



## Prayer Needs

This week marks the **75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the U.S. nuclear bombings** of the cities of Hiroshima (Aug. 6, 1945) and Nagasaki (Aug. 9, 1945) in Japan. These horrific events helped end the Second World War, a war that started for the world in 1939 with the German invasion

of Poland, and for America with the horrific Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. During that war, at least 60 million people died – some 20 million of them military personnel and at least 40 million of them civilians. Many of the civilians died as the result of deliberate genocide, massacres, mass bombings by both sides, disease, and starvation. Even the end of this war did not bring peace. The war sowed the seeds that moved the world into a cold war that continued for decades. The world has continued to engage in wars ever sense. As you pray this week, remember the terrible human cost of war and pray that the world will find ways to stop resorting to war. What can you do to work for peace?

This week there has been a **horrific explosion in Beirut Lebanon**. It has taken at least 100 lives, left at least 4,000 wounded, and caused major destruction in a city that is already struggling under corruption, economic disaster, and COVID-19. A major hospital was severely damaged and is out of commission. Some medical staff were killed. Many wounded people were turned away from the remaining medical facilities because those facilities were overwhelmed. Many have been left homeless. The siloes which housed 85% of the country's wheat supply were destroyed leaving only contaminated grain. Since the country imports 80% of its food through the now damaged port, food supply is a serious concern. Pray for the people and their leaders.

The **U.S. continues to lead the world in the number of COVID-19 cases** and deaths. The number of cases is growing in much of this country and is still a threat in other countries as well. Pray for the sick and separated; those at risk of the virus; caregivers; those responsible for the safety of others.

People around the country continue to make their **voices heard for change** peacefully. They are calling for an end to racism, abusive treatment, and the inequality many Americans of color live with every day. Pray that these voices will be heard and that changes will come.

**This country is divided** on many issues. Pray that people will stop dwelling on differences, looking for conspiracies, and looking for enemies and instead seek common ground and work for the common good.

**Remember those dealing with weather issues and fire** (hurricane season in the east & fire season in the west, as well as elsewhere in the world).



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