

.....Overseas Partner Fact Sheet..... Armenian Evangelical Torossian 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 Torossian – hence the School's name. Primary and intermediate sections were added and today over 200 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, and so the support given to a child often continues.

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 in 2003, the School was invited to participate in an International Theatre Festival in Armenia, which the students thoroughly enjoyed.

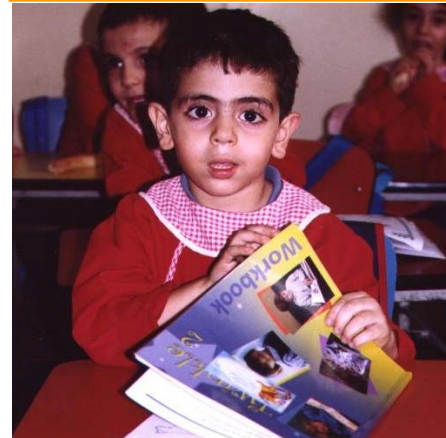
Key facts

Founded: 1951

Location: Beirut,
Lebanon

First Grant from
BibleLands: 1985

BibleLands' Grant:
£21,516 p.a.



Following its 15-year civil war, Lebanon was beginning to rebuild itself and there was an optimism for the future. However, the war with Israel in 2006 left the country unstable once again. Levels of unemployment and poverty have risen and many people fear a second civil war. Therefore, sponsorship is even more appreciated by the children and the staff. Thank you for your support.

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