

# Mow he who supplies SEED TO THE SOWER AND BREAD FOR FOOD will also supply and increase your store of seed AND WILL ENLARGE THE HARVEST OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(2 Corinthians 9:10)

God is the ultimate source of every good thing we have to offer, and our growth, in all its dimensions, finds its roots in Him. His generosity multiplies our results, creating a bountiful harvest. He is not only the starting point but also the One who magnifies the impact of our work in ways beyond our understanding. As we reflect on 2023, we are grateful to have sown more seeds than in previous years and witnessed a great harvest in the nurturing hands of the Lord. In this season of growth, our programs and partners enabled us to further our mission at New Heights: *To engage people with God's word by empowering partners with innovative programs*.

### **Growth In Our Communities BEYOND THE BOX**

Beyond the Box remains committed to building connections between churches and families, and its impact continues to grow.



Over the past year, we successfully collaborated with 25 churches in Leanon, reaching a total of 212 families. A total of 322 families were served in Lebanon and the Levant. As part of our ongoing efforts, in collaboration with our partners. we distributed Christmas-themed boxes that can be transformed into a Christmas tree and a manger, bringing joy and hope to the community during the holiday season. Given the challenging circumstances in the Middle East. providing resources churches to has enabled them to address the physical and spiritual needs of families, creating a change for the better within their communities.





We are delighted to report that 304 families have begun attending churches as a result of this program. Furthermore, we have initiated children's clubs within the churches in Syria to engage children with God's Word in fun and interactive ways. The participation of children and families in our clubs and church events stands as a testament to the impact of this ministry. The program has played a significant role in bringing individuals to Christ, with at least seven people choosing to express their faith through baptism.

### **BOX, FAITH, BAPTISM**

In December 2022, a family was connected to one of our church partners through the Beyond the Box program, leading them to participate in the church's Christmas event for children. This marked the beginning of a transformation for the entire family as Samir\*, the father, accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour there. Throughout 2023, the family actively engaged in discipleship and delved into Christ's teachings under the church's care and guidance. Samir began reaching out to his community by inviting new people to the church, discipling them, and opening his house for a bible study. His children also continued attending the children's programs run by the church and showing notable growth in faith. Recently, this family, now an integral part of the church, decided to get baptized and is eagerly preparing for the ceremony in the spring. Our church partner expressed deep gratitude for this program, as it has played a crucial role in connecting individuals and families to the church community.

2,476
Visits Conducted
1,586 Lebanon
890 The Levant

507 Children Served 307 Lebanon 200 The Levant

2,476
Boxes Distributed
1,586 Lebanon

890 The Levant

25 Lebanon
21 The Levant

### **MADE CLEAN**

This year brought its fair share of challenges to our Made Clean program, but we faced them head-on and made several necessary changes.

We had to tweak our system, leading to changes in our camps, including introducing some new camps and revisiting old favorites. Reconnecting with parents from past camps was heartwarming. They welcomed us happily! Despite a brief pause due to the ongoing situation in the south of Lebanon, their warm welcome reflected the strong bonds we've built. The real highlight was seeing the Children's faces light up when they saw us return. They remembered us and what we taught them, and their enthusiasm to jump back into the lessons was amazing. The impact of our program is evident in the noticeable changes in children's behavior. Parents are thankful for the improved respect and the willingness to apologize that they see in their children.





While the sessions are not specifically designed for parents, they actively participate in learning by observing us implement the program. As Muslims, they appreciate teachings like those of Joseph and Daniel from the Old Testament. They even shared that they value how Christians teach love and base their actions on it. Additionally, they express admiration for our teaching methods, mentioning that they also benefit from our approach. This learning experience helps both children and parents acquire reading and writing skills, creating a meaningful impact.

### PROMOTING LOVE AND SUPPORT

Our teachings on love and support had an impact on Mohammad\*, a boy who used to resort to physical aggression, especially towards his sisters. As we encouraged him to support and care for his sister, he made a heartfelt commitment to end his aggressive tendencies. His sister, in turn, could not contain her joy and shared how his actions had transformed, expressing gratitude for the love and respect in their relationship that has created an atmosphere of understanding and harmony within their family.

#### **EDUCATIONAL MILESTONE**

Ahmad\*, an illiterate father residing in the Damour camp we serve, found happiness in his children receiving some form of education, given their inability to attend a formal school. He would always stand and watch the sessions we were giving the children and our teaching methods. Once our team left the camp, Ahmad would go to his children, take the activity sheets they worked on, review and attempt to solve them himself. Now, Ahmad has successfully acquired the basics of reading and writing. Ahmad's commitment to his children's education led him on his own journey to literacy, showing that learning can happen anywhere, even in unusual situations.

**111** 151 Children

Reached

Visits Conducted

2 12 Camps Visited

641 Loads of Laundry

#### **MOTHERS CLUB**

As the new year arrives, our aim of equipping and empowering mothers to bring transformation to their lives and families continues.



We expanded our mothers' club to Beirut while maintaining our activities in the Bekaa Valley. During the mothers' club sessions, we addressed various social topics related to motherhood while offering a spiritual perspective, including hygiene, breastfeeding, children's and mothers' nutrition, menstrual health, the mother's role and challenges, family planning, and others. Aside from facilitating discussions, sharing teachings, and running playful activities, we provided self-care kits to the mothers every two to three sessions. Additionally, to ensure overall well-being and reduce the risk of nutritional deficiencies, we supplied the mothers with multivitamins and folic acid, as well as multivitamins for their children. We also arranged for clinical visits for the mothers and their children every three months. During these visits, mothers received thorough check-ups from gynecologists, and their children underwent checkups with pediatricians. While emphasizing physical health, we also prioritize mental well-being. For this reason, in Beirut, we conducted counseling sessions for two months using our Mobile Counseling Unit. Looking ahead, we're actively working on developing an improved curriculum for the club, aiming to implement it in the upcoming year.





### **SHARED TEARS, SHARED HOPE**

One time, during a session in the Bekaa Valley, the women expressed sadness about the general situation of Lebanon and their families. The women opened up about their emotions and discussed the challenges they were facing. Following the women's sharing, our team member told them that even if they feel unable to share and open up to anyone or if they believe no one hears them, they have God who is always there and attentive to their feelings, problems, and concerns. They were reminded that they could share everything with Him and that they could rely on Jesus Christ to be their source of hope amidst life's challenges. It is essential to clarify that the mention of Jesus Christ was prompted by the presence of the Holy Spirit, our team member felt a holy strength pushing her to mention his name. We exercise caution in discussing Jesus in the camps due to potential consequences, including expulsion, traps, or life-threatening situations. Our emphasis is always on God for the safety of everyone involved. After the session concluded, all the women expressed how it made them feel heard. As they left, one woman shared that she learned how to express and share her emotions with God, acknowledging that He always listens to them.

**26**Mothers Served

14 Bekaa

**12** Bourj Hammoud

**\$14**Gatherings Conducted

**7** Bekaa

**7** Bourj Hammoud

### **MOBILE COUNSELING UNIT**

While the Mobile Counseling Unit continues serving the communities we started with, we have expanded our radius to include more locations, now operating in four areas in total.



This growth made possible through is collaborative partnerships with different churches. We remain dedicated to serving children, teenagers, young adults, and their parents. After each session, people express their joy and share positive feedback about the benefits they are receiving. Notably, our collaboration with churches does not restrict our services to believers alone. The Mobile Counseling Unit serves individuals from all walks of life, irrespective of their religious beliefs. This openness has allowed many non-believers to find solace and support through our project. We are grateful for this broad reach, as it allows us to extend the message of hope to those who need it the most.



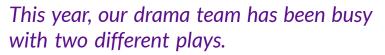
#### **SHARED TEARS, SHARED HOPE**

Ryan\*, a child whom we used to visit in our Beyond the Box ministry, caught our attention when we learned that his brother died a year and a half ago. At the time of the incident, Ryan was 11 years old. While riding their bicycles and crossing the road, Ryan's brother was hit by a car, and Ryan saw his sibling die in front of him. The traumatic incident left him struggling emotionally and academically. His school performance worsened despite his mother's efforts to hire tutors and always check his work. He would also be sad and angry because he felt alone: his mother worked, and his father, who was abusive towards the family, was absent after the divorce. Upon starting counseling sessions, Ryan initially found it challenging to open up. However, over the course of 21 sessions in about three months, he showed significant progress. Remarkably, his academic performance improved this school year without the need for tutors or his mother's follow-up. The counselor addressed both academic concerns and Ryan's trauma and fear. They visited the location of the accident twice after he had been avoiding it since the incident. Additionally, she encouraged him to confront another fear, riding bicycles. She asked his mother to take him on the weekend or whenever they have free time to ride bicycles. We were thrilled when we received pictures from Ryan's mother of him riding the bike.





### Growth In Our Schools PERFORMING ARTS



"The Festival" play Giving focuses on promoting the spirit of giving, and we recently piloted it, aiming to take it on tour in the upcoming year. The other play is a lively Christmas production. Our team toured across Lebanon, various bringing this plav to churches and schools. The play creatively narrates the nativity story with humorous characters and catchy songs, unfolding in a village where the sheherds witnessed the angel's appearance during the birth of Jesus. The plot involves a Christmas-hating villain named Farid, who tries to ruin the holiday by stealing all the sheep with his side-kick. Throughout the tour, we were thrilled to see the enthusiastic response from children, especially towards the villain, and when the plot undergoes a surprising change, turning from mischief to goodness.





Our primary goal is for children to enjoy the creative aspects of our programs and embrace the message of a loving God. A nun from a catholic school told us: "It is very nice how you got the message across in a clear, beautiful, entertaining and funny way. Both teachers and students enjoyed the play." Additionally, it's worthy of mention that children still remember us from last year's play and it's clear we left a mark. They remembered the story and the characters and even answered some questions we asked about it. That's what we aim for - sharing the Word of God in a fun interactive way that leaves a lasting memory in the minds of both the children and adults we meet.



119,384 Children Served



### **BOYS' AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT**

This year, we continued with the Boys' Empowerment and the Girls' Empowerment programs to bring transformation to the lives of young people who need it the most.



Throughout the year, we covered topics such as anatomy, personality development, morals, teamwork, life goals, and the importance of hard work, emphasizing cultivating healthy friendships over toxic ones. The sessions focused on providing essential awareness while gaining insights into the unique needs of each participant, tailoring the curriculum to address crucial subjects, and empowering them to make informed decisions. The curriculum is rooted in the principles of the Bible, with long-term goals aimed at equipping the participants to thrive, lead lives of purpose and significance, and realize their full potential.

### THE EMPOWERED EMPOWER

Many of the girls we work with in the Girls' Empowerment program face the challenges of dropping out of school and entering early marriages due to familial and societal pressures. Among those girls, and after completing the Girls' Empowerment program, there's one breaking new ground in her extended family by pursuing an education. Initially, her cousins used to taunt her about it. Yet, after participating in our program, she found the confidence to confront them and convey the importance of education for both genders. Not only did the teasing from her cousins end, but some were also inspired to initiate their own educational journeys. Stories like this are a testament to the impact of these programs in shaping the lives of young individuals within the communities they serve.





### **Growth In Lebanon & Beyond**JORDAN PLAY & WORKSHOP

This year, we had the opportunity to visit Jordan to conduct a drama workshop for our partners at the Bible Society, where we helped participants discover the fun and power of storytelling.



We also trained, directed, and rehearsed two teams for a play titled "The Greatest Story." This production tells the story of the Bible, covering everything from creation to the coming of Jesus Christ, his death, and resurrection. The remarkable volunteers from these two teams showcased incredible talent as they brought the play to life across various locations in Jodan. A young boy from Irbid shared with us: "Today I heard the greatest story in the world, and I learned that I need to listen to the word of Jesus. The play was beautiful, the story was beautiful, and I liked everything!"



**18** Plays Performed

1,910 Children Served

Church & School Partners





### **BOOK DISTRIBUTION**

As well as training, we're dedicated to getting scripture-based books into the hands of youth and children in Lebanon and across the Arab world.

Our main goal is to spread the message of Christ to the broader community and provide them with spiritual guidance and support. We truly hope that every child in the Arab world gets to know Christ through these books, designed to spark their curiosity and interest in exploring Bible stories, help them remember verses, and learn practical things about God's teachings in their language.







### Growth In the Digital World LINABNIHAYATAHOM

At the heart of our mission to support Sunday School teachers in the Arab world lies the LinabniHayatahom website, our dedicated digital library.



This online resource hub, offering diverse free materials in Arabic curated for teaching children about God, remains a cornerstone of our commitment. We've worked hard in the last six months to spread the word about the LinabniHayatahom website. More people are downloading and registering, showing that our efforts are making a real impact. To address the challenges of physical barriers, we established online focus groups accessible to participants in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan through our church networks.





These groups are designed to offer training sessions for Sunday school teachers and guide them through our website, ensuring the effective use of its resources. In parallel, we've expanded our efforts beyond digital platforms with the Egypt training tour. Covering cities of Alexandria, Assiut, Cairo, and Minya, we conducted four training sessions for over 400 Sunday school teachers and individuals involved in children's ministry. The sessions were interactive, with the participants showing enthusiasm and dedication to enhancing the learning experience for the children they serve.

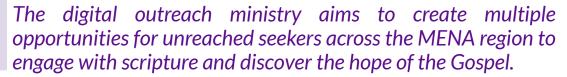








#### **DIGITAL OUTREACH**





Digital programs can bypass geographical restrictions and limitations, reaching people that may not have been possible otherwise. We give people within the MENA region multiple engagements with scripture and the opportunity to connect with Online Missionaries safely and securely who can guide them through their faith journey. In an effort to grow this ministry, we expanded our team of online missionaries, establishing relationships with new Arabic, French, and Urdu online missionaries this year. We've also seized more opportunities to meet and engage with people face-to-face, facilitating baptisms and deepening connections on the ground. We've broadened our reach by utilizing new technologies and embracing innovation, ensuring our message reaches diverse audiences.













### SHARED TEARS, SHARED HOPE

Zahra\* from Morocco, a Muslim Woman aspiring to become a teacher of Islamic law, engaged in conversations with one of our online missionaries for more than three or four months. Throughout this period, she lied, manipulated, and misled the Online Missionary numerous times and across different aspects of their discussions. However, the Online Missionary forgave her, continued to follow up with her, and shared the message of Christ. The online missionary's behavior led Zahra to ask how such forgiveness was possible. Over six months, the Online Missionary diligently followed up with her. Zahra participated in several Bible studies and had questions. Finally, Zahra and the Online Missionary had a phone call where her inquiries were addressed, leading her to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior. Zahra shared that during that night, while praying before sleep, she heard a voice saying, "Congratulations, now you've been born again." After hearing this voice, she saw a blinding light shining on her face. She kept rubbing her eyes to make sure she was awake. She got scared, and temporary deafness occurred. Zahra is diagnosed with severe anemia, causing hair loss and fertility issues, making it impossible for her to carry a child. She always thought that God hated her and deprived her of many beautiful things, especially children. After her experience with God, she visited the doctor. The doctor had to do several tests and echoes in her abdominal area, thinking she was sick and had a lump. After the test results, the doctor was shocked, and so was she, because it turned out she was two weeks pregnant. The doctor, astonished, declared it a miracle, attributing it to the work of God. In her own words, Zahra expressed gratitude to The Lord: "Praise be to God, I am relying on the Lord, doing good, and entrusting myself to the Lord to guide me and grant me clarity. Since the day I said, 'I believe in Christ,' I have relied on Him. This is my new journey, and this is what I desire and intend for my life. I hope to be on the path of truth, Lord. I hope that one day I return as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I wish to be under His command, my heart included."

As we bid farewell to 2023, we want to express our gratitude for you. Your support, combined with God's grace, has brought real change and growth on both individual and community levels. Together, we've created a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals across the MENA region, spanning from children to adults, and we attribute the harvest of this year to the collaborative effort of our partners and, most importantly, to the Lord.

## Thank you for your continuous prayers and support.

As we look forward to the New Year, we do so with faith and hope, knowing that with your partnership and God's blessings, we'll continue to reach New Heights in bringing the transformative power of God's Word into the lives of people in the MENA region.