



October 2010

A dramatic rescue...

It is impossible to look back over the news of the past month, without remembering the rescue of the 33 Chilean miners who were trapped in the San Jose mine since the beginning of August.

On 13/14 October, they were brought to the surface one by one, after 69 days trapped underground in a space the size of a living room. Their return to ground level was greeted by the world's media, alongside family and friends who had kept a prayerful vigil since the accident took place.

It is hard for us to imagine the intensity of the feelings suffered by the miners whilst they were trapped underground but there are other ways in which people can feel trapped, even above ground.

Here at Bible*Lands*, the work of many of our partners in the Middle East seeks to take people from places of restrictions and difficulty and open up their lives to new horizons.

We have recently begun a new partnership with the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service (JCC) in Lebanon as they work in the midst of the difficult situation of the Dbayeh refugee camp. They seek to enable those who are 'trapped' to begin to help themselves; campaigning for their civil rights among the sometimes hostile Lebanese population.

The focus of JCC's activities are education and vocational training which empower people and provide them with a way out of often hopeless situations. There are two vocational centres for women, an electronics and computer facility, agricultural training for young people, a kindergarten, a library, a centre for children with learning difficulties, and a mainstream school.

Bible*Lands* and JCC are also building a small indoor sports facility for some of the young people who have expressed frustration at having nothing to do all day, due to lack of work. This facility will also cater for older members of the community who are equally deprived of employment and prone to psychosomatic illness. Improvements like this can help individuals become more positive and proactive, preventing them from finding more destructive ways of occupying their time.

You can find out more about Bible*Lands* and the work of our overseas partners, including the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon, by visiting www.biblelands.org.uk or calling 01494 897950.