

We Have Work to Do!

If we are called to be our brother and sister's keeper, we have work to do! Many of our sisters and brothers are in great need – their very lives are at stake. Many of them are at the mercy of powerful people or governments who care only for their own welfare and the pursuit of both power and wealth. Our brothers and sisters need what material help we can give them. They need our prayers, and the witness we can give to the power of God's love for them, but they need something more. If we hand out bread and Bibles, but do not speak out against the systems and powers that have created their misery, we have failed them because their suffering will be ongoing. If we do not take responsibility for our role in creating or benefiting from systems that hurt others, we have failed to live as disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. If we do not recognize and honor the personhood of every individual as a child of God, created in God's image, and as valued by God as we are ourselves, we have failed as God's people. We are not entitled to more than anyone else. Our privilege is not affluence. It should be that we can let go of some of our abundance so that others can have enough.



This week pray for:

- **The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** – where health workers continue trying to end an Ebola outbreak. Conflict in the region helps spread Ebola and makes the situation worse. Health workers have been attacked. Both sides are spreading misinformation about Ebola – everything from denying it exists to accusing health workers of spreading it for the other side. Ebola may have spread to Uganda. Two people left DRC and died of Ebola in Uganda. Uganda is an international crossroads. If the disease is there it could easily spread further. . .
- **Refugees** – “1 in every 108 people in the world is either an asylum-seeker (there are 3.5 million), internally displaced (there are 41.3 million) or a refugee (there are 25.9 million).” [2018 statistics from the UN Refugee Agency]. 30 new people become displaced every minute some-where in the world, but two-thirds of all refugee come from just 5 countries – Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, or Somalia.
- **Nigeria** where people continue living with the threat of violence.
- **Asylum seekers** threatened with deportation.
- **Emigrants** attempting to seek asylum in the U.S. More reports continue to confirm that the treatment of emigrants at the U.S. border is inhumane, cruel and degrading. Pediatricians have expressed renewed concern that the effects of such treatment on the children may have life-long detrimental effects on them.

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