



## Prayer Needs

**Continue to remember the people of Beirut, Lebanon** who have a long way to go to recover from the horrific explosion there a week ago. Hundreds of thousands are now homeless and hunger continues in a city already suffering

COVID-19 as well as under economic collapse and other abuses by the government. There are continuing protests in the streets because of this and the government's role in allowing the dangerous material that exploded to be stored in the city. 'The government' has now resigned, though the leader who remains has not taken any responsibility for the situation. There are signs of hope. People are helping each other clean up. Unexpectedly, some people have returned to their damaged homes to find that someone has cleaned up the broken glass, etc. for them! In your prayers for Beirut, do not forget to give thanks for those carrying out such acts of kindness!

**Remember all those who experienced damage or injury from the Derecho** (straight line wind storm) that went through the Midwest on August 10. Many lost power; some suffered damage to their homes, vehicles or businesses; some were injured by the storm. Many farmers saw their corn or soybean crops flattened by the storm. Iowa lost a third of their corn crop – nearly 10 million acres. **Also remember those dealing with weather events elsewhere in the world.**

The **U.S. continues to lead the world in the number of COVID-19 cases** and deaths. The number of cases is still growing in much of this country. There has been a 90% rise in cases in children in the last month. Studies show that children do carry the virus and spread it to others, even when they themselves are not as sick. Some children are severely affected by the virus. Some schools that have opened are already having COVID-19 out-breaks. Pray for the sick and separated; those at risk of the virus; caregivers; those responsible for the safety of others, especially those making decisions about children and school in the coming weeks.

**August 14, [1947]. Marks the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary** of India achieving independence from Britain without a war with leadership by Mahatma Gandhi. Despite this achievement of peaceful change and Gandhi's wishes, independence came at the cost of a partition of the country into two states (India and Pakistan) along religious lines. The relationship between the two countries has always been tense and often violent. On this anniversary of their independence, pray for both countries.



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