

Pray For Peace!

- **Democratic Republic of Congo** – at least 40 dead after rain triggered landslides
- **Japan** – an earthquake has caused major damage. The death toll is at least 55, but the worst hit areas have not yet been reached. This is the worst quake in Japan in 12 years.
- **Australia** – part of the country has had a month's rain in 3 days with more on the way. This has caused serious flooding.
- **Rohingya Refugees** – who were forced out of a shelter in Indonesia by students who want all Rohingya out of Indonesia.
- **Nepal** – recovering from a November earthquake in which 153 people died & at least 375 were injured – the deadliest quake there since 2015. Northern India also effected.
- **Girls who cannot go to school** – In many places girls are not allowed to go to school. Places under Taliban control only allow girls to go to school through 6th grade. In some places, girls cannot go to school at all.
- **Middle East.** the Israel & Hamas war continues. Gaza is under constant attack. The Civilian death toll rises daily. Over 21,000 people, more than a third of them children, have been killed in Gaza where there is no safe place. Reports say 90% of the people have been displaced. 1 million people in Gaza are starving. Most have no access to clean water or medical care. Disease is flourishing. Egypt has a 'hospital' plane flying a few critically ill or critically injured patients out of Gaza. Violence against Palestinians in the West Bank is also on the rise. Israeli & American air strikes on targets outside of Gaza & attacks on Israeli targets credited to rebel groups from outside Gaza threaten to widen the war.
- **Ukraine. The war continues.** Attacks on civilian targets are increasing. Attacks on civilian targets are particularly damaging in the winter, a harsh season in Ukraine. Russia's alliance with North Korea & Iran is providing military supplies to Russia that may expand the war. The shifting of media attention to the Middle east, has made the situation in Ukraine more difficult.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** –Already this year, 216 people have died in gun violence including 7 children. 169 people have been injured including 12 children. 132 of the deaths are suicides. There have already been 3 mass shootings this year. (Gun Violence Archive).
- **Migrants.** Remember all those who are forced from their homes by violence, disaster, or economic necessity, especially those with no place to go & those who are exploited or abused. 60 people drowned when their boat capsized in the Mediterranean this month. More than 2,250 people have died this year trying to reach Europe by this route.
- **Thailand** – where thousands in the south experienced major flooding on Christmas Day
- **Mexico** – where 11 people were killed & 14 were injured at a party after a group was refused admittance & later returned with guns & opened fire.
- **The people of Prague in the Czech Republic** – a mass shooting at a university in Prague has left at least 15 dead & 25 injured. Mass shootings in all of Europe are extremely rare.

