



Walk with Those Who Morn; Who Fear; Who Suffer

"Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured."
(Hebrews 13:3)

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy. (Psalm 126:5-5)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Psalm 46: 1-3)

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- **Remember our Brothers & Sisters in Nigeria, especially as they morn.** On January 2 Lawan Andimi, was abducted by Boko Haram. On January 21st we learned that Boko Haram executed him on January 20. Lawan Andimi was an ordained minister in Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), served as EYN district secretary for the Michika area, and was chair of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) for the Michika area. Boko Haram followed the execution by attacking the village where Pastor Andimi was born. The video statement his captives released, which they intended as a desperate plea for his life, was in fact Pastor Andimi's clear and calm affirmation of his faith in Jesus. It is a powerful witness to the Christian community. (see <http://www.brethren.org/news/2020/nigerian-brethren-leader-executed.html> for more about Pastor Andimi) This is yet another despicable act committed by this radical group against Christians and Muslims. While the rest of the world has largely forgotten about the violence this group fosters, the people of Nigeria continue to live with the threat, fear, and loses every day. A Nigerian soldier was killed with Pastor Andimi. In December, 11 Christian captives were beheaded on Christmas Eve. 4 aid workers, trying to alleviate hunger, were also killed in December. More than 2 million people have had to flee their homes, 250,000 people have fled the country, and thousands have been killed since 2013. 6,600 people were killed in 2014 alone. Nigeria is the second most violent country for persecuted Christians. Pakistan is the most violent country for persecuted Christians (2020WorldWatchList).
- **Puerto Rico earthquake victims.** The island has experienced aftershocks and tremors every day since December 28. Some have been magnitude 5 or higher including the 6.4 magnitude quake January 7th. Puerto Rican Brethren pastors and district leaders continue to identify needs and coordinate response to the disaster. A tent city has been established to provide shelter since buildings are not safe. This and other aid will be needed for weeks or as long as the quakes continue. People are moving to the mountains in the center of the island, away from the south where the damage has been the worst. A tent city has been set up in the town of Castañer in the square where the anniversary of Heifer International was held a few months ago. Castañer, where the Brethren hospital is located, is also where continuing Brethren hurricane relief efforts are based. Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017 and people are still suffering.
- **Remember the people of the Philippines** – On January 12th the Taal volcano erupted with a 9-mile-high ash cloud. By the 13th, more than 25,000 people had already fled their homes. By the 18th, more than 70,000 people had fled their homes. Some 450,000 people live within 8.7 miles of the mountain and should be evacuated. There have already been more than 666 earthquakes since the eruption. This could continue for weeks or months. . .
- **The people & Wildlife of Australia are** facing an unprecedented fire season. There are at least 136 fires burning. At least 1,300 homes have been destroyed and at least half a billion animals have died or face extinction as a result of the fires. There are 300 native species in the country. 81% of them are found only in Australia. The fires have already burned 18 million acres.



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