



### **Nazarene Schools Survive Massive Explosion**

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from Nazarene Prayer Mobilization Line

On August 4, 2020, a devastating explosion occurred in Beirut, Lebanon. It levelled sections of the city, leaving nearly 200 people dead and injuring over 6,500 persons. As a result of that explosion, over 300,000 people are estimated to be homeless, and damages are estimated to be approximately \$15 million. Many people lost their jobs, and the economy of the country has collapsed, devaluing the people's savings.

The country has been in a state of trauma, both from the explosion and other situations. For several years, Lebanon has been flooded with refugees from both Iraq and Syria. It has been a stretch for the organized churches in Lebanon, but they have ministered effectively on every front. Lebanon is also struggling with the global pandemic. By September, there were 21,877 COVID-19 cases with 212 deaths in Lebanon.

Nazarene churches have:

- Distributed hot meals for 100 people for seven consecutive days.

- Facilitated a mobile clinic for about 500 people and distributed medicine, nylon sheets, and flashlights for 300 families.

- Provided trauma counseling for 100 children and 50 adults.

- Carried out repairs to three churches and the schools (ongoing).

## Praises:

**Though properties were damaged, church members and children in our schools in Beirut were not seriously injured by the blast.**

The Church of the Nazarene has been able to share food, clothing, and medicines for the most vulnerable.

**The Nazarene schools in Beirut have been able to continue to provide education for students and a place of learning for many refugee children who had no access due to their status.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, local Nazarene churches have been able to maintain connections with congregants and refugee congregants by offering hope and comfort.

## Prayer Requests

Pray for those who pastor churches and for district leadership as they seek to find effective ways to meet the many critical needs in Lebanon. See [www.ncm.org](http://www.ncm.org) for details.

**Pray for those who teach in our Nazarene schools in Lebanon, who encounter families devastated by the explosion, especially those families who have little access to any aid.**

Pray that the Lord will bring peace to the people of Lebanon, who have lost so much through civil wars, conflict with neighboring countries, COVID-19, and the devastation of the blast. The people simply cry out for peace.

Pray for stability and for a new government that can bridge the gap across societal divides.

*Isaiah 61:2b-3 says: The Lord will “comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”*

This information came from the Nazarene Prayer Mobilization Line for September 16, 2020.