

Growing More in the Season for Nonviolence

Amani's story



Ongoing conflict in Sudan has pushed millions of people out of their homes. Amani, mother of three, speaks of fleeing their home last year when the fighting engulfed her whole village in North Darfur. Life began on the run for Amani's third child, who was born amidst traveling from one village to another seeking food, shelter and maternal/newborn care. "I gave birth under a tree, lying on a small mat," Amani said. "I didn't know if I would live or die-or what would happen to my children if I didn't make it."

<https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/life-begins-run-sudan>



Scripture Connection

1 Samuel 8:6-7, 10-12

But when the people said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel: so, he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him; “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. Samuel told all the words of the lord to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, “This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.”

What do the Popes have to say?



“Humanity needs to weep, and this is the time to weep.” Pope Francis

“WW III is being fought piecemeal.” Pope Francis

“War is back in vogue.” Pope Leo XIV

“Zeal for war is spreading.” Pope Leo XIV

“Peace is possible.” Pope Leo XIV

In September 2014, Pope Francis stated that interconnected local wars and crises worldwide created a picture of global instability. Pope Leo echoed Pope Francis’ sentiments during his trip to Lebanon and Turkey this past November 2025 as he urged nations to pursue peace and condemned violence in the name of religion. More recently, regarding the United States’ intervention in Venezuela, Pope Leo called for diplomacy and dialogue rather than military action.

Introduction



[According to the International Committee of the Red Cross](#), over 130 armed conflicts are raging today, twice as many as 15 years ago. Wars are lasting longer, growing more complex, and trapping entire generations. According to the United Nations, unresolved

regional tensions, a breakdown in the rule of law, absent or co-opted state institutions, illicit economic gain, and the scarcity of resources exacerbated by [climate change](#), have become dominant drivers of conflict.

We can access news about the wars in Ukraine and Gaza on a daily basis, yet other tremendously devastating conflicts are happening in countries such as Somalia, Sudan, Myanmar, Haiti, the Sahel region of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Iran, to name a few. Many of us need a map to discover where these countries are located and have little or no knowledge of their cultures, people, or the roots of their conflicts. Many of our neighbors fled countries labeled by our current administration as '[countries of concern](#)' and have become especially vulnerable to targeting by ICE or border patrol.

As Christians, it is important that during this season for nonviolence, we learn more about our brothers and sisters all over the world who are suffering at the hands of war and violence. We need to open our eyes to their devastating losses so we might better pray for our global family and join in international outcries for an end to the bloodshed. Most of us did not know about the Rwandan genocide in 1994 until the story was made into the movie, Hotel Rwanda, ten years later. Let us educate ourselves on these world affairs and no longer wait for the stories to be diluted into something palatable as we sit in our living rooms.

I confess to knowing very little about most of these conflicts. Yet, when we know better, we can do better. This interactive map from the Council on Foreign Relations gives an opportunity to learn the highlights of a conflict, or click for more detailed history and information. [Global Conflict Tracker](#)



Mr. Rogers always said, “Look for the helpers”

[Doctors Without Borders](#)

Médecins Sans Frontières, French for Doctors Without Borders, is a charity that provides humanitarian medical care. It is a non-governmental organization known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases.

[Mercy Corps](#)

In more than 35+ countries around the world, nearly 4,300 Mercy Corps team members work side by side with people living through poverty, disaster, violent conflict, and the acute impacts of climate change. We're committed to creating global change through local impact — 95% of our team members are from the countries where they work.

[UNICEF](#)

In conflict and disaster, children suffer first and suffer most. During emergencies and humanitarian contexts, children are especially vulnerable to disease, malnutrition, and violence. Children living in conflict areas are worse off – they are more likely to be living in extreme poverty, for instance, or not enrolled in primary school.

[World Vision](#)

At World Vision, we believe each child is made in the image of God and deserves dignity, care, and protection. Our hearts ache witnessing deteriorating humanitarian conditions in conflict zones, impacting not only the most vulnerable children but also women and men struggling through dire circumstances.

[World Central Kitchen](#)

In every response in 2025, WCK's work was powered by local community members—people who, even while facing crisis themselves, stepped up to care for their neighbors and helped serve more than 130 million meals across thousands of communities impacted by disasters.



Call to Action

If you have read to this point, pat yourselves on the back!! We've grappled with difficult topics that few of us were aware of until very recently.

We would ask you to:

- Consider learning more about the people and situations from “countries of concern”
- Find out more about refugees in our country that are from areas labeled ‘countries of concern’. For example, did you know Milwaukee has the largest refugee population of people from Myanmar in the United States.
- Go back to the Global Conflict Tracker and click on more countries. Go deeper into the link for more in-depth information.
- Share with others what you learn. Each of us has a voice, use it!
- Pray for our brothers and sisters next door and around the world.

Closing prayer

Lord God,
No one is a stranger to you
And no one is ever far from your loving care.
In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war,
Those separated from their loved ones,
Young people who are lost,
And those who have left home or who have run from their home.
Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be,
And help us always to show your kindness
to strangers and to all in need.

In your Mercy. Amen