



Remember

Two ongoing stories come to mind this week. One is the life altering grief caused by the loss of children in school shootings¹. Families continue to struggle to live with their grief long after the violence that cost them their loved one is no longer in the news. Parents tell powerful heartrending stories of their losses and many of them reach out to other families, especially those who are victims of 'the latest shooting', to offer support they are uniquely in a position to give. The 'club' to which their tragedy makes them members, is unfortunately constantly growing. While even these grieving families do not agree on how, they do agree these senseless shootings must stop. . .

The other story is the ongoing mistreatment of emigrant children at the U.S. border. Recent news accounts describe the lasting effects of the trauma these children are being subjected to. Experts say those who have been taken from their parents, even for a short time will have life-long scars. Even infants and toddlers have been taken into court alone to face a judge and 'sign away their rights to claim asylum'. The government is holding growing numbers of children in a tent prison. Many in detention do not get adequate care or schooling. . . The accounts of Disaster Child Care workers who have been helping some of these children when they are released from detention, can attest to the challenges the children face.²

It is easy to say it is time to 'move on' to the next thing as the news is good at doing, but things that are out of sight and mind do not go away. The needs of the people involved are still there. They need attention, compassion, the light of day, and the power of Jesus through his people to heal lives and right wrongs.

¹see the *Time* magazine article, "United By Grief: Parents who lose a child to a school shooting discover a bond that transcends ideology. 12-10-2018, p. 28-35

²see Church of the Brethren Newline articles on Child Care workers on the border. See also PBS and other news stories

This week pray for:

- Children and families suffering violence and injustice, especially in this season when we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.
- Sisters & brothers in Nigeria. Much rebuilding is going on and the church is growing! However, many remain displaced and attacks by Boko Haram and extremist Fulani herdsmen continue.
- All those in desperate need of love, compassion, and protection - those facing violence; living in fear; dealing with tragedy; struggling with hopelessness during this Advent season.



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