



# Clementia Learning Center

*2016-2017 School Year in Review*

## FOR CHILDREN LIKE LAYAL

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“In Syria ISIS came into our classroom and put a gun to the head of our teacher. I was so scared, because I thought he was going to kill me next. I did not want to go to school after that.”

Layal is only 8 years old, and recently confessed this story to us. Indeed, when she first came to our center, she performed very poorly on the placement test, the trauma she had experienced nearly paralyzing her academic abilities.

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Our hearts ache for the harm and hurt that has been caused by the Syrian war. At the same time, we thank God that He has allowed us to be in this place, for such a time as this, to provide hope and help, for children like Layal.

She now loves school! She has made many new friends and is participating well in the lessons. One of our staff members shared: “I am so proud of Layal. Now she is the one giving the right answers to my questions, even when her classmates don't know the answer.” We are looking forward to watching her excel even more next school year.

We praise God for each child that we had the privilege of serving this year. We have seen God's grace move in incredible ways over the last 10 months.



## LEARNING TRIUMPHS

With this school year now complete, we are happy to report that all 54 of our students passed on their final exams! 46 will progress to a higher level next year; and 9 will continue in their current level (with new material).

This is a wonderful victory for them, their families, and for us. We see this as a great step towards our long-term goal of providing high-quality education to children who otherwise would be members of Syria's "lost generation" of uneducated children.

Our students express an overall joy for learning. One 9 year old student told us recently: "In the beginning of the school year I found my classes very challenging. I couldn't complete the tasks the teachers gave me, so I was frustrated. I am so happy that I now passed all my exams. It feels so easy; I want to continue my education."

What a moving scene was before us on the day we passed out the end of year report cards; parents' eyes filled with tears as we shared with them the academic development of their children.

## GOD'S GRACE AT WORK

In addition to academic achievement, for these families who have fled war, it is especially encouraging to see a strong development of confidence levels, independence, and faith in God.

Fadia, a 10 year old Iraqi student, told us recently, "Whenever I feel scared I remember the song we learned at school; I start singing and I can feel Jesus next to me. I even taught my sister the song because she is afraid of the dark."

This year we have felt an increase in the atmosphere of prayer in our center. When we pray as a team with the children, holding each other's hands, where there used to be only a few kids praying aloud, now there are many each time.



*Our greatest joy is sharing the wonderful news of the Gospel, and seeing our children choose to follow Jesus.*





The children enjoyed the lessons from New Heights Children's Ministry, who visited our center twice this year to perform and teach drama.

Other visitors this year included the Bible Society Lebanon, who performed a fun, artistic show that delivers the Gospel.

One Kurdish mother from Syria shared, "My girls keep singing the worship songs at home and my 10 year old girl's faith has become so strong! She keeps encouraging me to pray and ask God for things. She has had a dream of Jesus and said that He was so beautiful." This mother now attends a home group planted by our church. We praise God that she, like others, is encountering who Jesus is.

Most of our students' families are from a Muslim background, and previously did not have any exposure to a Christian witness. So we are grateful for our precious opportunity to share the Gospel.

Indeed, the most rewarding aspect of our ministry is seeing children choose to follow Jesus. At least 5 of our students have shared that they have accepted Jesus into their hearts!

**At least 5 of our students  
have come to faith in Jesus!**

## EMPOWERING THE MARGINALIZED

The children in our classrooms are victims of war. Many were unschooled for 1-4 years before entering our center, and most of their families face severe economic challenges.



Children proudly hold up their snacks. By the third semester, we were able to offer a daily healthy snack of fruit and a cup of milk. This was the kids' favourite part of the day. Most of our students do not otherwise have the opportunity to drink milk daily.

In addition to providing high-quality education, we were able to provide direct assistance in many forms, such as a nourishing daily snack, food parcels for families, a library with 100 books available to borrow, and ongoing psycho-social, emotional, and spiritual support.

*Please note: all names have been changed, for security.*

## SO MANY BLESSINGS

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Truly, God's hand has been upon us, and we are giving praise to Him for the many blessings we received this year:

- We are now using our new bus! After months of waiting for the paperwork to be fully processed, we put the bus on the road at the end of May. We're grateful for the generosity of the Acts of Grace foundation

in providing this blessing, which allowed us to help twice as many kids this year!

- The Bible Society Lebanon hosted a week-long trauma healing camp. There, the students opened up in a great way, which led us to a deeper understanding of their emotional and psychological needs.
- Offering counsel was an ongoing and a vital part of our journey with the students. Many issues such as anger, low self-esteem, and depression were dealt with throughout the year.
- God opened doors for us to share the Gospel and to pray for healing and comfort with many of the families.
- This year we provided a library with 100 books, which has promoted a culture of reading among our students.
- We are praising God that an organization has committed to raising funds for a larger space! This will allow us to continue increasing our capacity.



We thank God for your partnership in this ministry.

THANK YOU for walking alongside us this year. Together, we are making a difference!

**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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