

A Time to Pray



- **Haiti** – the situation there continues to get worse. Much of the country, especially the capital, is under gang control. There are some 200 gangs in Haiti – 95 of them are active in the capital. It is estimated that 35% of the police are in sympathy with, or actual gang members. The remaining police are unable to protect the public or themselves. Women & girls are particularly at risk. One third of the women & girls in Haiti have been sexually assaulted or raped by gang members.
- **Canada** – where 103 wildfires are burning in the west
- **Rwanda** where there was major rain & flooding May 2-3. Many homes, infrastructure, food stores & crops were destroyed. Brethren Disaster Ministries has sent funds to help with relief efforts. Uganda was also affected.
- **Sudan** – 2 military groups are fighting for control of the country. The violence is cutting food & other essential services for many. More than 700,000 people are displaced by the fighting. That number has doubled in the last week. More than half of these are fleeing the country. Some 340,000 people are internally displaced. Health care & aid workers are being targeted for violence because killing or incapacitating them hurts thousands more people. Other countries have been struggling to get their citizens out of Sudan. Some of these efforts have been attacked. Attempts at cease fires have not succeeded well.
- **Syria** – war there continues. In 12 years of war, half a million people have died. 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** – More than 5,500 are missing following major flooding, more than 400 have died, & more than 8,000 are in need of help after losing everything. Cholera is a continuing problem.
- **Around the world, millions of people flee their homes due to political crisis & violence** – 103 million have fled their home countries; 53.2 million are displaced in their home countries
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 15,038 people have died in gun violence (up 858 from last week) including 630 children (up 42 from last week). 11,989 people have been injured (up 775 from last week) including 1,529 children (up 91 from last week). 8,580 of the deaths are suicides (up 462 from last week). There have already been 208 mass shootings (up 20 from last week). (Gun Violence Archive statistics). There are, on average, 1.5 mass shootings every day in the U.S. The worst day this year was April 30th on which there were 11 mass shootings. No other developed country has anything like the gun violence seen in the U.S.
- **Ukraine where the war, now over a year old.** 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, & restricting food supplies to cause starvation. 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. Pray for Ethiopia as they try to find a way to make peace work.
- **Those dealing with COVID** – On May 5th the World Health Organization (WHO) said the 'emergency phase' of the COVID pandemic is over, but the pandemic is not over. COVID is still serious. Thousands still die of COVID every week and millions more are suffering from debilitating long-term effects. There are currently spikes in new cases in Southeast Asia & the Middle East. The 'official' death toll worldwide is 7 million, but the real number is estimated to be 20 million. Inconsistencies & the intentional under reporting of cases in some places, mean the true numbers may never be known. It is estimated that 764 million people got COVID over the last 3 years. The WHO also says the threat of new variants continues.