

.....Overseas Partner Fact Sheet..... **Armenian Evangelical Torosian School**

How it all started

Many Armenian refugees came to Beirut from Turkey, after the massacres there in 1915 and 1922. This school was established as a kindergarten with 20 children, in a two-roomed flat. Within a year, the number of students had doubled and in 1966 the school moved to a new building, provided by Mr and Mrs Torosian – hence the school's name. Primary and intermediate sections were added and today over 250 children aged between 4 and 14 years of age attend the school. When they leave, many of the children go on to study at other Armenian Evangelical schools in Beirut, which are also supported by BibleLands.

Current Activities

The school aims to provide local children with a good standard of Armenian Education. The Lebanese government curriculum is taught, with additional lessons in Armenian history, culture and language.

Armenians are proud of their heritage and that they were the first nation to adopt Christianity. There is a church on the school's campus and the pastor there serves the whole community. The school holds daily chapel services and teaches Bible study.

As well as learning Arabic and Armenian, the students are taught English from an early age and write in all three different scripts. Thanks to BibleLands' grants, the school has a computer lab and was able to refurbish its library.

The school focuses on the artistic abilities of the students and its extra-curricular activities include a choir and sports clubs. The drama club performs an annual play in Beirut and Aleppo, Syria and is occasionally invited to participate in an International Theatre Festival in Armenia.

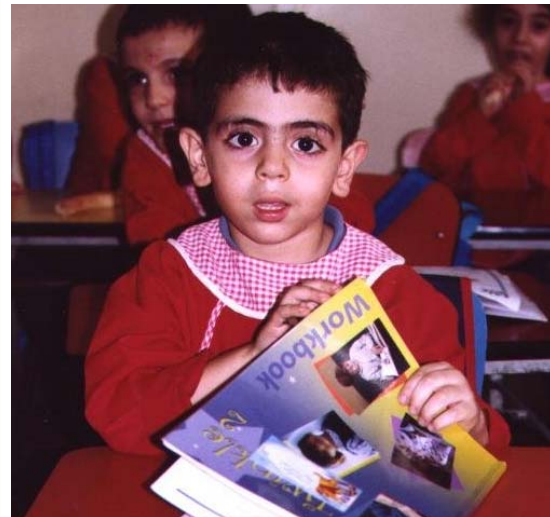
Key facts

Founded: 1951

Location: Beirut, Lebanon

First Grant from BibleLands:
1985

BibleLands' Grant: £16,140 p.a.



Lebanon's recent history has been deeply unsettled, involving civil war, political assassination and war with neighbouring Israel. However, it is hoped that the formation in 2009 of a coalition government will usher in a period of stability, unity and co-operation. The latest news, prayer points, and other information are all available from BibleLands.

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