

Lebanon News Update for Prayer, August 2022

Please continue to pray for Lebanon as the economic collapse there continues, with political paralysis having followed the elections in May. Although this did see an increase in the number of pro-reform MPs in the parliament, Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati has not yet been able to get cross-party agreement on a new cabinet for a functioning Government.

One source states that “Lebanon has now moved from ‘fragile state’ to a ‘failed state’ designation whilst politicians and leaders bicker on who will get which government seat”

The continuing decline of the Lebanese Pound has seen the average public servant's monthly salary drop from around \$1,000 to barely \$50 - and counting, as the Lebanese pound loses more value by the day. This has led to public sector workers having been out on strike since June. Others, including security services, are moonlighting in other jobs in order to be able to survive. Power and basic supplies like paper and ink are also running out in the public sector meaning proper car registrations, passports and court judgments can't be delivered. Judges had been paying for their own printer ink and paper, but can no longer afford to do so and feed their families. So it is not surprising that nearly six in 10 state employees are either leaving or planning to leave the country.

There have also been further catastrophic collapses of the remains of the fertiliser storage building in Beirut harbour which exploded in August 2020.

Please continue to pray for the people and churches of Lebanon in their sufferings and Christ-like response in serving the needy, including many remaining refugees from the Syrian civil war. Also that there will be a political breakthrough and Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati is able to install a new government in which the international community will have the confidence necessary to begin funding an emergency recovery programme.

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