

This Week's Prayer List

We seem to be in a time when many people are angry and willing to let their anger control their actions. For some, years of oppression or poverty (or both) have stoked the fires of anger and hopelessness that can make taking matters into one's own hands seem appealing, even justified. Others believe they are 'entitled' and have a special status. When they think this is threatened, their resentment can be a powerful call to action.

The critical thing that seems to be lacking just now is a strong moral compass, a sense of community, and a Jesus inspired desire to work for the common good – accepting the calling that we are our brother and sister's keeper. When action is only anger and entitlement fed, violence and destruction are the result. Unfortunately, it is easy for someone, driven by their own motives and with a bit of hutzpah, to channel the destructive actions of others to meet their own personal ends, even when those ends hurt people, including the people whose self centered anger fueled the driven individual's quest for their personal goals in the first place. On the other hand, when people pull together, seek, and then work for changes that will benefit everyone, growth and stronger communities are the result. Jesus does not call us to ask, "what's in it for me", he calls us to ask, "what is God calling me to do with and for all of us." Pray for his leading and accept his call to action!

Did you know: nonviolent protests are twice as likely to succeed as armed conflicts. It takes only 3.5% of the population. When such a handful gets actively and peacefully involved in calling for change, change always comes!

Pray for:

- **People in Lebanon;** the country is in chaos because of years of government corruption.
- **Flooding in Europe – Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, & Switzerland** more than 170 people are dead; many more are missing in this unprecedented disaster.
- **Places where political corruption & drastic economic inequality led to unrest & violence** – in South Africa more than 200 have died in rioting in recent days (74% of young people are unemployed; many face food shortages; COVID is raging; ethnic & class 'differences' continue to divide people; poverty traps many while a minority control the country's wealth. . .). Other countries around the world, from Colombia to Thailand, are facing similar conditions.
- **The people of Afghanistan** – as they face the task of self-government.
- **People without the freedom to voice their views, raise issues or voice objections when they disagree with their leaders.** Continue to remember the people of Cuba where dissatisfaction with living conditions has brought people into the streets to protest their government. Such actions are not legal in Cuba.
- **Continue to remember the people of Haiti.** They are dealing with the assassination of their president as well as years of poverty & government corruption.



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