

Dear Friends,

As most of you will know, I have a strong love for Lebanon and its peoples having visited three times. I was deeply shocked to see the pictures of the explosion at the port in Beirut. An estimated 300,000 are now homeless and as I write over 100 dead, although the death toll is expected to be a lot higher. Some 85% of the countries grain reserves have gone up in smoke. Nabil Costa who is CEO of LSESD (Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development) and a good friend, wrote to all the supporters asking for prayer. His letter is included here in full.



The massive blast that took place at the port of Beirut late in the afternoon today (4th Aug) left an important part of the city laying in apocalyptic ruin. The rumble of the explosion was felt all the way to Cyprus.

Beirut looks like a war zone as the devastating shockwave shattered windows and vitrines sending debris and glass flying in all directions. Initial footage shows collapsed buildings and homes while the national wheat silos have been eviscerated. Hospitals are not able to cope with the number of injured and maimed while the Red Cross is in desperate need of blood donations. The number of casualties is not known at this stage but material losses are in the billions of dollars.

This calamity could not have come at a worse time for a country on the brink of financial collapse and social implosion while the number of coronavirus cases have surged in recent days.

The reasons behind the explosion are still unknown.

- *Please pray for those who have lost their homes and loved ones so that they may find comfort and healing.*
- *Please pray for the doctors, nurses and paramedics who are caring for the injured.*
- *Please pray for the rescue teams that are trying to find missing family members and neighbours.*
- *Please pray for people who are in places of responsibility as they manage the catastrophic human and economic consequences.*
- *Please pray for the Church as it seeks to comfort and serve the distressed and broken-hearted.*
- *Please pray for the People of God as they seek the Lord and humbly cry out to Him for mercy.*
- *Pray for LSESD/MEBO family of ministries and specifically for the Beirut Baptist School and the Gateway Bookshop, which suffered important material damage and for the staff who have been injured by the glass debris.*

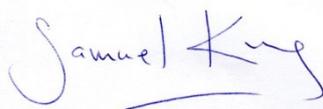
In Christ,

Nabil Costa

Chief Executive Officer

A Prayer: *O Lebanon, may God surround you with his compassion and love.
May your faith in him run deep and tall like the great cedar,
and may his peace reign in your heart.*

God's richest bless



Samuel King