St. Matthew’s UMC
International Prayer Focus for February 2021

Loving God, we hear and see an unsettled world around us. Lord, as we heal our own pain, sorrow, hunger, and fear through remembering to extend Love, we heal others as well. We seek the power of prayer and witness of love being present through the Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

Seek the power of prayer and witness God’s presence as healing prayers are answered.

In Syria, the movement of refugees has become seriously restricted. The nation is surrounded by walls built by five nations. Those wishing to flee from violence and other injustices now are limited in finding their way out. Seek the power of prayer and witness God’s presence as healing prayers are answered.

Sinking and often overloaded boats carrying migrants continue to lead to many deaths. More than 20 migrants are missing and are feared to have drowned off the coast of Columbia. Thousands of undocumented migrants cross the gulf each year headed to the US. Seek the power of prayer and witness God’s presence as healing prayers are answered.

In Lebanon, a fire at a refugee camp in the north has caused hundreds of Syrian refugees to suffer. The fire was caused by a fight between local youth and camp residents and was purposely set on the tents that were part of a makeshift refugee campground. Seek the power of prayer and witness God’s presence as healing prayers are answered.

In China, young women are at risk in the workplace. Work is at internet companies where they are required as part of their job to work from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. six days a week. This brutal schedule has resulted in a number of deaths. Tens of millions are on the brink of dying. Seek the power of prayer and witness God’s presence as healing prayers are answered.

In Niger, at least 70 civilians have been killed in two villages by suspected Islamist militants near the border with Mali. This act of violence is not something new, hundreds were killed this past year. Seek the power of prayer and witness God’s presence as healing prayers are answered.

We pray for children of the world, especially for the 2.3 million who live in Ethiopia. These children have suddenly been cut off from humanitarian aid that includes both food and medicine. Seek the power of prayer and witness God’s presence as healing prayers are answered.

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The continuing saga of natural disasters is occurring worldwide. Earthquakes have struck Croatia; mudslides have occurred in Norway and Japan; floods, gale, and snow in the UK; and there are droughts in Yemen, Syria, Kurdistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, and Libya. Seek the power of prayer and witness God’s presence as healing prayers are answered.

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In Zimbabwe, millions of residents are now struggling to put food on the table because the country has suffered a long drought. Economic hardships are everywhere due to high inflation. Other struggles include: power shortages, a presence of Covid-19, and high levels of HIV/AIDS. Seek the power of prayer and witness God’s presence as healing prayers are answered.

Compiled by Rev. Galen R. Menne so that we do not just pray for the world in general but are able to be more specific. Special thanks to Irene Schneider for prayer responses and Jane Thessin for the graphics.