

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



- **Japan** – The Jan 1 earthquake caused over 220 deaths. Hard-hit remote areas are still difficult to reach with help. U.S. helicopters are being used. There is no power or land access in some areas. Strong aftershocks are keeping some people out of their homes & hampering rescue efforts. The quake has even extended the coastline some 820 feet in affected areas.
- **Those dealing with storms & flooding** – Brazil (flooding), Australia (flooding); Nepal (earthquake); Democratic Republic of Congo (rain & landslides); U.S. (storms, tornados, wind; flooding; extreme cold); Thailand (flooding), China (landslide)
- **Those dealing with COVID** – Almost 1,500 people a week are dying of COVID in the U.S. Most are unvaccinated people.
- **Middle East.** the Israel & Hamas war continues. Gaza is under constant attack. Over 24,000 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. 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. Some Israelis are calling for Israeli settlers to be allowed to take over the land in Gaza from which Palestinians have been forced to flee by the Israeli bombing & land assaults. This would mean not allowing Palestinians to return to their homes. South Africa has taken Israel to the UN International court accusing them of genocide in their treatment of the Palestinians in Gaza, & calling for an immediate end to the Israeli campaign. The South Africans believe Israel's retaliatory actions are way out of proportion to the Hamas attack on Oct. 7. Remember those who are calling for an end to the violence.
- **Ukraine. The war continues.** Attacks on civilian targets are particularly damaging in Ukraine's harsh winter. 6 million people have fled the country & 4 million are internally displaced. Russia's alliance with North Korea & Iran is providing military supplies to Russia that may expand the war. Media attention's shift to the Middle east, has made the situation in Ukraine more difficult.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 1,797 people (up 770 in a week) have died in gun violence including 64 children (up 31 in a week). 1,131 people (up 486 in a week) have been injured including 131 children (up 76 in a week). 1,122 of the deaths are suicides (up 477 in a week). There have already been 12 mass shootings this year (up 5 in a week). (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 in the places where they go seeking help & safety.