

BibleLands

..... Overseas Partner Fact Sheet

Johann Ludwig Schneller School

How it all started

This school was founded in 1952 but its story goes back to 1860, when persecution against Christians broke out in Lebanon. A German Pastor, named Johann Ludwig Schneller, took ten orphans from Lebanon and Syria into his home in Jerusalem. His son, Rev. Theodor, and then his grandson, Rev. Hermann, continued the work until 1948, when the property was confiscated by the Israeli army and Hermann was deported to Australia. The orphanage moved to Lebanon and on Hermann's return, in 1952, moved into the newly opened school at its current location in the Bekaa Valley. The school continued to function throughout the civil war and today continues its original aim of providing care and education for disadvantaged children. It celebrated its 150th anniversary in April 2010.



A BibleLands' grant paid for this basketball court

Key facts

Founded: 1952

Location: Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

First BibleLands' grant: 1976

BibleLands' Annual Grant: £39,864 p.a.

Current Activities

By providing primary and secondary level schooling, vocational training and a boarding home for socially underprivileged children, the school helps them to grow into men and women who are responsible members of their society.

The School: About 350 children, aged between 4-20 years, attend this school, of which almost 200 are day students. The children learn all the usual lessons in Arabic, and English is introduced early, as is German. Each year, up to 200 children apply to join the school and the decision to accept them is made according to need. Whilst the school is open to children of all faiths, it has its own chapel and chaplain and holds morning assemblies and Sunday School for its boarders.

Vocational training: The students' last two years at the school can be spent in either the academic section or the vocational training section. Those who decide to take vocational training are offered a choice of carpentry, maintenance, general mechanics and auto mechanics in their first year. Plumbing and electrical installation workshops are also available, to those students in their second year.

The Boys' Home: About 150 boys, aged between five and eighteen, grow up together in eight 'families'. Two house mothers live with, and take care of, each of the younger families, and one house father takes care of each of the older families. The house parents work hard to bring up the children in accordance with ideals of peace and religious tolerance. This makes it possible for children of different backgrounds to live together in harmony. Most of the children go home during the holidays but there are usually some boys who remain at the Schneller home, due to their family circumstances.



Carpentry is one of the subjects offered to older students, in the vocational training section



One of the 'families' in the girls' boarding section

Girls' Boarding Section: For the first time in its 50-year history, girls were accepted as boarders at the school in 2003. To be a child from a poor family is enough of a disadvantage but for girls this often additionally means no access to education, meaning that they are increasingly marginalised. However, thanks to a grant made possible by BibleLands' supporters, this new boarding section has ensured the future of girls' education in this region. Now, 20 girls are able to board at the school, in three 'families'. A vocational training centre, part-funded by BibleLands, opened in 2010. This will help enable the girls to become fully responsible and independent members of a new post-war Lebanese community.



Lebanon's recent history has been deeply unsettled. Just as the country was emerging from civil war, she was plunged into renewed turmoil by the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri in 2005 and war with Israel in 2006. However, successful parliamentary elections in 2009 led to the formation of a coalition government which, it is hoped, will usher in a period of stability, unity and co-operation.

The latest news, prayer points, and other information are all available from BibleLands.

Contact us:

BibleLands

PO Box 50, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 7QU

phone: 01494 897950 fax: 01494 897951 email: info@biblelands.org.uk

www.biblelands.org.uk