

As is the case every year, 2009 has had its good times, and its challenges! Throughout the year, however, we have been reminded that God is sovereign and that He will sustain us and strengthen us. We remain thankful for His many blessings!

The beginning of 2009 was marked by challenges with our buildings, including water leaks due to corroded pipes and electricity blackouts as a result of lightning strikes! During January and February there weren't many days when there wasn't water dripping through ceilings, or problems with electricity. Thankfully, after many attempts at identifying the problems, both water and electricity were restored!

In June, Kids Alive Lebanon went through a formal Evaluation process that was conducted by two members of Kids Alive International, the Vice President of Operations and a member of the KAI Board. The evaluation process went smoothly, with the subsequent Evaluation Report identifying the strengths of the ministry and areas that can be developed. An intense day of Strategic Planning and the process of developing Action Plans followed, and this has resulted in the inception of a comprehensive Strategic Plan that will guide us through the next five years. The Leadership Team, along with the rest of the staff, are excited about the direction of the ministry.



The development of new Care Centre programs features highly in the Strategic Plan. Kids Alive Lebanon longs to reach more children (like those pictured left), to see their lives transformed and full potential reached, and it is recognised that establishing new programs off the main campus is a positive step. In line with this plan, Kids Alive Lebanon is now exploring the possibility of partnering with two local ministries, 'Heart for Lebanon' and Antioch Church, to start a new Care Centre Ministry in the South of Lebanon working with the very needy gypsy and Bedouin communities.

Within our residential and school programs in Mansourieh we have seen a slight drop in the numbers of children we support, to 70 in our school and 34 in the residential program. This is largely as a result of losing one of our House Mothers, Elizabeth, who got married at Easter. We are hoping and praying that God will provide a new House Parent who can give the love and attention that our children need, and who will enable us to increase in numbers again. This year we also had the opportunity to settle some of our former residential boys back into family life as there had been significant improvements in their family circumstances.

We welcomed two new Kids Alive missionary staff into our programs during the Easter period, Jessica Culp and Kahlil Pfaff. Jessica has worked tirelessly in raising the profile of the Special Educational Needs program in the school. Over the two terms she has been with us, the children have made significant improvements, academically and socially. Khalil has come as our resident counsellor. He has an extremely busy timetable of meeting with each of the children on a one-to-one basis – as well as providing fun activities such as climbing at a local climbing wall! The impact he has had in lives of the boys in the residential program and individuals from the school, has been huge.



The installation of solar panels (left) to provide hot water to the residential building was a positive step. We have been pleased with the efficiency of the solar panels and have enjoyed hot water thanks to the sun! It is projected that the investment made in purchasing the panels will be recouped within three years. We are very thankful to our supporters in the USA and UK who helped to fund this project.

The Bread of Life Bakery had a positive beginning to the year, with the range of produce being sold increasing and the number of customers likewise going up. One of our staff members left the bakery during the autumn term and this inevitably meant the program has had to be scaled back somewhat. However, Brent Hamoud and his helpers have done a great job in ensuring that the free bread production continues along with a range of produce for sale.

Our main Goals for 2010 include:

- Further development of the program of Personal, Social and Health Education for all the children;
- Appointment of a new House Parent, and improving provision for residential boys to stay on campus during school holidays;
- Continuing to raise the profile of the Special Educational Needs Program, by developing new resources and improving communication between staff and parents;
- Continuing to develop plans for a new Care Centre program and raising necessary support for this;
- Developing clear plans for the bakery that include both vocational training and business possibilities;
- Developing a comprehensive plan for improving the facilities on site;
- Continue to develop the program of in-country fundraising.
- Purchasing a much-needed new van.



Thank you for your continued interest and support for the work of Kids Alive Lebanon! It is appreciated – and it does make a difference!

Mat Gregory – Field Director