



## Lord, We Crave Your Presence & Help

In these days, many people are having their lives turned upside down, be it by human violence and cruelty; or natural disaster. Remind us of your presence with us and of the power of your transforming love when we open our

lives to you. Remind us that acknowledging your love for us requires us to share your love with those in need through our prayers and actions. Help us find ways to stand with those we pray for. We need to exercise our prayer muscles in their behalf, yes, but we are also called to roll up our sleeves and get to work. We need to use our voices, our hands, and our funds to make a difference – to support those who have suffered loss and stand up for those who have no voice, are being abused, or are being persecuted.

### ***This week pray for:***

**The victims of gun violence and for those willing to commit such acts.** The Gun Violence Archive ([gunviolencearchive.org](http://gunviolencearchive.org)) reports 328 people were killed and 1,251 were injured in the 311 mass shootings (an incident in which 4 or more people were shot or killed not including the shooter) so far in 2018 (including 10 already this month). That is an average of 1 mass shooting a day. This staggering fact is bad enough, but mass shootings only account for a fraction of the 49,770 gun incidents in the US in 2018 in which 12,713 people were killed and 24,640 injured. Pray for all people touched by these tragedies and for the culture that makes them possible.

**Remember those dealing with the fires in California**, those who have lost loved ones (at least 48 have died and some 200 are missing), homes, or other property and with the fire fighters. Include the Paradise Church of the Brethren in your prayers. Pastor Melvin Campbell is very certain their building and parsonage are gone though he cannot yet go and see. The town of Paradise has been devastated by the Camp Fire. Some church members have also lost homes to the fire. Remember the people of Thousand Oaks, CA who lost loved ones in the shooting there and then had to flee fire only hours later.

**Remember immigrants – including many in Ohio** who are living in fear and being denied the right to earn a living and support their families because of the current climate of intolerance. Remember also the businesses unable to get the workers they need because immigrant workers are not allowed to work. . .

**Remember Brethren leaders currently traveling in Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, & Rwanda** They are visiting the Brethren there, learning, teaching, and offering support.



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