MOVING FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE
The DEPARY

The war in Syria, now six years in length, has devastated the Syrian population. Almost 8 million people are internally displaced with an additional 5 million people fleeing to neighboring countries. Syrians are fleeing in mass to Lebanon, the largest per capita host of refugees worldwide.

Refugees arrive in Lebanon frantically looking for shelter, basic provisions and someone to trust. The war has stolen faith in humanity as many were forced to leave their physical safety, daily provision, security, and emotional stability. They arrive broken and full of despair with shattered hearts and dreams faced with an unknown future. What we see in the Middle East is a humanitarian crisis that must be met with more than aid.

Lebanon is overburdened and unable to keep pace with the refugee crisis. The weak economy and the limited financial resources available add to the dire situation the refugees and locals are experiencing. Children are the most vulnerable—having experienced war atrocities and crimes against humanity firsthand, they are definitely at great risk. Children fleeing to Lebanon, in many cases with just their mom and siblings, arrive without the basic needs for survival: food and shelter. They do not have a safe place to live, play, learn or laugh.
When hardship strikes and despair prevails, Heart for Lebanon responds with a message of hope and a heart of compassion.

Camille Melki, CEO/Founder

Even in this despair there is an unprecedented opportunity for followers of Jesus. The very people who have lost everything to conflicting religious and cultural views are willing to look for a Christ-centered remedy to the on-going culture of divisiveness and controlling ideologies. Only the love of Jesus Christ can break this cycle of mistrust and bring people together. This crisis offers Christians the landscape to demonstrate compassionate love with honest answers to difficult questions that are raised.

Elias and his wife Randa were very happy living in Syria with their two daughters. They had good jobs and were prosperous owning a large house and land. When the war broke out, the Syrian army forced the males, ages 18-45, to join the military service. Elias was arrested and his identification papers were taken from him. In order to free him, Randa had to sell all their properties to provide money to “buy him out of jail.” Two months later he was freed after many attempts to help him. The family decided to flee to Lebanon and now live in one room with no furniture, only one mattress, one blanket, one sofa and very few clothes collected in small bags. “We escaped from bombs and rockets in Syria, to face new challenges related to financial issues,” said Randa with tears in her eyes. Heart for Lebanon registered this family to benefit from monthly food and hygiene portions, praying with them asking the Lord for protection and job opportunities. The family gratefully accepted the help and thanked Heart for Lebanon for its concern. Randa is attending our Bible study in Zahle and learning about Jesus Christ.
The doorway to HOPE

Relief & Community Care is Heart for Lebanon’s entry into the lives of refugees offering unconditional lifesaving relief and care for the community where they live. The people we serve are living at or below the extreme poverty line, bringing a multitude of insecurities and fears. Transactional relief takes the form of food and hygiene product distributions. In this act we address the physical needs of the whole family.

Heart for Lebanon distributes monthly food and hygiene portions to Syrian and Iraqi refugee families, to Christians and Muslims alike. The portions include supplemental food items to go with other fresh food items families need to secure on their own. Our food portions are given to the families, regardless of religion or personal belief – we only ensure that these families fit the vulnerability criteria of living below the $4 a day extreme poverty level. By providing food each month we help families become food secure, giving them one less thing to worry about in a nation that does not recognize their legal refugee status. As different needs arise, we provide special distributions in the form of kitchen items, plastic sheeting, heaters, winter clothing, blankets and mats to offset the harsh living conditions and the brutal winter weather they encounter in the country of Lebanon.

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, cloth yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12
Children at RISK

Transactional Relief also provides a non-formal education program to address the needs of children. In most cases refugee children have been out of school for six years. This is unacceptable for the future of the Middle East and Heart for Lebanon is committed to filling this educational gap. We have an unprecedented opportunity to help children think differently based on positive Biblical values to inspire and elevate the thinking of this generation of future leaders.

H.O.P.E. Educational Program (Helping Overcome Poverty through Education) provides non-formal education for refugee children who are unable to afford school. This Program gives children ages 5-12 the opportunity to learn basic Arabic, English, math, and health awareness as well as Biblical character development instruction. There are also special opportunities for art, music, and tutoring.

Hope on Wheels is a mobile ministry truck that travels between tent communities offering refugee children an opportunity to play in a safe environment and enjoy being children again. The children are taught health awareness and Biblical truths through fun and entertaining skits, videos, and music.

Heart for Lebanon has three H.O.P.E. Educational Programs located in Beirut, Bekaa, and South Lebanon.

Rachel is a young girl, who fled Syria and is now living in Lebanon with her family. One of her best friends was killed on a playground. “A bomb hit our house and we ran. I was so scared.” Rachel now attends Heart for Lebanon’s H.O.P.E. Educational Program. “I love this school because the teachers treat us well and really care about us.” “My favorite thing is learning about Jesus. I like that Jesus is teaching us not to lie or hurt others, but to respect life and forgive those that do bad to us.” “Seeing Rachel come home excited about school and ready for a good meal really makes me happy,” Rachel’s mother said with a smile. “She has a chance for a good future, which is very rare for girls in our culture. I just want to thank all the people who are helping support us. God bless you.”
Relational engagement addresses the emotional and spiritual needs of families. This is accomplished primarily through periodic home visits, faith-based programs and children’s activities. It is through these actions that authentic relationships are built and we are able to share the love of Jesus Christ. It begins with caring about all facets of the person: physical, emotional and spiritual.

Transformation begins after a relationship has developed. At this level, Heart for Lebanon provides spiritual and vocational resources to individuals and families. These resources allow them to become familiar with and engage in fulfilling work and sustainable spiritual growth. As a faith-based Christian ministry, Heart for Lebanon takes a holistic approach working to address the emotional and spiritual needs of families through regular visits to their tent settlement offering prayers and encouragement and providing faith-based programs including Bible Studies and children’s activities, all leading to the building of lasting and authentic relationships.

While we believe that transactional relief and humanitarian aid are extremely important to the wellbeing and future of those in need, we also believe that relational engagement with those we serve sets the stage for trust and transformational conversations about deeper life issues, including spiritual beliefs. Conversations are vitally important in any culture and this is especially true in the Middle East.

“What we discussed today in Bible Study was very practical for how we live in our daily life. It is very important to see how normal a person Peter the Apostle was. He passed through many difficulties in his life, and Jesus was teaching him many important things to make him a leader. This session gave me hope. I want to trust the Lord in all my situations. If Jesus, as we heard today, worked on Peter and changed him into that leader, I trust the Lord that He can also change me. This Bible Study has changed my view of life. I used to be skeptic and non-believer, but now I found my faith in Christ. I used to be so afraid of death, but now I have faith in resurrection as Peter believed in Christ’s resurrection and was able to die for his faith.”
Building on HOPE

We build centers of hope to engage the children, families and refugee community. It becomes a beacon of light within the landscape of despair.

HOPE MINISTRY CENTER – BEKAA will be a 54,000-square-foot facility where children and families will experience Christ-like compassionate care. This new facility will more than double our ministry capacity in the Bekaa Valley, hosting a 250-seat chapel for Bible studies and discipleship training, a coffee shop for relational engagement, a dormitory to house Service Teams, and allow 250 children to attend the HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty through Education) Educational Program. This facility is at the epicenter of refugee travel in and out of Syria. For this facility to open as planned in the late Fall of 2019, we are praying for one million dollars per year (2017, 2018, 2019) to complete this ministry center on time.
Fueling HOPE

Those supporting Heart for Lebanon are investing in another person or family. Their gift is going beyond aid and cultivating transformation among nations. It is more than a donation; it’s an investment given with an expectation of a return. This pushes Heart for Lebanon to honor its investors by planning for long-term success and remaining accountable in how we steward our resources. Every dollar counts.

MONTHLY INVESTORS

Being agile and ready to respond to the immediate desperate needs is vital for our long-term goal. All personal investments are needed and welcomed, however, it is the monthly investing that gives us the consistency we need to stay with a family for 12 months.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

The Church has a call to disciple nations. Heart for Lebanon is strategically and uniquely positioned to be an extension of the Church, leveraging resources to minister to refugees and the under-resourced residents of Lebanon.

WORK PLACE INVESTING

As we engage a community abroad, we can also engage our own neighbors here. Have you investigated the possibility that your employer might match your investment with Heart for Lebanon or have a way to help others invest with you?

BE AN ADVOCATE

Sharing the story of refugees brings them dignity, a recognized value among the nations and the awareness needed to make transformational change. Become an advocate by sharing the story. Help us host small and large informational events to help the public understand the opportunity before us.

LEGACY GIVING

Planned Giving is an important part of managing your resources as a godly steward. A well-designed planned gift (such as a will or trust) will help you achieve your overall financial or estate goals by maximizing your gifts to ministry while also providing superior tax benefits and additional income into the future. It demonstrates a lasting legacy of faith to encourage and inspire those you love.

All the above help Heart for Lebanon to address the needs of disenfranchised people. Other forces will and are seizing the opportunity to spread hatred, a culture of divisiveness, and violence. ISIS and other radical terrorist groups are trying to spread their theology of hatred and violence. It is imperative that Christians step-up unashamedly to address these very real threats with love. The minds and hearts of many people depend on us. The future of the Middle East depends on it.
Over the last four years we have seen God bless Heart for Lebanon with an average growth of 18% annually. This in turn has allowed us to increase the number of families being served and transformed.

**Financial Accountability and Transparency:**
We believe that transparency and accountability are critical for an effective ministry. As Christ followers we believe we are accountable to one another in all aspects of our faith. The Heart for Lebanon Board is very engaged and 100% of our members financially invest.

**Four Year Financial Summary**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Ministry Expenses</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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Dixon Hughes Goodman, an independent accounting firm provides the Board of Directors with an annual audit. A copy of the most recent financial audit is available upon request.

Heart for Lebanon is a beautiful expression of God’s unconditional love to some of the most fragile and marginalized people on this earth. The Team is intimate, integral, strategically compassionate and kind in the way they treat refugees, a wonderful example of Jesus on earth. I believe this is what God has in mind to bring the Gospel and hope to the entire ME.

Danielle Strickland, Major
The Salvation Army USW
Social Justice Secretary

I have watched as Heart for Lebanon has grown from a heart-felt idea into a dynamic opportunity for Jesus’ sake! This ministry is on the front lines of both current events and the biblical mandate to care for the “least of these” - made so much more alive in the context of Biblical prophecy and world history. As an organization—Heart for Lebanon is transparent, culturally relevant, spiritually sound and financially strong.

David Bruce
Executive Assistant to Billy Graham
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

When I saw with my own eyes the lives that were being changed in Lebanon, my only response was to pray for them and support them financially. The volunteers are so much more than just volunteers. The Staff is so much more than just staff. During my visit I met desperate refugees - men, women, and little children - who would have never known Christ if it had not been the faithful efforts of the people at Heart for Lebanon. I want to be a part of that.

Paul Niven, Salem Media Group
HEART FOR LEBANON, founded in 2006, is a faith-based ministry that employs a holistic approach to serving the marginalized, rejected and under-resourced peoples in Lebanon.

MISSION
To make disciples of Jesus Christ.

VISION STATEMENT
Driven by the compassionate heart of Jesus Christ, Heart for Lebanon exists to see lives changed and communities transformed.

PASSION STATEMENT
We are passionate to reach the lost and broken, to advance peace, justice, and equality and to empower the marginalized and rejected.

STRATEGY
Heart for Lebanon believes transformation is a process, not an event. Rather unique among the relief work in Lebanon is our three-prong approach to care: transactional relief, relational engagement, and transformational results.

DESIRED OUTCOME
To move people from despair to hope.

“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” Romans 10:14 NIV

“This is our time in history. It is our greatest opportunity to show and share the love of Jesus Christ to refugees and under-resourced people. We dare not miss this!”
Tom Atema, COO/Co-founder