



Clementia Learning Center

OVERVIEW

Focus

Syrian refugee families in Lebanon

Approach

Provide learning opportunities for refugee children
Develop relationships and community among refugee families

Goal

\$175,000

A LOST GENERATION?

Rima and her family are refugees. They fled Syria when their home there was destroyed. Once in Lebanon, while they had escaped the imminent threat of violence, they found that life

An estimated 630,000 Syrian children and their families have fled to Lebanon.

was still far from ideal. Employment was nearly impossible to find, as was housing, and there were no spaces in the schools for the children. Their story is one of many.

As a result of the political turmoil in Syria, an estimated 630,000 children and their families have fled to Lebanon (according to the University of Oxford Refugee Studies Centre). This massive migration, in a short amount of time, has predictably placed a heavy strain on the country's resources. The educational system, in particular, couldn't possibly absorb all of these children; as a result, the majority remain without any formal schooling, leaving their futures in jeopardy. Many of these children have been living in Lebanon, without schooling, since 2011.



"I can't stand watching them grow, sitting at home and wasting their life away"

In December 2015, The Globe & Mail reported about the threat of a lost generation that is looming over Syrian refugee children. The question that is on the minds of many, including the United Nations, is, *without an education,*

what will the future of these children be? One Syrian mother shared, "I can't stand watching them grow, sitting at home and wasting their life away."

CLEMENTIA LEARNING CENTER

Concerning this very issue, in 2013, God placed a vision in the hearts of Pioneers missionaries and members of a partnering church in Lebanon. After much prayer, sacrifice and effort, the doors of the Clementia Learning Center were opened in November 2014.

1. Provide learning opportunities for refugee children

Our learning center seeks to offer quality learning opportunities to refugee children who otherwise could not receive a formal education:

- 3 levels of classes, including Arabic and English language, reading, writing, math, general knowledge and Bible
- Arts, crafts and music taught by church volunteers
- Field trips to museums, book fairs, and historical sites

The first term hosted 16 students, aged 6-13. Most of these did not know how to read or write, and they had not been to school from the time they had fled their home country. In December 2015, the center opened to 30 children.



Currently, 14 students are taking 2nd level courses, and another 16 have joined them for 1st level courses. All of these students are able to come because of transportation that is provided by the center.

2. Develop relationships and community among refugee families

Meeting the children's educational needs is making a tremendous impact, but the investment in the families extends far beyond the academic learning.

"You are like my family."

The workers at the learning center are committed to a holistic ministry. They regularly communicate with parents, prayerfully offer

counsel, and provide support to the families as needs arise.

Often, after class, the teachers will follow up with the students, and find themselves in counselling situations, or taking family members to clinics or doctors for health issues. In so doing, they seek to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those around them, and to show Christ's love.

As a result of these extra-curricular time investments, a number of the parents are starting to attend Bible Studies, Sunday School classes, and church services. One mother shared recently, *"You are like my family. I feel comfortable at this church."*



TOUCHED BY LOVE

We see how God is using the Syrian refugee crisis for His purpose.

Before, during times of peace, Syrians were notoriously closed to the Gospel. Many would

not have even considered interacting with Christians; indeed, they would have had little opportunity to do so, as there were so few Syrian Christians (hence, Syrians, as a people group, have been considered “unreached”).

Now, separated from their homeland, many are encountering Christians for the first time! They are experiencing the demonstration of the love of Christ through believers who are providing food, learning opportunities, care and truly the most precious gift: the Word of God.

We think of the impact of these Syrians - touched by the love of Christ at the hands of Christians at this learning center - in the years to come. Eventually this impact may reach the country of Syria itself, as one day these believers return to their homeland. By then, the children attending the learning center may be adults!

Indeed, this would describe our over-arching vision for this ministry: Syrians reaching Syrians with the Gospel, bringing glory to God.

Toward this goal, we are seeking to bolster the ministry of this learning center. Our vision is to double the student roster, and help not 30, but 60 students in the next school year. In order to see this accomplished, we are seeking to raise \$175,000, which will cover the one-time purchase of a bus, and operational costs like curriculum materials, salaries for the teachers, rental of the building, utilities and insurance, for the school year that begins in October 2016.



JOIN US

Truly, we can't begin to imagine how these lives, turned to Christ, will further His Kingdom. But we know that the Lord can use the faithfulness of His people to make a tremendous impact. We would love to partner with you in this.

Take the Next Step

Give online at pioneers.ca/give and select *Clementia Learning Center* as the gift designation.

Give by mail with cheques payable to Pioneers. Be sure to include a separate note designating your gift to *Clementia Learning Center* Mail to:

**51 Byron Ave.
Dorchester, ON N0L 1G2**

Contact us if you have any questions about this project or the work of Pioneers. Call or email Susan Campbell at:

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