

ALIVE!

SPRING 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF KIDS ALIVE® INTERNATIONAL



Quietly transforming lives in Lebanon... inside and outside Kids Alive

The tiny country of Lebanon continues to be a place of instability, uncertainty, and great need. Over the past few years, more than a million refugees from Syria have fled from their homes and across the Lebanese border to escape the civil war. One in four children in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee, and many of them have suffered great emotional and physical trauma. And displaced families are often forced to live in makeshift camps or urban slums, with very limited access to shelter, food, water, and clothing.

Though we had hoped that 2018 would see an easing of the refugee crisis in Lebanon, tensions in Syria are still escalating, making repatriation of refugees dangerous and nearly impossible. Hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugee children have no access to education in Lebanon, due to outright denial, lack of funds, harsh regulations, and overcrowded schools.

Syrians in Lebanon have well-founded concerns for their safety, as there are often calls for violence against refugees. As resources are spread thinly, political instability grows, poverty persists, and tensions are high enough to make many Syrians fear for their life and welfare.

Kids Alive is currently working toward adding 70 students to our education program for the 2018-2019 school year. It will also allow us to offer support and a Christian witness to their struggling families. We realize that the financial costs will be significant, and we are praying for the funding necessary to welcome more students.

Despite the incredible obstacles we face in a country plagued with poverty, violence, and the fallout from war in the region, we know without a doubt that God is at work. Kids Alive will press on in our work to provide orphans and vulnerable children with safety, nutritious food, and an education that will help them to break cycles of poverty and violence...opening up a world of opportunity for them!

Pray for the country of Lebanon and for hundreds of thousands of at-risk children who need to know the love of Jesus and freedom from hunger and fear.



kidsalive.org

ALIVE!

“Declare his glory among the nations, his

Service Teams: Following His call

Our mission at Kids Alive is to rescue orphans and vulnerable children, care for them in compassionate, holistic settings, and share with them the life-changing hope of the Gospel. It's a big job, one that requires the hands and feet of Christians with all kinds of gifts and skills. That's where you and your church come in! When you help connect your congregation with the mission of Kids Alive, you'll have a tangible role in bringing earthly and eternal hope to forgotten kids. Service Teams are the way to make it happen!

Service Teams travel to countries where we work and engage in various projects, all with the goal of providing loving service to the precious children in our care. Whether sharing the Good News of God's love with kids in a summer program, painting a new classroom, or helping build a children's home – you can be sure a Kids Alive Service Team will be an experience that will challenge and inspire!

But why? We follow a Savior who leads us out of our comfort zones and into meaningful service and outreach. He commands us to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel” as well as to “care for orphans and widows in their distress.”

Our purpose is to:

- **Facilitate spiritual growth** – Service Teams are an opportunity for glorifying God through practical service, and they create time and space through the whole process for an intentional focus on spiritual growth in the lives of team members.



- **Enhance partnerships** – Service Teams allow for personal experiences that strengthen and demonstrate the effectiveness of their partnership. They result in first-hand knowledge that encourages members to increase their awareness of children's needs.



- **Minister to people in need** – Service Teams provide practical assistance in helping Kids Alive to accomplish our long-term, life-changing goals among the children and communities where we work.



We would love to talk to your church or Christian school about an opportunity to partner with us by sending a Service Team. Serving at “ground zero” of ministry to at-risk kids will give your church a fresh perspective of your place in His kingdom, deepen relationships, and nurture a more robust faith in the God who makes all things possible.



marvelous deeds among all peoples.” Ps. 96:3 (NIV)

Compassion – God’s agenda

There are many words that might be used to describe “compassion.” Sympathy, mercy, and empathy are often considered but compassion can perhaps best be described as “an understanding of and concern for the suffering of others and a desire to do something about it.” Through the Old Testament, God’s compassion and mercy are on display: He clothes Adam and Eve after the Fall; He chooses not to wipe out humanity entirely but saves Noah and his family; He chooses a man with no heir, Abraham, to create a great nation; and He raises up Moses to liberate His people from Egyptian slavery.

Jesus showed compassion to children in the way He welcomed them to Himself, taking them in His arms and blessing them – despite the best efforts of the disciples to send them away.

Demonstrating compassion towards those marginalized in society, He met and ate with sinners, touched lepers, healed the sick, and fed the hungry.

And Jesus was compassionate towards the spiritually needy. We see His agony as He weeps over Jerusalem. Through His teachings we see His desire to see people come to know the fullness of a life with Him. The compassion that He had for people’s physical needs was a sign of His concern for the greater needs of their hearts – the need to know Him.

Jesus’ greatest act of compassion was, of course, to sacrifice Himself for us and pay the debt that we never could to be reconciled with the Father. In compassion the Father sent His Son. In compassion Jesus gave His life for us. And His Spirit living in us compels us to reach out in love and compassion to others. Mere pity falls short. 1 John 3:17-18 says this: “Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” Biblical compassion calls us to act! And compassion is powerful.

Let us ask God to give us His compassion to share with a needy and hurting world. It will make a difference!

– Adapted from a devotional by Matt Parker, President of Kids Alive, for inclusion in the new Kids Alive Service Team Handbook, *Creating Effective Service Team Experiences*

Creating Effective Service Team Experiences

For the first time ever, Kids Alive has produced its own handbook for Service Teams. Included are sections on Kids Alive’s philosophy of short-term missions, thoughtful discussions of ministering in cross-cultural settings, practical guides for serving children and their caregivers at our ministry sites, and opportunities for planning for and recording spiritual growth as part of a Service Team!



Thank you for helping kids around the world by connecting your missions pastor or other ministry leaders to Kids Alive – ask them to contact us at serviceteams@kidsalive.org.



As spring brings new life to the world...

...we look forward to all the ways we can be life-givers to children who desperately need our help.

You may be wrapping up end-of-the-school-year activities, planting spring flowers, or looking toward summer plans, while also thinking of how to reach out and give to the orphans and vulnerable children that we serve. Our 2018 Kids Alive Spring Gift Catalog is brimming with ideas of how to help a child in need. And we want to help you celebrate someone in your life by giving a gift in their honor! Here are a few ways you can make a tangible difference:

- **School tuition**
Honor the graduate in your life by giving the gift of quality education! In developing countries, every additional year of education can increase future income by an average of 10% (and even more for girls!) providing the only reliable path out of poverty. **\$120**
- **Cow**
Show your appreciation for the mother who lovingly nourished you – provide nourishment for a child and family in need. One dairy cow produces about 8 gallons, or 128 8 oz. glasses, of wholesome milk every day. In one year, a cow can provide 2,500 gallons – plenty to drink, with lots left over to sell. **\$600**

And as a father protects his children, you can offer life-saving protection...

- Mosquitos aren't just pesky – they carry deadly malaria and Zika in many countries we serve. In honor of a father in your life, give insecticide-treated bed nets that can protect a family for years! **\$20**

And when you choose to honor your loved ones by giving gifts in their names, we'll even send a (free!) greeting card to let them know.

Make sure everyone you know gets a KAI Gift Catalog. If you need extras, call us at 1-800-KIDS-330.

Spread the promise of new life this spring with gifts that make a difference!

