

Include In Your Prayers



- **Sudan** – especially in the Darfur region, rebel forces are trying to eliminate all non-Arabs from the country. Healthcare workers and facilities are being targeted, leaving healthcare difficult to come by. Women face the constant threat of sexual violence. Attacks on civilians are the norm. Efforts to protect the innocent, are weak or lacking. 400,000 people have fled the country to escape the war. The U.N. is investigating to determine if genocide is going on there.
- **Congo:** The humanitarian situation in eastern Congo has deteriorated dramatically in the last 18 months due to the ongoing violence there. People who have lived in harmony with the land for centuries, now face violence as armed groups fight over mineral rights in this resource rich region. The land is being destroyed along with the people's traditional way of life by those seeking the mineral wealth. 8 million people are in urgent need of help. Women & girls are being subjected to sexual violence on a massive scale. At least 35,000 female sexual violence survivors sought treatment in the first 6 months of 2023. Since many victims do not report sexual crimes, the number is probably much higher. 26 million people are starving. The Congo is the second poorest country in the world.
- **Women & girls** – in many places, women & girls face the threat of rape & sexual violence as a part of war, as a political suppression move, or as religious abuse like in Afghanistan where women have been stripped of their rights including education, & the ability to work in all but a few jobs. Women are struggling to get healthcare; cases of forced marriage, sexual abuse, & domestic violence are climbing. When the rights & health of women are threatened, the welfare of their families & societies also suffers.
- **Continue to remember those dealing with COVID** – including long COVID. There is currently a surge in cases & several new variants. The number of cases & hospitalizations has been climbing more every week since mid-July. Some schools have closed & returned to on-line classes. Other areas are calling for masks to be used again for the same reason.
- **People Facing Flooding or storms** – Greece, Turkey, & Bulgaria are dealing with torrential rain which is causing havoc. Some have died. Those recovering from hurricane Idalia; those facing flooding in Austria; those effected by hurricane Hilary. Many people are still recovering from earlier flooding including in Pakistan, Japan, India, the Philippines, China, & elsewhere.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 29,547 people have died in gun violence (up 892 from last week) including 1,221 children (up 33 from last week). 25,994 people have been injured (up 753 from last week) including 3,321 children (up 86 from last week). 16,434 of the deaths are suicides (up 462 from last week). There have already been 488 mass shootings (up 11 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. Unhealthy smoke is a continuing issue. The situation in Canada is still dire as an entire city & part of the North West Territory has had to evacuate. **Louisiana** has also had 441 fires in August alone due to drought.
- **Ukraine where the war continues.** Attacks & atrocities against civilians are ongoing.
- **Refugees & Migrants across the world** – Remember migrants so desperate to escape dangerous situations that they fall prey to human traffickers who put profit before the lives & safety of migrants.