

Beirut, December, 2018

Dear friends and Partners in the Lord,

Advent and Christmas greetings! May the one whose Advent we celebrate in this Holy Season come anew to your lives and Churches to bless and to give hope and light!

I would like to express deep gratitude to all of you on behalf of the refugee children who are educated by NESSL. Your support and loving prayers have provided for over seven hundred children a normal childhood education and normal environment to enjoy being loved and cared for.

*Many Thanks and Happy Advent!*

Happy Christmas!

NESSL continues to educate camps children in six locations that began in 2016. The new plan is that those schools will continue until 2020. By then we hope all Syrian refugees will return to Syria.



While we ended the school year 2017/18 with 650 children, it has been amazing that this year 2018/19 we began with 703 children. We know that the number may change depending on the fact that some families have decided to return to Syria.

The locations continue to be in:

- Kib Elias, Reyak, Anjar, (Becaa Valley).
- Tyre, South.
- Tripoly, Minyara (North).

Numbers of children in all is 703 children. Ages 3-10, few are 11 years who never been to school before. Numbers of teachers in each of the locations is 7 to 10.

Thank God for all our partners in the USA and Europe who are the agents of God's Love for those children.



Deep appreciation to the Presbyterian Church in Brazil who sent a group of professional dentists to Lebanon to visit and help the children in the schools. The group was of 8 persons. Many thanks to the Rev. Leonardo De Jesus, who was the only translator, but also the driver. To God be the glory!



First school to be visited was in Tripoly, North, where the group spent two full days.

All 124 children had their teeth examined. Many have been treated. One girl had serious problems with her gum. Her father was called to watch her being treated and was given instruction how to admit the medicine needed and provided.

All the children were taught how to brush their teeth and tooth brushes were distributed.



The second school visited was Kib Elias, where the group spent three full days.

All 152 children had their teeth examined. The majority needed treatment.



Written permissions were requested from parents for their children to be treated. Parents expressed expressions of deep gratitude, as none of their children had ever visited a dentist despite the need.

The Church is happy and grateful to carry on an educational ministry to those children and rescue them from becoming beggars on the streets. So many children have been exploited in many different ways.

Indeed, while this ministry requires high costs to pay teachers, provide school needs for all, including one bag of snack, juice, and transportation, the Church cannot neglect such a holy mission.

We praise God for all our partners who are praying and supporting this mission without whom the church will not be able to continue. In the Christ who came and will always be coming.

Lovingly.

Mary Mikhael