



THE PHILEMON PROJECT



www.thephilemonproject.org

Winter 2019

Leading in 2019!

What has God called you to in 2019?

As I look back, I can see how God has called and equipped me to lead The Philemon Project into its next phase of growth.

Our team of 17 see their work missionally and are committed to provide the best Christian early childhood development (ECD) and adult mentoring (AM) ministry throughout Lebanon.

In the last 12 months, our primary focus has been on strategic growth and organization development. Our team consistently and expertly provides the best Christian early childhood development and adult mentoring possible. It was an honor to witness God's hand at work through the Project, and we look forward to what's in store for us in 2019. Thank you for standing with us. It's your faithful partnership that allows us to provide the best Christian early childhood development and adult mentoring possible.

Acts 4: 32-35 teaches us to share

Acts 4: 32-35 communicates that followers of Jesus are a sharing community. Acts 4 teaches us that the members of the

Jerusalem church were concerned about alleviating the needs of those who suffer. This



focus on people means that God calls us to care for the weak, powerless, and marginalized. It teaches us to extend God's goodness to others by caring for them.



When the Christians of Jerusalem began to share (v. 32), great power and grace were unleashed in the church. Acts tells us, "with

great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all" (v. 33). It teaches us that generous giving led to powerful testimonies and the grace of God being experienced by all.

Mission—A place to serve people!

The Philemon Project cares for over 75 children and works with 120-135 parents monthly. We can do this because of so many who share in our ministry through their generous giving.



By God's grace, we shared in our last newsletter that we are in the position to replicate our work. Our Board of Directors enthusiastically voted to move forward and purchase the next facility. Lord willing, we hope to replicate the early childhood development center at a second site in another impoverished suburb of Beirut in 2019. While this is a bold step of faith for

the Project, we sense that God has opened the door for us to wisely grow the work to reach more children and their parent(s).

In Lebanon owning property make good missional sense.

Owning the property, as opposed to renting, embeds our ministry into Lebanese soil, and builds our legitimacy among the various faith communities.

Buying this property will enable us to use our resources wisely as we carefully replicate the ministry.

At present, we envision acquiring one property. As we replicate throughout Lebanon and hopefully into Syria, we will rent or work in collaboration with an already existing church body to use their space, which should eliminate the need for purchasing any more properties.

Kafrashima — Our Next Mission Site

After some time of searching for the best location, we have found an old family villa in Kafrashima (a densely populated poorer suburb of Beirut). In February 2019 we're planning on making an offer. We're trusting the Lord to help us raise the \$650,000 purchase price. If the current owners accept our purchase offer we will have one year to



raise the \$650,000.

Kafrashima Building Specs:

•The villa has two stories with a large backyard and includes all the amenities we need, such as a large kitchen and several bathrooms.

•Total land size: 10,000 square feet

•Total building size: 5,000 square feet

•Building site fits our vision perfectly, strategically placed between two densely populated areas of Beirut who desperately need the love of Christ through our early childhood development project.

•Can build another floor above the structure to provide office space and a guest house.

•Large enclosed property provides an ideal setting for an early childhood development center.

Please consider partnering with us for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our time.

Our GROWth Phase

Our early childhood development (ECD) center has a child-parent focused program and is invested in

developing the whole child and the child's parents within one program focus. Missiologically, our intervention-based focus on cognitive early childhood development and parental involvement has proven results. Our adult mentoring (AM) team consists of our social worker, nurse, and speech therapist. Together they comprise our group whose purpose is to engage with the parents and promote family well-being. Their combined efforts help mitigate neglect and abuse that are present at a higher proportion among underserved communities. According to educational



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GROW

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
A MINISTRY OF THE PHILEMON PROJECT

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scholars Howell and Reinhard, "children thrive and learn best in settings where they feel

connected and safe" (2015:9). The (AM) team seeks to consistently deliver developmentally appropriate child-parent mentoring approaches to foster children's social and emotional skills. Meanwhile, their love and commitment to Jesus shape their work as mission—to love and care for the child-parent while introducing Biblical and spiritual practices.

•Currently, we average 70 children monthly.

•We interact with over 100-120 parents monthly

•Our Adult Mentoring program works intensively with 15-20 parents regularly.

•Our gospel approach and commitment to early childhood development and adult mentoring all encourage us to replicate the Project in other areas of Lebanon.

How Can You Help?

A UNICEF study found that every \$1 invested in Early Childhood Development (ECD) produces up to a \$13 return into society. Another important reason why we're committed to our work is knowing that we're investing in the kingdom of God transforming lives and breaking intergenerational cycles of dysfunction and poverty.

Through your giving.

Your Support Helps!

www.thephilemonproject.org



Dontate online:
www.epcwo.org/supportphilemongrow

Check: EPC World Outreach
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510 Orlando, FL 32822

If you desire to support us to continue to carry out the vision God has called us —mark your gift:

Robert & Joyce Hamd

Otherwise please mark your gift for **GROW**

Your Prayers Matter

•Please pray as we move out in faith — that God would lead the way to raise the funds to purchase the building and property.

Please join us in prayer that the current property owners and The Philemon Project will come to agreement on a fair purchase price.

•The villa/property location fits our vision perfectly,

strategically placed between two densely populated areas of Beirut who desperately need the love of Christ through our early childhood development project.

•Please continue to lift up our current GROW ministry in Bourj Hammoud — God is blessing our work and we're making a tangible impact among the children and parents we serve. Our social worker is sharing the love of Christ through her adult mentoring work which reaches the parents she works among with the love of Christ. Please continue to lift up our adult mentoring ministry.

•Please pray for our 17 staff members too, as they carry out the ministry daily, to serve the poor with the love of Christ.

Pray for me and Joyce as we seek God's help and wisdom to carry out our growing ministry. We can't do this work

without the Lord's help.

