St. Matthew’s UMC
International Prayer Focus for March 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.

Indonesia has seen two natural disasters in one week - an earthquake and flooding on two separate islands. Those in the affected areas have accessed the damage caused and are now putting their lives back in order after suffering much upheaval.

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In Australia, brush fires have consumed more than 35 square miles in the western part of the country. Residents with little time to spare had to flee from their homes and seek safety.

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In India, government-executed farm laws are causing protests, blocking roads, and the setting up of make-shift camps. Small farmers make up a portion of those protesting as they fear not being able to put food on the table for their families.

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In China, an explosion at the entrance of a gold mine left 5 miners dead. Another 11 miners were rescued and are expected to fully recover from their injuries.

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In Afghanistan, a series of targeted killing of journalists, activists, and government workers has occurred. This has been happening over the past several months and there is no way of knowing how long it will go on.

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In Mexico, a group of migrants were killed earlier this year. Bodies were found in a burned-out car near the US border. Investigators think that these migrants were killed as part of a turf war between criminal gangs over control of migrant smuggling routes.

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In Ethiopia, government control of the country may have a plan in mind that includes starvation as a weapon of war. Crops in the field have been burned and livestock were slaughtered. With farmers losing crops and animals, more persons are now hungry. This now has become a major concern as starvation had already been on the rise.

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In India, a piece of a glacier breaking loose in the Himalayas during a severe storm caused much destruction along its way. In its path were two hydroelectric power plants. Homes were destroyed and 200 persons were missing some of whom were working in the power plants. At least 20 persons died. Bridges were swept away and roads damaged.

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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.
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