



Serving. Training.  
Energizing Partnerships.

## Lebanon

Lebanon, a tiny Arab nation strategically located at the east coast of the Mediterranean, has often been described as the gateway to the Arab World. Influenced by many civilizations throughout history, today Lebanon offers a mosaic of cultures, traditions and religions and is a commercial hub.

But peace remains a fragile commodity. The country is greatly impacted by global and regional conflicts with deep political and religious roots. It has over the years become a haven to threatened communities who fled from different parts of the region in search of refuge. This includes large numbers of Palestinian refugees who now live in Lebanon.

Both Christianity and Islam have a long history in Lebanon. Christ himself preached in the cities of Tyre and Sidon. As a matter of fact, history records that the country had become all Christian before Islam came to Lebanon around the 7th century. Today, however, 60% of the population is Muslim consisting of Sunni, Shiites, and Druze. The Christian community consists of diverse Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions and minority Protestant/Evangelical groups.



### Partner Profile

CBM is actively involved in Lebanon through our partnership with the **Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD)** – the legal parent for several ministries that were originally founded in the 1960s by Southern Baptist missionaries.

In the 1990s as the brutal 17 year civil war ended and as the support and funding for the Lebanese Baptists changed, the three original ministries - the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, the Baptist Publications (known in the Arab world as Dar Manhal Al Hayat), and the Beirut Baptist School - came under the local leadership of the LSESD.

The Beirut Baptist School provides quality education to around 1,300 students, over 90% of whom come from non-Christian backgrounds. Another initiative, Baptist Children and Youth Ministry, is focused on making a difference in the lives of children and youth, holding camps that are both spiritual and recreational in nature, sharing the love of Jesus and planting hope in their hearts.

The LSESD is legally separate from the structure and leadership of the Baptist Churches in Lebanon which has 30 churches. In 2005, the first CBM Global Field Staff, Elie and Mireille Haddad, were appointed to serve in Lebanon.

### Lebanon At-a-Glance

Population: 4.2 million (UN, 2009)  
Area: 10,452 sq km (4,036 sq miles)  
Major languages: Arabic (official), French, English  
Major religions: Islam (59.7%), Christianity (39%)  
Major ethnic groups: Arab (95%), Armenian (4%)

## Grassroots Leadership Development

Since the 1960s, hundreds of leaders from across the Middle East and North Africa have graduated from the Arab Baptist Theological School (located on the outskirts of the capital city of Beirut) and are now serving as pastors, church planters, evangelists and Christian workers with an effective and vibrant witness. CBM provides significant support to students with scholarships and ministry resources.

ABTS has initiated the Institute for Middle East Studies (IMES) with a mandate to bring about transformational change in thinking and practice between Christians and Muslims.



Despite the tremendous wealth in many of the Arab and North African countries, the disparity between the rich and the poor is increasing. The political instability in many of the countries in the region is causing significant internal

displacement and large refugee camps. ABTS students and graduates have done several relief projects in Iraq and Sudan, providing food, water, clothing and medicine.

The IMES organizes annual Middle East Conferences that address the urgent need for more dialogue and understanding on issues impacting the region including Islam and the Middle East context. IMES also includes the Academy for Languages and Practical Skills.

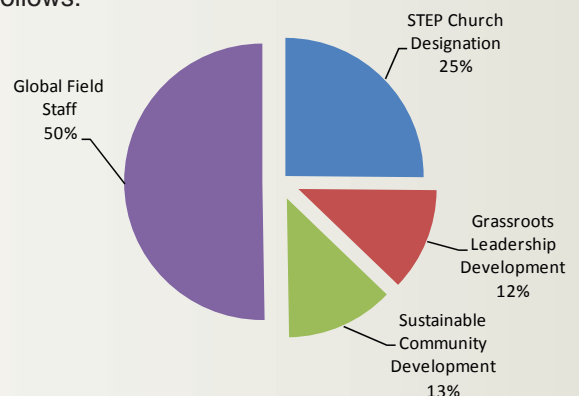
by God to return and help in the rebuilding. Elie serves as the President of ABTS and plays a crucial role in the development of leaders for Christian ministry in Lebanon and throughout the Arab world. Mireille serves as a volunteer with a local ministry that works mainly with Iraqi refugees.

## Community Development

In 2006, LSESD initiated the Lebanon Baptist Aid when a war broke out between Israel and Lebanon leading to the internal displacement of 25% of the Lebanese population. LSESD's very first task was to tend to the needs of thousands of displaced people – over 1,000 of whom were seeking shelter on the campuses of the ABTS and the BBS. This led to community development with water irrigation projects and an emergency health program to combat chronic diseases. Other projects are currently under study.

## Your Contribution at Work

Through your STEP commitment, you are a significant partner of CBM and LSESD in Lebanon. Your financial contributions will be allocated as follows:



## CBM Global Field Staff

**Rupen & Mamta Das** - Rupen, the Associate Director of The Sharing Way, CBM's relief and development department, provides leadership in creating poverty assessments and development programs in the Middle East and North Africa. He is also helping to develop training programs for church-based development workers. Mamta is involved in hospitality and outreach.

**Elie & Mireille Haddad** - Elie and Mireille have the distinction of being CBM's first Global Field Staff in Lebanon. Both are originally from Lebanon and felt led



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