

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



- **Chili** – where major forest fires are causing major damage. At least 60 people are dead. That number is climbing. 3 to 6 thousand homes have been affected. 4 of the fires started simultaneously & arson is suspected. High temperatures & dry conditions are factors. A famous botanic garden, established in in 1931, has been destroyed.
- **Syria** – it has been a year since a major earthquake did tremendous damage in Syria. 1 year later, many people are still not able to live in their damaged homes. Many of them continue living in tents, both because of the unrepaired damage to their homes & because they are still afraid of aftershocks or another quake & feel safer in the tents. The damage to the land due to quake, including flooding, has left many people without the means to make a living. 148 villages were affected by the quake. Most have not received much help. People in cities have been the focus of recovery assistance efforts.
- **Ethiopia** – The country is facing famine. Drought & war are causing extreme hunger for at least 16 million people. At least 1 million people are still displaced due to the war though a ceasefire was agreed to in 2022.
- **Homeless people** – more than 650,000 people in America are homeless. Rising rent is a primary reason. Many of the homeless are working people who do not earn enough to afford housing or other necessities including food & medical care.
- **Those dealing with storms & flooding** – Brazil (flooding), Australia (flooding); Nepal (earthquake); Democratic Republic of Congo (rain & landslides); U.S. (storms, tornados, wind; flooding); 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.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 4,123 people (up 851 in a week) have died in gun violence including 145 children (up 22 in a week). 2,675 people (up 590 in a week) have been injured including 306 children (up 60 in a week). 2,508 of the deaths are suicides (up 528 in a week). There have already been 37 mass shootings this year (up 5 in a week). (Gun Violence Archive).
- **Middle East.** the war continues. Gaza is under constant attack. Over 27,000 people, more than a third of them children, have been killed in Gaza. The number killed climbs by more than 1,000 a week. 90% of the people have been displaced. 1 million people in Gaza are starving. Most have no access to clean water or medical care. Violence against Palestinians in the West Bank is also rising. 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 want to take over Gaza after all Palestinians are forced out by the Israeli attacks & never allow Palestinian survivors to return to their homes. Flooding has destroyed the make shift tents of many Palestinian refugees adding to their misery. Also, Israel is now intentionally flooding tunnels in Gaza with sea water. The potential damage to the environment, including the meager fresh water supply, is incalculable.
- **Ukraine. The war continues.** 6 million people have fled the country & 4 million are internally displaced. Russian allies North Korea & Iran are providing military supplies that may expand the war. Media attention's shift to the Middle east, has made the situation in Ukraine more difficult. Anyone in Russia who protests the war is severely dealt with.