



## **Pastor Enno's Weekly Message**

**Dear Friends,**

Palestine/Israel, Congo, Sudan, and Ukraine/Russia are the violent spots in the world. I have to admit that I know much more about what is happening in Europe and the Middle East than in Africa. What I do know is that, in Africa, like we have done with diamonds and oil, we, as American consumers and the government have turned a blind eye to how the resources we need are being mined and delivered to us. As long as we get it and as cheaply as possible, we will buy it, no strings attached. We eventually grew conscious about 'blood' diamonds, but have not extended that to any other part of the continent.

There is a civil war in Congo that has left 6 million people killed and 6 million people displaced in a country with a population of 100 million. That is over and above the use of child labor and slavery going on with the mining of minerals, especially for cobalt of which UNICEF estimates about 40,000 miners are children.

Sudan is again at civil war with a population of over 45 million people with over 5 million people displaced and almost 20 million people are malnourished.

Russia and Ukraine have dug in their lines and Russia is bombing cities across the Ukraine, killing innocent people, trying to demoralize the Ukrainians.

In Palestine, whole neighborhoods have been leveled; libraries, museums, schools, hospitals, mosques (over 1,000), churches, and cemeteries are also being destroyed. Even if there was a ceasefire today, there is not a lot for the Palestinians to return to, but they can't leave, because then Israeli citizens will move in.

Too many of these conflicts deal with the grasp for power and the control of resources. When will we put people, especially the poor, the widow, and the orphans, above our need for more? I hope we can find a way soon.

**Peace**