

Newsletter

October 2009

Dear friends,

Warmest greetings from Lebanon! So, here we are again, at the beginning of a new school year, and thankfully feeling a little less nervous than this time last year! The summer time already feels very remote, but as we look back we are encouraged by the time that we had. It was lovely to have the opportunity to visit some of our Link churches and be able to share about God's work in Lebanon. We were really blessed by this time and we feel as though we have many friends! Thank you!

Comings and goings

Since our last newsletter there have been many comings and goings.

- The election that took place at the beginning of June came and went very peacefully, which was a wonderful answer to prayer. **Thank God** for his peace at this time.

- During July and August, two summer programmes took place – one run for the residential and school children by local churches



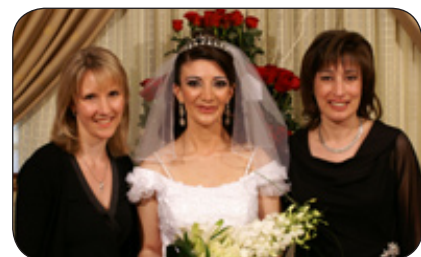
and one run by a church team from the UK. Each programme went very well and the children enjoyed taking part in new activities – swimming at a local pool, visiting the Cedars and a day at the river! We are very thankful to the commitment of each person to help lead these important programmes. **Praise God** for the provision of teams who are willing to give of their time to serve God in this way.

- At the end of the summer, Elizabeth (one of our house parents) left to join her new husband in Canada. We were very sad to say 'goodbye'. As yet we have been unable to appoint a new house parent. This has meant that we have had to ask some children to remain at



home, and have had to put other children into different units.

Pray that God would provide the right person for this crucial position.



- As always we have children that leave our programmes for one reason or another at the end of the summer term. It is always sad to see these children leave, but thankfully for several of the boys it has been for positive reasons – their home situations have improved significantly, meaning that they no longer need residential care. Please do **pray** for children that have left either the school or residential programmes. **Pray** that God will grow the seeds that have been sown in their lives. **Pray** that they will share what they have learnt with their family and friends.
- The start of the new academic year inevitably brings new children. Obviously this year, with staffing shortages, we have been unable to accept as many new children as we would like to. We were surprised by the number of new applications that have been made to the programmes, and it has been hard to read through them and read of lives and families that have been broken – through death,

through divorce, through poverty, through religion. In the midst of these broken families are children in need of love and stability. We have accepted four new boys into the residential programme and would like to take a moment to introduce one of them to you.

Meet Abed

Abed* is five years old.

He is the youngest of six children. His family is broken in so many ways – abuse, neglect, poverty. His mother is disabled and unable to work and father comes and goes. When our residential manager went to visit the family, the older brother (who been left to care for them) was in custody for stealing, so the younger children were



looking after themselves. Recently we have found out that the family have had to leave their two-roomed home to find somewhere else to live, as they have been unable to keep up with the rent. Abed's twin brothers are already part of the residential programme, so we were pleased to be able to offer a place to Abed. In the few days that he has been with us, we have met a boy who is polite, kind, loves football and has a big smile on his face! We would ask that you pray for him. That the love, care and stability he receives here will make a huge difference to his life. **Pray** that, as he hears of God's love for him and experiences that through the staff, he would come to a personal faith. **Pray** that for Abed, his brothers and the other new boys, being here would provide the opportunity for their lives to be transformed.



And us...

Well, we are expecting our own lives to change in the near future. At the beginning of the summer we found out that I was pregnant, and we are delighted to await the arrival of our baby in February. In the meantime, as well as preparing for the arrival of baby Gregory, Mat will be travelling to the Dominican Republic for a Kids Alive Directors conference. **Please pray** that this would be an encouraging time for him as he meets with other people in leadership, caring for children across the world. Please also **pray** for safety in his travels. And, please do **pray** for me as I will be 'home alone'!

Mat and I will be starting an online journal, which you will be able to access through BMS' website – so if you would like more regular updates, please sign up for this using the website address at the top of this letter. As always, thank you for your continued love and support. We appreciate your friendship!

With love,
Mat and Suzanne

**Not his real name*

BMS World Mission supports 350 personnel working in 34 countries of the world. Together they are involved mainly in church planting, development, disaster relief, education, health and media and advocacy. If you would like to support work like Mat and Suzanne's you can make a one-off donation, or you can become a 24:7 Partner for as little as £2 per month. Visit www.bmsworldmission.org or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet, or 01235 517641 for our donation hotline.