

Prayers Are Needed

- **Refugees on the Mediterranean** – An overloaded boat carrying migrants capsized in the Mediterranean last week. At least 300 are dead & 104 survivors rescued. 100s are still missing. The full scope of the tragedy is not yet known. This may be the worst such event in the Mediterranean to date. The migrants were trying to reach Italy from Liberia. At least 17,000 people are known to have died trying to make this crossing in the last decade. The actual number of migrants lost at sea trying to reach safety is not known.

Church World Service reports that every 2 seconds, someone in the world has to leave their home & everything they know due to the threat of violence, persecution, or disaster.

- **India** – 336 deaths & counting have been attributed to a heat wave in recent days.
- **Sudan & South Sudan** – South Sudan is Africa's largest refugee crisis. 2.2 million people are displaced outside the country & 2.3 million are internally displaced. Now fighting in Sudan, (to which some of the South Sudanese had fled) has forced at least 800,000 people from South Sudan to return to the dangers of South Sudan where they are crowded into refugee camps with no sanitation, adequate healthcare, decent shelter, or adequate food. Disease and starvation are rampant. Children are dying in the camp every day as a result. In Sudan, people are dying in large numbers, largely due to the ethnic violence. Non-Arab people are being targeted. Those trying to flee the country to neighboring Chad are being attacked, raped & killed in route.
- **Uganda** – where an attack on a secondary school has left 42 dead & 6 kidnapped. Most victims were students. Identifying the dead is ongoing since many of the bodies were burned in the attack. . .
- **Texas & Louisiana** where extreme heat & humidity is sending temperatures above 100 with no significant nighttime cool downs. The situation is made worst by the fact that thousands in the region have been without power for days due to recent storms. The Texas Power grid is not adequate to handle the surge.
- **Pakistan** – heavy rains have caused dozens of deaths.
- **Peru** – is dealing with a major dengue fever outbreak. There are already 130,000 cases & 200 deaths so far.
- **Cuba** – experiencing major flooding
- **Nigeria** – Boko Haram/ISWAP (Islamic State West Africa Province) carried out an attack at Zah, Nigeria. 6 people died; the church, & several homes were burned. EYN (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) just held their General Church Council. 1,750 people were in attendance. They shared about the work of the church & the challenges they face.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 20,044 people have died in gun violence (up 1,706 in the last 2 weeks) including 845 774 children (up 71 in the last 2 weeks). 17,154 people have been injured (up 1,762 in the last 2 weeks) including 2,208 children (up 217 in the last 2 weeks). 11,286 of the deaths are suicides (up 924 in the last 2 weeks). There have already been 319 mass shootings (up 41 in the last 2 weeks) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics).

