

Litany of Blessing for Church World Service Cleanup Buckets and Hygiene Kits
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How long, O Lord, how long?

**Our hearts offer this silent prayer over and over again,
As our eyes behold images:
Of people's lives being washed by flood waters,
Shattered by winds,
Broken to pieces in the storm surge of another disaster.**

We cannot stop our hearts from breaking,
We cannot soothe the pain we see.

We cannot answer all the prayers,
**Even if our hands tried,
That is not our work, but yours.**

We can rise as Your partners,
**When our breaking hearts are moved to action,
When we are liberated from the feeling, we must heal it all.**

We are summoned to do what we can, with what we can. And today we ask your blessing on these items, that feel so small in our hands.

Bless these combs and toenail clippers, these bars of soap and tooth brushes, may they help your beloved find moments to relish their bodies. We pray these Ziploc bags and washcloths protect and restore what is found during this moment of exile. May these scouring pads, sponges, and all-purpose cleaners usher in the resurrection of memories and perseverance. May these garbage bags welcome and give a home to the grief that will be tucked inside them. Hear the prayers lifted behind these dust masks that sing a song of how you make a way out of no way. May these gloves protect the hands that wear them, preserving their gentleness from the hard edges of disaster. We pray that these kits, soothe the spirits of those we will never know but are held close in our hearts. Help us to remember, you know the names and the need, as we trust these kits to you. In your name we pray, Amen.