**Lebanon Update**

Lebanon’s dire situation has now become much worse since Israel ramped its response in early October to Hezbollah’s aerial attacks on northern Israel by carrying out widespread bombing raids in the country, no longer just confined to the border area in the south. Specific warnings were given to residents in the south of the country to leave for their own safety. But targets have now included the City Centre of Beirut, and in the Beqaa valley to the east. All this has provoked a mass migration of people leaving their homes in a hurry, often with no supplies. Over a million people (out of a population of nearly 6 million) are now living away from home. Schools and universities have been re-purposed as emergency accommodation centres, but many are sleeping on the streets with no shelter at all.

When we emailed contacts in Lebanon to express our concern about this tragic change of circumstances in an already struggling and suffering country and assure them of our continued prayer support one response was: -

*Thanks for your email, prayers, and concerns.*

*Just when you think it cannot possibly get worse, it does! But we are thankful that our team and families are safe and we continue to serve the Bible mission. Today, our creative team visited some schools housing refugees and “entertained” the children with some Christian values skits, music, and puppet shows. We always find an opportunity in the midst of crises.*

Christian relief organisation Tearfund is amongst those working with local partners on the ground in Lebanon to bring aid and encouragement to those who have been displaced. They are co-operating in the national Disasters Emergency Committee’s appeal for help for those suffering as a result of the current hostilities in Lebanon and Gaza. You can read more about their work and make a donation at: -

[https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/middle-east-emergency-appeal?\_gl=1\*rrpy8i\*\_up\*MQ..&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIoPD64pGYiQMVWZtQBh1qdQfPEAAYASAAEgJT0vD\_BwE](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/middle-east-emergency-appeal?_gl=1*rrpy8i*_up*MQ..&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIoPD64pGYiQMVWZtQBh1qdQfPEAAYASAAEgJT0vD_BwE)

Please give thanks for what Christians in Lebanon are doing to reach out with aid to the suffering. Please also pray for that precious gift of peace will not be long delayed – both a short-term cessation of hostilities and a lasting negotiated peace to allow all the peoples of the region to dwell in peace with their neighbours.

DMF

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