

News Of Hope

L E B A N E S E E V A N G E L I C A L S O C I E T Y F O R S O C I A L
W O R K & D E V E L O P M E N T

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Keeping the gates of heaven open.
- Financial needs.
- Power, strength, encouragement, & wisdom.
- Safety of our country.
- Making a difference in our children's lives.

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PRESIDENT'S WORD

Lebanon has always been a country much advanced and developed economically, socially, culturally and professionally than most of the surrounding neighbors. However, during the early seventies till the beginning of the 1990's, Lebanon went through a horrific period of violence, strife and destruction. During and after the mayhem, a phenomenon that was characteristic of some families was poverty. Children roamed the streets helplessly in search of food and money. It is the sight that was so unfamiliar to the Lebanese people. Children wandered in the streets of Beirut aimlessly to satisfy their hunger and need. Nevertheless, children from nearby countries

like Syria and Jordan illegally crossed the borders in search of sanctuary (safety & protection). These children created uncomfortable social problems such as burglary, theft violence in the streets and wrong doing .In September 1999, the Lebanese Evangelical Society inaugurated its new ministry "Home of Hope" in the village of Kehale. We serve, work and rehabilitate street children in Lebanon in order to integrate into Society. Never before has any institution ventured into working with street children. This pioneering work has become a model for social study and psychological research. Director and staff of the Lebanese Evangelical Institution (Home of Hope) provide our

beloved children with all the basic physical, psychological and mental needs. The fundamental emotional skills requirements for a healthy life are taught and experienced in our institution as well. It is our ministry to provide immediate and effective relief from the abuse and violence of the street. "So that they may know the Truth and the Truth will set them free".



Rev. Gabriel Bahnan
President
Lebanese Evangelical Society

Challenges VS Blessings

Checking my email is a daily thing I do after getting home from work back in Sydney, that day I received an unusual email from Lebanon informing me that I got appointed as director for Home of Hope. It was an answer from Above, a blessing I wasn't even thinking of. Three weeks after my fami-

ly and I left our comfort zone in Australia & came to Lebanon to work in a very challenging environment & unsafe country ; we had lot of "what if's..." & bad expectations, our focus was on how big the challenge is , not how great our God is. Four months after, our lives changed, our faith grew, & our

blessings increased.

To our challenges I say: **watch out my God is greater than you.**

Maher Tabarani
Director
Home of Hope

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS
COMING SOON



Lebanese Evangelical Society
LEBANESE EVANGELICAL
INSTITUTE
For Social Work and Develop-
ment
Memorandum 333 of 22/7/1967

H O M E O F H O P E

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WORK & DEVELOPMENT

USD IBAN : LB48 0014 0000 3002 3040 8523 5313
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BLOM BANK - HAZMIEH BRANCH

Some of the main areas in which we de- sire to see lives changed is in:

- **Education:** It is our goal that all the children entering the institution will have the opportunity to receive a basic education, especially focusing on literacy.
- **Social Rehabilitation:** Many children have been so mistreated that they cannot function in society. Our aim is to teach them how to be positive, productive members of society.
- **Health:** Most children come to us from streets and are in poor health. We desire to see them restored to good health and then taught how to take care of themselves. The majority of street children know nothing about sanitation and they have to be taught the most basic principles.
- **Trade Skills:** Because they are barred from school and work, we see it necessary to teach the children a practical, trade-based skill, such as cooking, sewing, carpentry, and mechanics.
- **Recreation:** Children, at the end of the day, are children. We want them to enjoy their childhood, and not have to look back on their past always with pain and regret.
- **Basic needs:** food, water, clothes, and a child safe place to live in.

Once Upon a Child

Once upon a time, in a land much like your own, there was a young boy, named *Unwanted*. This young boy grew up with parents who did not care for him or even want him. His mother left him when he was two years old, and his father spent all of his time and money on drugs and alcohol. When the *Unwanted* would do anything that displeased his father, he would be burned with a lighter or poked with knives. If he continued to displease his father, which happened every time he would drink, *Unwanted* would be forced to sleep outside in the cold. *Unwanted* would frequently run away from home and go to his grandmother's house. However, his father would always come and find him. One day *Unwanted* decided he would run away for good, and live on the street. One night while his father slept, the young lad, now 8 years old, slipped out the door and into the night.

Life on the street was tough, for he had to beg and steal from people to be able to eat, and there was nowhere to sleep but the cold ground. After a number of months there came a day when the police stopped *Unwanted* and took him to the police station. They asked him who he is, and where his parents were. He responded simply, "I am *Unwanted*, I don't have any ID". Shortly after they put him in a scary police car and took him out of the city and into the mountains. He arrived at a big white building filled with the sound of children's voices. When he walked inside he saw many other children just like himself. He felt strange, and wondered what all these children were doing in this

place. He began asking the children their names, and one of the children said, "what is your name?". He replied, "*Unwanted*".

Slowly, *Unwanted* began to feel that these children and this new place was not strange at all, rather that this was his Home, and they were his family. Many months later a new child came to the home, and asked him, "what is your name?". He responded, "my name is *Beloved*".

Note: Once Upon a Child is a dramatized, but not exaggerated, narrative of a child previously or currently present at the Home of Hope