

## ***Pray For Peace!***



- **The Middle East** where the Israel & Hamas war continues. Civilians are still bearing the worst of the violence. There are some attacks on Israeli targets, but the overwhelming attacks on Gaza have already left much of the Gaza Strip in rubble. 1,200 civilians have died in Israel. At least 13,000 have died in Gaza since October 7<sup>th</sup>. There is no power, little food, no clean water, & little fuel in Gaza. The risk of disease is growing due to the unhealthy conditions there. Some babies have been evacuated from Gaza to Egypt, & there are negotiations to free hostages and halt the violence at least temporarily. But nothing has happened so far.
- **Ukraine. The war continues.** Attacks & atrocities against civilians are ongoing. Attacks on civilian targets in Odesa & elsewhere have damaged many homes as winter approaches. The shifting of media attention to the Middle east, has made the situation in Ukraine more difficult.
- **Cholera Outbreak in Zimbabwe** – a state of emergency has been declared
- **Continue to remember those dealing with COVID** – The number of cases & hospitalizations is climbing in some areas more than others. Cases of flu & the RSV virus are also climbing. Remember those traveling/gathering for thanksgiving. A spike in cases of all 3 will likely follow the holiday. Cases of whooping cough are also rising because people have not kept up with vaccines.
- **Haiti** – The gang violence crisis is growing worse. 2 million people, including 1.6 million women & children live in gang-controlled areas where murder, assault, & sexual violence are common. More than 100 patients, half of them children, had to be evacuated from a Port-au-Prince hospital last week due to a gang attack during which houses around the hospital were burned.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** –Already this year, 38,302 people have died in gun violence (up 699 from last week) including 1,524 children (up 26 from last week). 32,973 people have been injured (up 464 from last week) including 4,141 children (up 50 from last week). 21,450 of the deaths are suicides (up 396 from last week). There have already been 611 mass shootings (up 8 from last week) this year. (Gun Violence Archive).
- **Nigeria** Boko Haram is attacking farms (more than 100 so far) and stealing the harvest leaving the farmers with nothing. More churches are being attacked and people killed. Many people are sleeping in the bush because their homes are not safe.
- **Victims of landmines.** Russia and Ukraine are using landmines in Ukraine despite an international ban on using them. Myanmar, & armed groups in Myanmar, Thailand, Tunisia, Colombia, & India are also using them in conflicts this year. 1,661 people were killed and 3,049 were injured by landmines in 2022. Of these, 85% were civilians; half of which were children. Mines keep killing & maiming people long after a conflict ends because most are left in the ground when armies leave. The Mine Ban Treaty was adopted in September 1997. 164 countries have signed the Mine Ban Treaty. The U.S. has not.