have been tortured to death by government forces.
- **Congo** where there is a cholera outbreak in refugee camps & surrounding communities.
- **Malawi, Mozambique, & Madagascar** recovering from cyclone Freddy. Mozambique is also dealing with a growing cholera outbreak.
- **Around the world, millions of people have/are fleeing their homes due to political crisis & violence** – 103 million people have fled their home countries; 53.2 million are displaced in their home countries
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 14,180 people have died in gun violence (up 874 from last week) including 588 children (up 36 from last week). 11,214 people have been injured (up 736 from last week) including 1,438 children (up 88 from last week). 8,118 of the deaths are suicides (up 528 from last week). There have already been 188 mass shootings (up 16 from last week). (Gun Violence Archive statistics). There are, on average, 1.5 mass shootings every day in the U.S. No other developed country has anything like the gun violence seen in the U.S.
- **Ukraine where the war, now over a year old, continues.** The total number of people killed in the war is not clear but, is estimated to be at least 200,000. Neither side is releasing clear records.
- **The Tigray region of Ethiopia** – where at least 600,000 people have died in 3 years of war. The actual numbers could be much higher. The conflict has seen atrocious war crimes on all sides including torture, ethnic cleansing, murder, & sexual violence. A tenuous peace is being negotiated & conditions, since November, are allowing some aid in & some respite from the violence, but the situation is by no means resolved. Many involved, including Eritrean soldiers have gained a reputation for extreme brutality during this humanitarian catastrophe. Be with the people as they try to find a way to make a peace that works.
- **The continuing COVID Pandemic** – COVID is still serious. Vaccines & treatments have reduced COVID death rates, but 1,100 people still die of COVID every day in the U.S. The number of new cases is increasing in some countries including India where the situation is very serious again. As of last week, India has surpassed China as the world's most populated country.