

2018  
Christmas  
Offering

HELPING  
**SYRIAN REFUGEES**  
IN LEBANON FROM RIGHT HERE IN INDY



“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”

ROMANS 10:14 ESV





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# LEBANON

*Beirut:  
Lebanon's  
capital and  
home to Heart  
for Lebanon's  
central offices.*



*Bekaa Valley:  
Where the new  
Hope Ministry  
Center is being  
built.*

*Sidon:  
The location  
of another  
one of Heart  
for Lebanon's  
ministry centers.*



## A LEGACY OF INVESTING IN LEBANON

This isn't the first time College Park Church has invested in the kingdom of God in Lebanon. We partnered with Heart for Lebanon for our 2015 Christmas Offering, giving \$524,000 towards the construction of a new community and distribution center in the Bekaa Valley. This center, alongside two others, helps meet the physical needs of more than 3,000 Syrian refugees each month. As the physical needs are met, Heart for Lebanon has the unique opportunity to speak into the spiritual needs of the refugees as well.

That's where the Hope Ministry Center comes in. Construction on the center has already begun, and its completion will allow Heart for Lebanon to multiply its reach in the community, offering space for the local Lebanese and refugee community to meet for worship gatherings, chapel services, and Bible classes. The Hope Ministry Center will also provide space for job skill training, medical screenings, and resource distribution. By meeting physical needs first, Heart for Lebanon builds a foundation of trust to then meet spiritual needs. As Christ moves, Muslims are coming to faith, being discipled, and multiplying into the lives of others.

LEBANON ALONE  
HOLDS

**17.3 %**

OF ALL  
SYRIAN REFUGEES

LEBANON  
HOSTS THE

**LARGEST**

NUMBER OF  
REFUGEES  
PER CAPITA  
WORLDWIDE

THERE ARE  
NOW

**5.6M**

SYRIAN REFUGEES

## THE NEED

Since the Syrian civil war officially began in March 2011, millions of Syrians have fled the country as refugees. Syria's neighboring country, Lebanon, is the largest per capita host<sup>1</sup> of the 5.6 million displaced Syrian refugees.<sup>2</sup> Fear of war and hope for job opportunities continue to drive refugees to Lebanon, but resources are dwindling as the country ministers to the waves of incoming refugees, as well as its own people.

Heart for Lebanon seeks first to provide for these refugees' practical needs—food, hygiene amenities, and educational programs. However, the greater vision of this organization is for these families to know their ultimate refuge in Christ. Through relieving physical needs, Heart for Lebanon builds a foundation that will support the truth of the gospel.

This year's Christmas Offering grants you the opportunity to help meet these needs and support this important mission, from right here in Indianapolis.



<sup>1</sup>[heartforlebanon.org/history](http://heartforlebanon.org/history)

<sup>2</sup>[data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria](http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria)



# HEART FOR LEBANON

Heart for Lebanon is a faith-based, four-star, ECFA accredited ministry. Unique among refugee work, the mission of Heart for Lebanon is stated simply, “to make disciples of Jesus Christ.” Believing in transformation as a process rather than an event, Heart for Lebanon engages refugees through humanitarian aid and education for at-risk children, relational engagement, and reconciliation through spiritual discipleship. Heart for Lebanon views its ministry as a privilege, and it is intentional about pursuing personal conversations that allow families to share their stories and their needs. This loving acceptance often opens a door for a Heart for Lebanon team member to introduce the family to Christ and invite them to attend a Bible study. Families are given practical care in the form of basic goods, as well as deeper emotional and spiritual care through regular home visits, spiritual programs, and children’s activities. Heart for Lebanon actively lives out its belief that reconciliation through discipleship is a lifelong process.

There are over

**900,000**

SYRIANS WHO HAVE  
SOUGHT REFUGE IN  
LEBANON



## TWO ENVIRONMENTS

Heart for Lebanon's vision is the creation of faith-defining environments that give under-resourced families and children in Lebanon the chance to encounter God and grow spiritually. The two main environments are:

**HUMANITARIAN AID.** This meets the physical needs of families by providing supplemental monthly food and hygiene packages to offset hunger and help provide hygienic living environments.

**H.O.P.E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.** The non-formal Helping Overcome Poverty through Education (H.O.P.E) program allows refugee children the opportunity to learn important subjects such as math, Arabic, English, art, music, Bible character traits, and leadership development. The program has positive effects on the students, as well as their families.

## AHMAD & ZAHRA

Ahmad and his family are Syrian Muslim Kurds, forced out of their village due to war in their country. Since receiving monthly food parcels from Heart for Lebanon, Ahmad began attending Heart for Lebanon's worship gatherings. These gatherings led Ahmad to trust in Christ as his personal Savior. Wanting to spread the hope he had found, Ahmad began leading a small group of worshipers in his tent settlement. His wife Zahra however, wanted nothing to do with the Christian faith.

On Palm Sunday, Heart for Lebanon hosted "Glory of Easter"—a four-night production, telling the story of Jesus. The event drew believers and nonbelievers alike, and two hundred ninety refugees—including Ahmad—traveled to Beirut to join the thousands in attendance.

Tired of being in her tent with nothing to do, Zahra came along with Ahmad for the ride. Little did she know the performance would be life-changing. Zahra experienced the unconditional love of Christ through the dramatic depiction of his crucifixion and resurrection.

Right after the event, Zahra told Ahmad, "Now I believe, Christ is Lord!" Zahra now believes there is no salvation apart from Christ. Like her husband, she is passionate in her newfound faith and desires to share the gospel truth with all she meets.

## FATIMA

After ISIS invaded Syria, Fatima and her five children were forced from their home. Her husband was abroad for work during the invasion and the borders between Syria and Jordan closed during his travel, making it impossible for him to get home. Initially, Fatima stayed in touch with her husband by phone, but the phone lines soon went down and they could no longer communicate. The responsibilities of both mother and father fell on Fatima's shoulders.

Fatima and her children lived on the streets for two weeks before she decided they would flee Syria and meet up with relatives living in Lebanon. Once they had crossed the border, Fatima met a woman named Rachel through Heart for Lebanon. She began attending a Bible study with Rachel and learned how to pray when she felt burdened. Now, Fatima describes prayer like, "fresh oxygen after choking."

Every week, Fatima eagerly awaits her Tuesday Bible study and gives thanks to God for her difficult circumstances and the impact Heart For Lebanon has had in her life.

# STORIES OF HOPE





## THIS YEAR'S INVESTMENT

To meet both the physical and spiritual needs of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, this year's Christmas Offering will support the construction of Heart for Lebanon's new Hope Ministry Center in the Bekaa Valley. The building is strategically located one mile from the capital of Zahlé and less than 20 miles from the Syrian border. This will allow Heart for Lebanon to continue to meet the needs of the refugee community, both now and when the Syrian border reopens. The desire is that the Hope Ministry Center will be a safe environment for spiritual formation to take place, largely through Bible classes, chapel services, discipleship groups, worship gatherings, and seeker events.

Due to the compelling need and the faithful work of construction teams, the building project is fifteen months ahead of schedule. However, Heart for Lebanon still needs two million dollars to complete the Hope Ministry Center.



The new ministry center will provide:

- ◆ A 250-seat chapel for a refugee church
- ◆ Classrooms able to host 250 students for ministry activities
- ◆ Medical screenings and resource distribution
- ◆ Storage for hygiene and winterization packages
- ◆ Administrative space
- ◆ Future job skill training

Goals of the Hope Ministry Center include:

- ◆ The flexibility to better serve both the local Lebanese and growing refugee community
- ◆ The capacity to host Heart For Lebanon's growing Sunday worship gathering in Zahlé, which has outgrown its current space
- ◆ The ability to better equip, train, and grow Muslim-born believers to bring restoration to the Syrian church when they return to Syria



## GET INVOLVED

### GIVE

On December 2, 2018, we'll collect our Christmas Offering. All of the money received that morning will support the building of Heart for Lebanon's Hope Ministry Center in the Bekaa Valley. You can give through the end of December.

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You can also give online by visiting [yourchurch.com/christmasoffering](http://yourchurch.com/christmasoffering)

### PRAY

Pray for God's continued provision through this organization, in the lives of the Lebanese and Syrian people.

Pray that lives will be transformed, ultimately through the love and work of Christ.

Visit [heartforlebanon.org](http://heartforlebanon.org) for more information.

### GO

Take a Vision Trip to Lebanon next spring or fall.

Visit [yourchurch.com/visiontrips](http://yourchurch.com/visiontrips) for more information.



2018 CHRISTMAS OFFERING



COLLEGE PARK CHURCH

[yourchurch.com/christmasoffering](http://yourchurch.com/christmasoffering)