

Prayer Matters

Remember the Poor. Being poor is *not* a crime, though many of the world's poor people are treated as if it is. All too often the lack of respect with which people are treated; the lack of opportunities available to them; the hunger, lack of shelter and healthcare; and the inaccessibility of education associated with being poor trap people in a cycle of poverty they cannot escape – certainly not without help. In some cases, keeping people in poverty is a way extremist groups and even governments keep opponents terrorized, disorganized, and disenfranchised so they are unable to challenge abusive power and bring change. All too often, the poverty of many people enables a few to become extremely wealthy.

Ways to make a difference include: investing in small-scale economic development; efforts to improve diet and health practices; championing soil conservation with better farming practices; and promoting awareness and advocacy on hunger issues. See the Church of the Brethren Global Food Initiative (www.brethren.org/gfi/) for ways to help.

- **Brazil** where violence is part of life for many. Brazil has the highest murder rate in the world & one of the world's deadliest police forces. The police are known as a deadly threat to the public not a means of protecting the public, especially the poor.
- **People Facing Flooding or storms** – heavy rain is causing flooding in many places. Just now, remember the people in Japan, India, the Philippines, & China as well as those in the U.S. Many people are still recovering from earlier flooding including in Pakistan. A typhoon has caused major flooding in the Philippines & China.
- **People experiencing excessive heat** – Much of the world is facing warmer than usual temperatures including Mexico, India, China, northern Africa, & the U.S. June & July have set world records with many triple digit temperatures. Unusually warm ocean water contributes to the problem & is killing coral reefs.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 25,437 people have died in gun violence (up 1,000 from last week) including 1,059 children (up 33 from last week). 22,377 people have been injured (up 930 from last week) including 2,884 children (up 117 from last week). 14,190 of the deaths are suicides (up 594 from last week). There have already been 423 mass shootings (up 14 from last week) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics).
- **Those dealing with the fire season in Canada, the U.S. Europe, North Africa & elsewhere** – the heat & dry conditions in many places are contributing to the serious fire danger for many. Unhealthy smoke is a continuing issue.
- **Ukraine where the war continues.** Attacks & atrocities against civilians are ongoing.
- **Refugees & Migrants across the world** – Remember migrant families at the U.S. border. Texas is separating families & preferring criminal charges against the fathers – even those trying to go to the authorities to seek asylum according to international law. Continue to remember migrants so desperate to escape dangerous situations that they fall prey to human traffickers who put profit before the lives & safety of migrants.
- **In 1945, the Nuclear Age began** when the U.S. dropped the 1st and only atomic bombs ever to be used – the 1st Aug. 6th on Hiroshima & the 2nd Aug. 9th on Nagasaki in Japan. Remember those living in fear of another nuclear attack or accident; or living with the results of past nuclear accidents and tragedies.



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