

Your Prayers Matters



- **Rejoice with Mary Nkeki & her family.** She was one of the Chibok schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram in 2014. August 21 she was rescued by the Nigerian military & will soon be back with her family after 10 years of captivity. Pray for Nkeki & her family as they reunite after so long. Also pray for the Chibok girls still missing & their families.
- **Celebrate! 48 students** just graduated from the EYN Women Development Center, Kwarhi, Nigeria. The girls, many of them orphans, have been trained in skills that will help them support themselves. Generous support for the program gives each graduate the tools of their new trade to help them get started (e.g., sewing machines, knitting machines, cake pans, etc.).
- **Continue to remember those dealing with COVID** – including long COVID. There is currently a surge in cases & several new variants. Schools in some states have closed & returned to on-line classes due to the number of COVID or flu cases. Other areas are calling for masks to be used again for the same reason.
- **Those dealing with the fire season in Canada, the U.S. Europe, North Africa & elsewhere** – the heat & dry conditions in many places are contributing to the serious fire danger. Unhealthy smoke is a continuing issue. The situation in Canada is still dire as an entire city & part of the North West Territory has had to evacuate. **Louisiana** has also had 441 fires in August alone due to drought.
- **Remember the people of Hawaii** recovering from the devastating fire. Also remember the Children's Disaster Services volunteers who went to care for children after the fire.
- **Haiti** – Gangs control 80% of the capital, Port-au-Prince & much of the country, with fear, intimidation & violence. People are fleeing their homes & neighborhoods because of the violence. This year, the U.N. reports that 2,400 people have been killed, 950 kidnapped, & 902 injured. Also, civilian vigilante groups trying to stop the gangs, have killed some 300 suspected gang members, some of them by lynching. Hunger is a growing problem as gangs are seizing food supplies making food hard to come by. Against the advice of police, a religious group, some with sticks or machetes, marched to protest against the gangs last weekend. Gang members fired on the protesters, killing some & kidnapping others. The police have not been able to recover the bodies or rescue those missing.
- **People Facing Flooding or storms** – Those facing hurricane Idalia; those facing flooding in Austria; those effected by hurricane Hilary. Many people are still recovering from earlier flooding including in Pakistan, Japan, India, the Philippines, China, & elsewhere in the U.S.
- **Women & girls** – in many places, including Sudan, women & girls face the threat of rape & sexual violence. In Sudan, women & girls are targeted by the rebels trying to take over the country in part because women were instrumental in ending the dictatorship there. Women & girls in Afghanistan have been stripped of their rights including education, & the ability to work in all but a few jobs. Women are struggling to get healthcare; cases of forced marriage, sexual abuse, & domestic violence are climbing. When the rights & health of women are threatened, the welfare of their families & societies also suffers.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 28,655 people have died in gun violence (up 945 from last week) including 1,188 children (up 33 from last week). 25,241 people have been injured (up 825 from last week) including 3,235 children (up 87 from last week). 15,972 of the deaths are suicides (up 528 from last week). There have already been 477 mass shootings (up 16 from last week) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics).