



Take a
Moment to
Pray for
Peace!

Where Does Your Treasure Lie?

Society is always in a hurry for the next 'new thing'. What is the new 'app' for that? I have to get a new I-phone. Mine is a year old already and cannot do _____. My car is a couple years old! It's time for a new one. I need new clothes. The things I got last year are so out of date. I bought a newer house, but I have to completely re-do the kitchen. It was recently renovated but the appliances are white instead of stainless steel! Things are disposable at the whim of our taste or our desire for 'newness'.

When we see and hear this kind of talk in the media, even if we do not say it ourselves, we forget that being fixated on always needing the next new thing, is a luxury we can aspire to only because of affluence. That does not mean all of us are 'rich'. The wealthiest 1 percent of Americans have more wealth than all the rest of Americans combined, and the gap between the rich and the poor is growing. However, we must not forget, many people in the world are far poorer than we are in material wealth and to them, we are wealthy. Society has trained us from childhood that affluence is the goal and should be attained, or at least the appearance of it maintained at any cost. One of the hardest things to do is shake that way of thinking!

There are things that are more important than material wealth. Followers of Jesus should know that. Shaking off the allure of affluence is a prerequisite to putting people first, making the welfare of people more important than acquiring new things, and remembering the welfare of others is just as important as our own welfare. Many people who lost everything during the great depression, or because they left everything behind to flee for their lives from violence; or many who lost everything in a storm, may have a head start on this understanding. The rest of us have a lot to learn from them.

This week in your prayer time:

- **Families and children seeking asylum** – now have to deal with the effects of the current U.S. administration's 'Migrant protection Protocol' which, rather than offering help or protection, will force people seeking asylum in the U.S. to wait in Mexico or be returned to Mexico to wait for their case to be considered. This will give them little access to due process or legal assistance in the process (people without a lawyer rarely get asylum because of the complexity of the process and the language barrier for many). They are forced to wait where they are in constant danger of kidnapping, sexual assault, and attacks. Mexico is also in no position to provide humanitarian assistance including basic necessities to all these people.
- **Nigeria** – where the church is continuing to offer trauma healing training for children and adults who have been affected by the violence there. In July, five workshops were held for children ages 10 to 17. Also, on August 18, Boko Haram attacked the town of Kindlindila. No one was killed but houses and businesses were burned. The church distributed food and relief goods to people there. (*Newsline September 14, 2019*)
Media reports document the difficulties many Boko Haram victims face after they escape or are released by Boko Haram. They are then held by the government for 're-education' in conditions many report, are as bad or worse than what they experienced in Boko Haram captivity. (Danielle Paquette. *The Washington Post*. Sept 2019)
- **Those affected by gun violence & those affected by acts of terror.**
- **Hurricane Victims** – especially in the Bahamas and those still suffering in Puerto Rico.

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