

Clementia Learning Center Update 2018

"Blessed by the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God." This is our daily motto by which our center is operating this year! Please pray with us for the will of God to be accomplished in the lives of these young champions!

Rana, 13 year old student (female) at CLC, from Syria

"When I think of my school I feel safe. Outside I always feel scared of what might happen to us. I can't go outside because my parents are worried about us as girls. At home I have to behave a certain way. But when I come to school I feel free to do things and if I do something wrong the teachers would come to me and help me and guide me." This is Rana who joined our center last year. She was very shy and was performing poorly academically. "I was scared when I first joined the school. I was afraid of doing mistakes. I stopped being scared because I felt safe with the teachers. They kept encouraging me. I learned how to talk and share my feelings. I always felt like God is not on my side. But as I heard about Him at CLC I started to feel like He loves me. I love that God protects us and that He doesn't hurt us and He wants to forgive us." Rana was the class responsible this year for the month of March and she got 16.6/20 on her midterm exams!

Mazen, 12 year old student (male) at CLC, from Syria

"Lord, give peace to Syria and let people see that you interfered and may everyone say hallelujah when the war ends. Help people see that it was you who brought the peace." When Mazen was asked to describe what CLC means to him he said: "I feel it is the house of God; now I have a relationship with God and it is growing. If I am angry or sad I sit and talk to God. I keep asking him to help Syria because I know He is the only one who can overcome Satan." He continued saying: "I started my first job last month. Whenever I face problems at work I come to the teachers and ask them for advice and they guide me on how to deal with my challenges."

Ongoing relief, outreach and Bread for All

This year we have been helping around 30 student- families with food vouchers. We have also been giving out bread on weekly basis to around 15 families out of the 33 families.

We thank God for our church's outreach team who visited 25 of our students' families on monthly basis. Additionally, we have 5 families attending our church's home group meetings on weekly basis.

Extracurricular activities

This year we were able to host a Christian drama team who visited our center twice. First time in November, performing an interactive drama taking the students on a journey through the Bible. Second time in December presenting a fun play about Christmas. One of the students said after the play: "Jesus was born in a modest place. I think he knows what we are going through."

In January, we took our students out on a picnic for a "fun day in the sun". The children really enjoyed spending time outside the classroom walls. We provided them with a tasty breakfast.

In April, we took all the students to Byblos city, a very famous archaeological site and enjoyed a walk by the seaside and ended the trip with lunch at a restaurant which was a highlight for them.

Psycho-social support

A local partner in Lebanon provided a psycho-social program for our school where 2 psychologists visit our center once a week. They have been running a psycho-social curriculum in class talking about respect, identity, family, feelings, emotional regulations, perspectives, laws and more.

Also through this partnership, we're expanding our network of different organizations, one which provide a more specialized assistance for specific children and parents.

Follow Up with Parents

"We really need events like this one. Sometimes I feel like I am suffocating, losing hope." This is what one of the students' mother said as she attended the parents psycho-social day we organized at our center. We hosted the parents in February where the psychologists spoke about emotional well-being for adults and how to manage children's behavior.

The parents visited our center 3 other times this year: at the beginning of the year, at the first report card and for a special program on mother's day at which the students performed a play in March.