

2022 Impact Report

We stand united with
the people of Lebanon



APOSTOLATE OF OUR LADY OF HOPE
SAINT RAFKA
MISSION OF HOPE & MERCY



Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you all for helping the Mission of Hope and Mercy over the years. We are so grateful for your faithful support.

Love is the meaning which was and always will be the foundation of my life, and I hope it is yours too. Love is behind all our generosity and the many sacrifices we endure. Love is what makes the only real transformational difference and makes us better stewards of the gifts, talents, treasures, and resources God has placed in our hands. Love is our best driving principle which surpasses all returns on our investment to bring them to the summit of effective and truly engaging charity.

Those who support our mission are deeply connected to the love of God and their neighbor. Thank you for this great quality of yours. The people we help are feeling this love, and consequently, our spiritual community of the Mission of Hope and Mercy has successfully incorporated the love of God and of the neighbor in the most effective and joyful way!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and family of the Mission of Hope and Mercy, I want to thank you for continually opening my eyes to the impact and real difference we can make in people's lives every day through Christian love.

I am excited about this next season, a season in which we can truly bridge the United States and Lebanon through a relationship founded on shared blessings and the common heritage of our Judeo-Christian Principles of faith, family, freedom, and the right to economic stability. In this report, you will find out more about an exciting new vision that will bring together our shared commitment to the welfare of impoverished and persecuted Christians in Lebanon for which we humbly call on you for your love and generosity.

Our new vision, the Center For Blessings, aims to become the epicenter of your love for the Christians of Lebanon. This center will be more than a facility – it will be a powerful ministry that brings together our three pillars of aid, education, and defending religious freedom for Christians in Lebanon.

A bright future is ahead of us; millions of people will benefit from your transformational love and generosity. Allow me to invite you once again to deepen your commitment to building together the bridge of Hope and Mercy between the United States and Lebanon through the Center for Blessings.

Thank you all for being Christ-like in your love of mankind and thank you for being a part of the family of the Mission of Hope and Mercy. Glory to God in the Highest, and On Earth Peace and Good Hope to All!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fr. Andre Mahanna

President, Mission of Hope and Mercy



Religious freedom, in the Bible and the American Constitution, is America's greatest gift to a world tormented by hate and religious persecution.

Like the good Samaritan, our mission is to save lives from all kinds of persecution, rejection, or neglect and to confirm them in God's image, the Author of all Goodness.

Guided by the Spirit of the Lord, and in light of the Gospel, we toil to save the persecuted flock wherever that might be. With this, our initial aim is to protect and preserve Christianity and its roots; to restore hope, faith, and love to all the children of Abraham.

We serve based on the two greatest commandments of God: to love God with all your heart, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

We are not just a charity mission, we aim to protect and promote the body of Christ in its fullness. We are the faithful in action defending religious freedom, protecting human rights, and serving persecuted Christians and other innocent sufferers by means of awareness and charity.

We stand as a united front of Christians of all church traditions to safeguard the natural law, etched by God in our hearts, for the sake of peace, love, coexistence, and life with dignity for all.

Our mission is to provide charity to Christians in need, spread awareness about the truth and hope of Jesus Christ, and defend religious freedom.



Being Christian in the birthplace of Christianity — the Middle East — has become increasingly difficult.

In recent decades, Christians in the Middle East have been subjected to harassment, persecution, violence, and killings, leading to a mass exodus from the region. Low birth rates have also been attributed to the shrinking number of Christians in the Arab-speaking world.

A century ago, the Christian population in the Middle East was about 20 percent.

Today it stands at 4 percent.

The persecution of Christians is on the rise worldwide.

Today, almost 360 million Christians around the world — or 1 out of every 7 — live in a country where they suffer some form of persecution, such as arbitrary arrest, violence, a full range of human rights violations, and even murder (Source: Open Doors).

Around the world, 5,898 Christians were killed for their faith last year and more than 5,000 churches and church buildings were bombed, attacked, destroyed, looted, burned down, or forcibly closed — to stop people from meeting together to worship Jesus.

The terrible impact of the merciless targeting of Christians driven by hatred of Christianity and those who practice it has only begun to be felt. In fact, according to Pope Francis, conditions for Christians are worse now than they were in the days of the early Church.



The global church is increasingly a refugee church, and a displaced church is a vulnerable church.

More than 84 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced and are living as refugees in another country or displaced within their own country (UN High Commissioner for Refugees). Many of these refugees are Christians fleeing persecution, with thousands more added to their number in 2021.

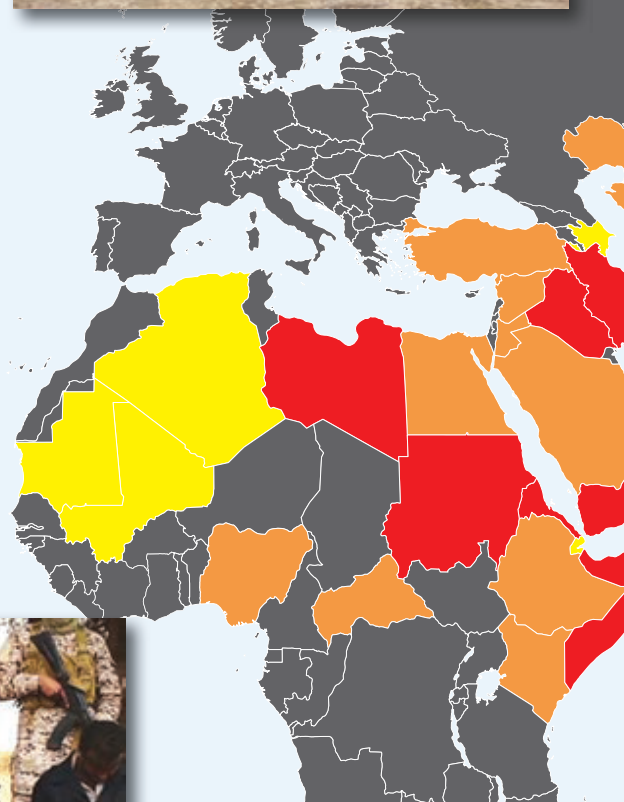
Even where there is no active conflict, Christian refugees leave because they have simply had enough of the daily struggle against discrimination. All they want is somewhere to be free and safe.

Sadly, life on the move or in refugee camps is even more fragile and exposes them to discrimination, extortion, human trafficking, and sexual violence.

While persecution is increasing overall, there are places where the reverse is true. While these numbers aren't enormous, each change for the better represents an answer to prayer — and Christians who are able to follow Jesus a little more freely than the year before.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ~ Matthew 5:10

Christian Persecution Across the Globe



Extreme Persecution

Christian Persecution by the Numbers

Only 4% Christians

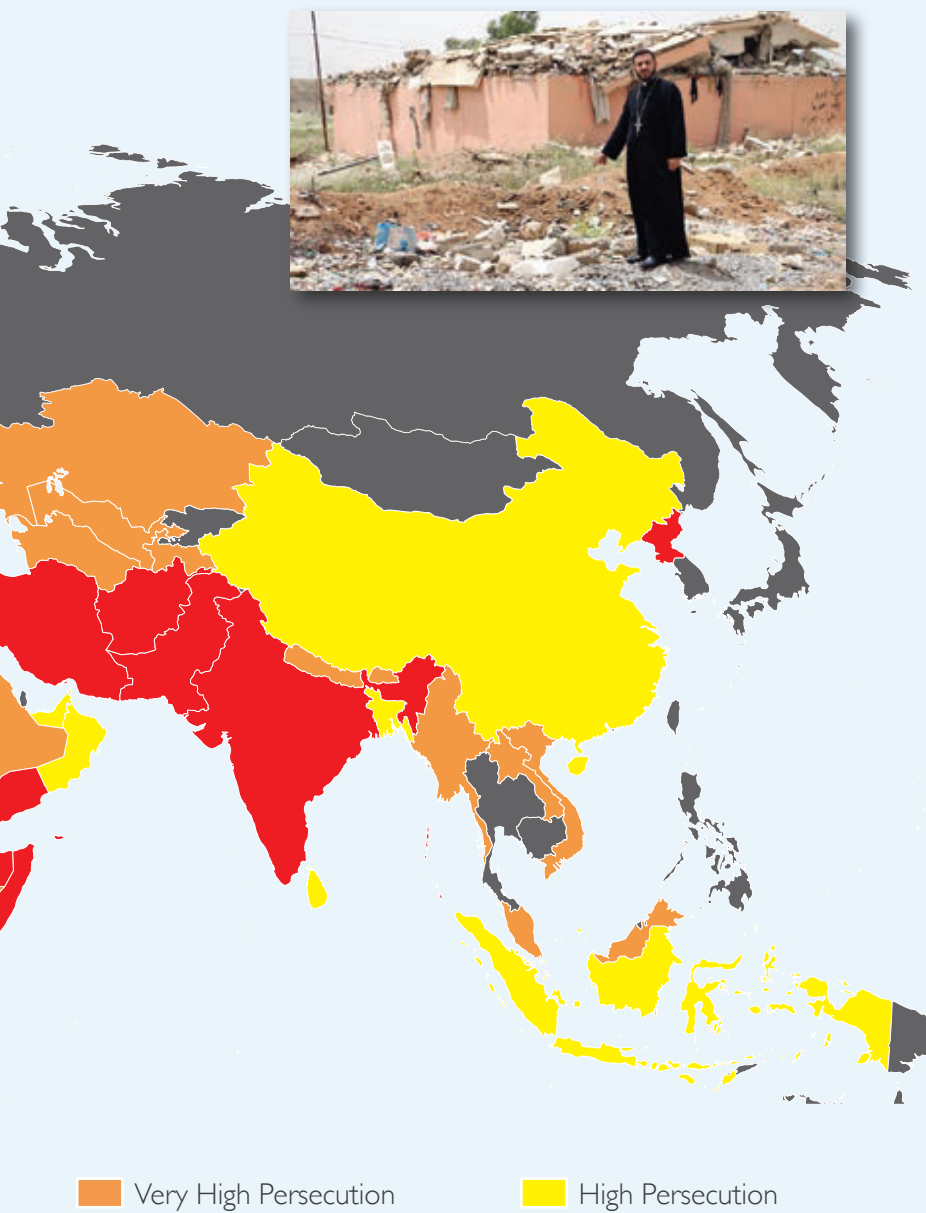
4% is the remaining
Christian population
in the Middle East – down from
20% a century ago

360 Million Christians

360 million Christians live
in countries around the world
where they suffer persecution

3,829 Christians

were abducted last year



Before and after photos of St. Mary's Assyrian Church in Tel Nasri, Khabor-Hassaka, Syria. Just one of many churches leveled by ISIS.

5,898 Christians

killed for their faith last year

13 Christians

killed every day for their faith

5,100 Churches

and church buildings attacked or destroyed

*2022 World Watch List report from Open Doors.



Lebanon in Crisis

The Middle East is the birthplace of Christianity and is the location of many of Christianity's holiest sites. Lebanon, which was evangelized by the apostles Paul and Peter when it was ancient Phoenicia, continues its rich history as the place with the highest concentration of our brothers and sisters in Christ in the modern Middle East.

The modern state of Lebanon was founded in part by a cooperation between Maronite Catholics and the Druze, an Abrahamic religion with deep roots in the region and ties to Moses' father-in-law, Jethro. Proportionally, Lebanon has the highest rate of Christians in the Middle East, ranging between 34% and 40%.

Lebanon was once considered a safe haven for Christians in the Middle East. However, this is no longer the case.

As Pope Francis said on his 2021 visit to Iraq, "Lebanon today is in crisis. It is an existential crisis."

The crisis in Lebanon is not new, it's decades old but has escalated in the last two years. The ongoing economic crisis has worsened as the coronavirus pandemic took hold in 2020, followed by the devastating August 2020 Port of Beirut blast, which has been described by experts as "one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history".

The blast which killed 217 people, wounded over 7,000 and left 150 people with lifelong disabilities, has been probed by the UN. To this day there are concerns that it was the result of mismanagement caused by large-scale corruption within the Lebanese government.

Following the explosions, the crisis worsened exponentially – the price of consumer goods has nearly quadrupled, leaving people with barely any access to necessities like food and medicine. According to UNESCWA, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, approximately 80% of Lebanon's population lives below the poverty line, and 36% are in extreme poverty.

The economic crisis has devastated a healthcare sector already in crisis. Medicines and medical supplies, most of which are imported, are in short supply, leading to many deaths and threatening the lives of patients with serious illnesses including cancer. The value of nurses' and doctors' salaries has declined rapidly, triggering a mass exodus, and placing a heavy burden on the remaining workforce.

Fuel shortages have caused widespread electricity blackouts, lasting up to 23 hours per day, and private generators—a costly alternative—have not been able to fill the gap, leaving large portions of the country in darkness for several hours a day. Hospitals, schools, and industry have struggled to operate. People have been left without electricity and clean water; unable to heat or cool their homes. And those who want to leave are stuck, as there's no fuel available to fill their vehicles.

For the nation's Christian community, the economic crisis has added yet another layer of strain and anxiety to the constant existential threat they have been facing for decades in the Middle East. Our Lebanese brothers and sisters in Christ need our help now more than ever.



On his monumental trip to Iraq in 2021, Pope Francis acknowledged the existential crisis in Lebanon, pledging to visit the country.

"Lebanon is a message. Lebanon is in pain. Lebanon represents more than just a balance. Lebanon has some weakness resulting from diversity, some of this diversity that has not reconciled, but Lebanon has the strength of a reconciled people, like the power of a Cedar tree."

Pope Francis

Lebanon - from Christian Roots to Christians in Crisis

CHRISTIAN ROOTS IN LEBANON

Lebanon, through the centuries, has been the natural refuge for freedom seeking people, religious communities and displaced and persecuted populations in the Middle East.

- The earliest prehistoric cultures of Lebanon gave rise to the civilization of the Canaanite period during the 2nd millennium BC. Northern Canaanites are mentioned in the Bible as well as in other Semitic records from that period.
- According to the Bible, all of Lebanon once belonged to the Tribe of Asher, one of the twelve tribes of Israel. After the Israelites came out of Egypt and conquered the Promised Land of Canaan, Joshua assigned the western and coastal Galilee region to Asher.
- Lebanon is mentioned 9 times in the Bible as either part of the Promised Land or the northern boundary of the Promised Land. Both Temples were built with the cedars of Lebanon (1 Kings 5:15-24; Ezra 3:7).
- The Cedars of Lebanon are mentioned over 70 times in the Bible. They are even called "the trees of the Lord" that "He planted."



CRISIS

33%

COUNTRY IN CRISIS

80%

COUNTRY IN CRISIS

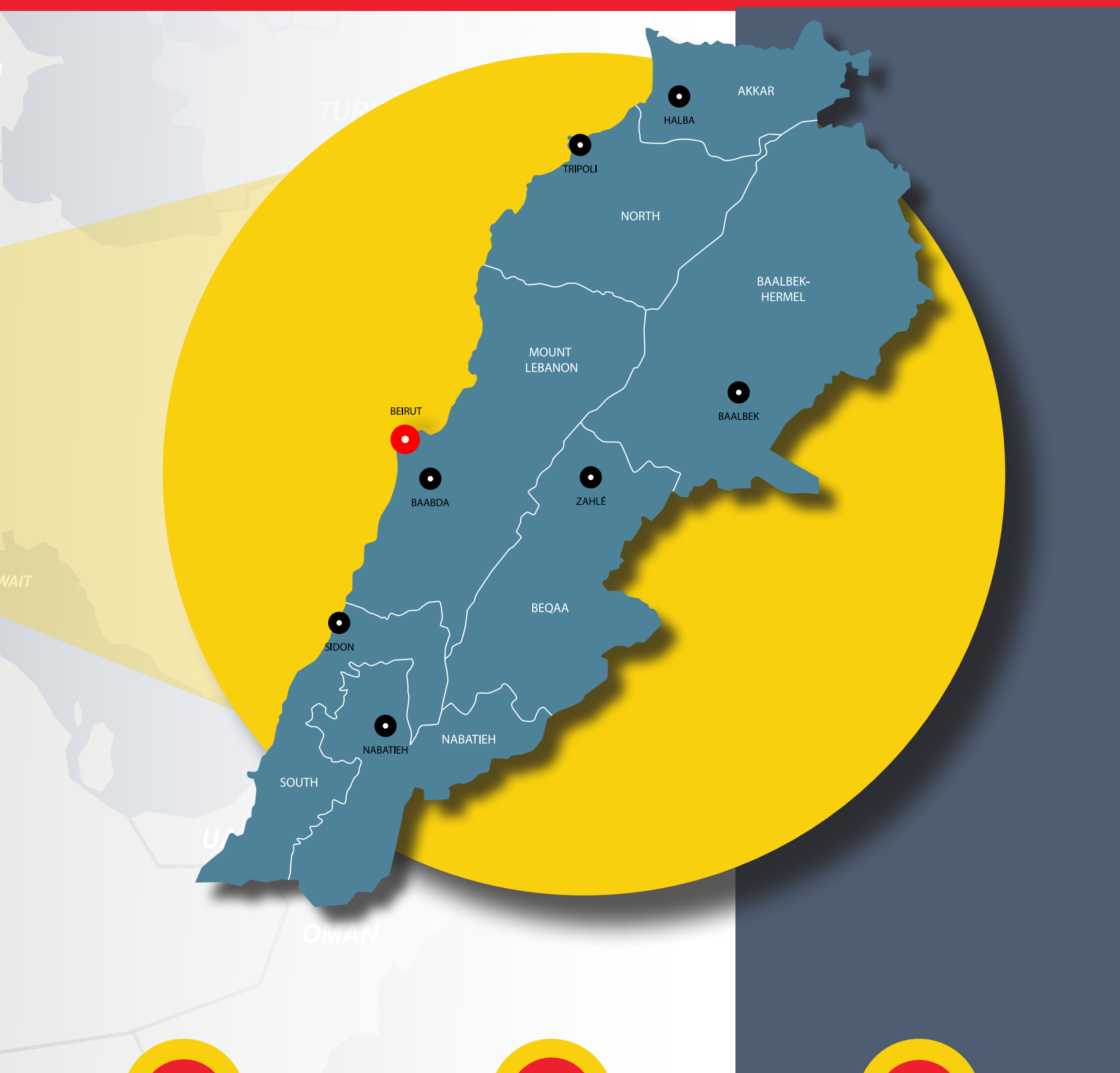
\$65

CRISIS

Christian population in Lebanon is among the highest in the Middle East

80% of Lebanese households do not have enough money to buy food

The average monthly income for a family in Lebanon is \$65-\$70



CRISIS

78%

COUNTRY IN CRISIS

78% of Lebanon's population is living in poverty

11,000

COUNTRY IN CRISIS

11,000 children are orphaned in Lebanon

2.5 million

CRISIS

2.5 million people in Lebanon are in need of humanitarian aid

Sources: UNESCWA (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency), European Commission: European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

Our Story



We are the Mission of Hope and Mercy, consecrated under the intercession of Saint Rafka (Rebecca), the Lebanese Maronite nun who died March 23, 1914, and the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the sources of Divine Mercy and Divine Grace.

We were founded prophetically on the words of Saint Pope John Paul II in 1997:

“Lebanon is more than a country. It is a message of freedom and an example of pluralism for East and West.”

The Mission of Hope and Mercy acts as a prophet who warns and educates, a soldier who protects and saves, a Good Samaritan who ministers and restores, and an apostle of Christ who is a peacemaker and herald of the Good News.

Every year we touch the lives of many who long for a safe place to live and the opportunity to care for their families. The Mission of Hope and Mercy is on the front lines, providing food, shelter, education, and safety, tending to the sick and vulnerable, and ministering to those in desperate need.



“ Lebanon, then, is a biblical country. Being very near the places where Jesus accomplished his mission, it was among the first countries to receive the Good News.”
Pope John Paul II



By the grace of our Lord and the servanthood of our donors, in 2021 we responded to the needs of our vulnerable and persecuted Christian brothers and sisters in the following ways:



Thanks be To God



38,600 people were fed with our food packages



1,500 Christmas gifts were distributed to children from Lebanon, Syria and Iraq



110 orphans received donations of food, clothing and Christmas gifts



177 tons of food were distributed to 6,800 families



400 volunteers from 25 institutions reached 80 towns and villages to provide aid



Animal feed for 200 sheep was provided



340 children and infants were provided milk to drink



220 students, 20 teachers and 2 nuns had their school fully funded for one year



20 families every week received food boxes were supplied to the local Catholic Television Program



2,452 medications were supplied to children, the homebound & the elderly



9 families received full sponsorship for one year including medication, rent, education and food



200 food boxes and essential supplies were donated to drug rehabilitation centers

Stories of Hope and Mercy



Saint Famille School



One of the ways the Mission of Hope and Mercy serves as the hands and feet of Jesus is by taking care of the next generation. Lebanese Christian children and the children of refugees in Lebanon are growing up in poverty and at a significant disadvantage because of their socio-economic status and also because of their Christian faith.

Our mission has the good fortune to be a blessing to others including the Saint Famille School. A Catholic school in the village of Akoura, a mountainous region of Lebanon, the school provides education to 220 children including Christians, Shia Muslims, and Syrian refugees. Two nuns and 16 teachers run the school.

The school and its students face many obstacles to thrive. Poorly funded by the Lebanese government, the school struggles to survive on the meager 50¢ provided per student, with no funding provided for the children of Syrian refugees of whom there are 105 in the school.

The children of the Syrian refugees are also at risk of being recruited by militia groups to turn on the Christians in the village. Saint Famille offers these children a place of relative safety.

We give thanks to our Lord for the faithfulness of the teachers at Saint Famille School. In the midst of hard financial times, without salaries for 6 months, they never stopped teaching and nurturing.

We continue to seek ways to support the school financially so that these children can get an education and improve their chances for a good life in the future.

"No words can express how grateful we are to the Mission of Hope and Mercy as you have become a role model in our country, and in our historic town of Akoura. We extend our sincere gratitude for your help to the workers of our educational institution and your generosity at securing their salaries during the 2021-2022 school year."

- The Congregation of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family of Akoura

Our mission came to the aid of the teachers and students of Saint Famille School by funding the salaries of all 16 teachers for 12 months at a cost of \$24,000.



This year the Mission of Hope and Mercy extended the hand of charity to the Convent of our Lady of Deliverance. The convent cares for the elderly and is located in Jubayl.

Jubayl, or Byblos, is a city on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, about 20 miles north of Beirut. It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited towns in the world and the English word "Bible" is derived from its Greek name, "Byblos", meaning papyrus.

The Mission of Hope and Mercy was blessed to provide 1,530 items of food, 600 liters of vegetable oil for cooking, and 60 boxes of apples to the Convent, along with funds for the repair of their washing machine. The Mission also supplied urgently needed diesel to run the generators, which are required in Lebanon due to the lack of electricity provided by the government. A constant supply of power using generators is essential for the convent to provide oxygen to its elderly and infirm residents.

Convent of our Lady of Deliverance – an Elderly Shelter



A total of \$20,503 of aid was provided to the Convent.



*The King will
reply, Truly I
tell you, whatever
you did for one of
the least of these
brothers and sisters
of mine, you did
for me.'*

Matthew 25:40

Our Focus

The Mission of Hope and Mercy is dedicated to three pillars to fulfill our mission.

We have been called by His Divine purpose to **Aid, Educate, and Save** our Christian brothers and sisters — all for the glory of God. We are an extended community of the Holy Church that is striving for unity among all Christians to show solidarity in love. As such, we aim to give concrete hope and evangelize through acts of mercy.

We are shaped after the example of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and our calling is to be the hands and feet of Jesus; to assist the oppressed and poor, and to raise awareness by advocating for those who are persecuted because of their faith in Christ.



We provide charity through practical aid, supporting the daily needs of impoverished families.

FOOD

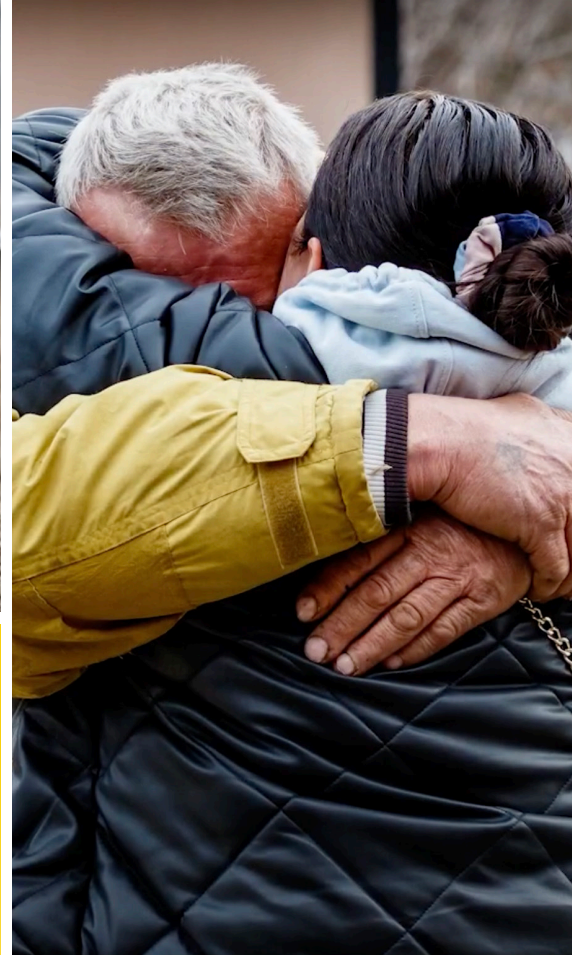
- Food boxes provide monthly essentials for a family of four
- Milk for children and infants
- Community soup kitchen

MEDICINES

- Medication including chronic medication for adults, children, and the elderly
- Urgent surgeries
- Preventive testing programs in the community and remote villages, including cancer screening
- Prevention and treatment of infectious diseases through the distribution of hygiene materials, oxygen, masks, and other supplies

HOUSING

- Rent support to help families under the threat of homelessness especially widows, young families, single parents, and vulnerable adults
- Home appliance and furniture donations



EDUCATE

Our education programs spread awareness about the truth and hope of Jesus Christ in these critical times.

TUITION

- Supporting tuition fees for children and young people
- Support for teachers including funding their salaries
- Food for local educational and rehabilitation non-profit organizations

AWARENESS

- Spreading awareness about the persecution of Christians through our annual Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast
- Building additional awareness via radio programs, media campaigns and documentaries



SAVE

Defending religious liberty and freedom from persecution for Christians and highlighting the value of coexistence, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion.

- Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast
- Conferences and speaking engagements
- Social media outreach
- Advocating for the rights of Christians among government, religious, and civil leaders

With our annual Christmas gift and food distribution program, we also bring the joy of Christmas to local orphanages and both Lebanese and refugee children.



The Center for Blessings

AN OASIS OF GRACE AND CHARITY

*You are the light
of the world
like a city on
a hilltop that
cannot be hidden.*

Matthew 5:14

As you have read in this report, thousands have already benefited from our intervention and advocacy efforts. Families have been healed and lifted from poverty. Lives have been saved and hope restored.

We thank Almighty God for blessing us with the call to be His hands and feet here in Lebanon and we pray for His grace and guidance as we now prepare for our greatest calling yet.

The Mission for Hope and Mercy is stepping into a new season. Our vision is to create an epicenter of our mission - a firm and sturdy anchor that enables us to build on the important work of our ministries.

The Center for Blessings aims to be the physical outpouring of love for God's people in Lebanon. The facility will serve as the vessel from which our programs will flow, reaching many who are in need.

The cornerstone of this vision has been secured through a generous donation from The Blake Family Charitable Foundation. We give thanks with humble hearts for this significant gift that has enabled our vision of a Center that blesses and is blessed by the persecuted of Lebanon to become a reality.

We invite you to be a part of our vision through the opportunity to invest in the next phase of this transformational project.

The Center Will Be Comprised Of Four Vital Ministries.



FOOD BANK AND FOOD SECURITY MINISTRY

The Center for Blessings will become the central distribution point for our food ministries where we will operate our food depot and foodbank, feeding thousands of poor and impoverished Christians and refugees from Syria, Iraq, and Iran. The facility will also house a small restaurant to generate income and jobs.

Farmers are also facing a crisis with little or no animal feed to keep their farms producing vital produce. From our Ministry, we will supply struggling farmers with animal feed to keep supply lines open and preserve their livelihood.



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE & RESEARCH

Lebanon is facing a devastating health crisis. Those bearing the brunt of the crisis are the poor, the impoverished, the seriously ill, the disabled, and the persecuted. Christians, like 80% of the Lebanese population, are living below the poverty line leaving thousands with untreated chronic illnesses, no access to affordable medicines, inferior primary care for infants and children, and deteriorating dental health.

Death rates in Lebanon increased almost 5% in 2022 with the Covid-19 pandemic claiming the lives of 11,000 people. Consequently, the number of orphans in Lebanon is now around 11,000.

Lebanon is hemorrhaging doctors and medical professionals – all leaving in search of safer countries with economic stability. It is reported that just half of all hospitals are operational.

The Center for Blessings will give impoverished people access to healthcare and medicines, early interventions, vital treatments, and the hope that thousands of deaths may be prevented.

The center will host American doctors and nurses specifically focused on chronic and autoimmune diseases to prevent otherwise avoidable causes of death. We are aiming to have a mobile clinic where we can offer dental care, vaccines, medicines, and preventative care to avoid the onset of chronic illnesses and facilitate early intervention and treatment.



*For the poor will
never cease from
the land; therefore
I command you,
saying, 'You shall
open your hand
wide to your brother,
to your poor and
your needy, in your
land.'*

*Deuteronomy
15:11*

Last year, we fed 38,600 people through our food ministry and distributed 177 tons of food.



OBSERVATORY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The Observatory at the Center for Blessings will serve as a central reporting hub where we will document and verify abuses against Christians and other vulnerable and marginalized peoples. These reports will be communicated to the US Commission on Religious Freedom, and other concerned civil societies, religious and humanitarian institutions, and advocacy groups.

The Observatory will be the first of its kind in Lebanon, the Middle East, and Africa. This vital beacon acts as a movement of solidarity, raising awareness of religious persecution and the promotion and defense of religious freedom and the rights of Christians to be safe in the Middle East.

This transformational Ministry will provide the necessary resources to enable us to inform and educate stakeholders and influencers including US Congressmen, Church leaders, and Christians in the United States who share our heart for the persecuted of the Middle East. Through this Ministry, we will also advocate the plight of Christians to secular media, religious media, and church congregations.



THE CEDAR ROOMS

The Cedar Rooms will provide a unique place for visiting friends, donors, investors, doctors, businessmen, clergymen, politicians, and other like-minded individuals to partner with us in our mission.

Providing conference, hospitality, and residential facilities, groups will be able to gather together in pursuit of their purposes in a space where they may also learn about and experience the Ministry of the Mission of Hope and Mercy.

This facility will also provide a vital commercial income stream for the organization, helping raise funds to be invested back into our mission so that we may come to the aid of more Christians and impoverished people in need in a significant and sustainable way.



*The trees of the
Lord are well
watered, the cedars
of Lebanon that
he planted.*

Psalms 104:16

Funding Needs



To complete the purchase and refurbishment of the Center for Blessings, to fully equip it for our programs, and to carry out our programs in 2023, we need a total of \$850,000.

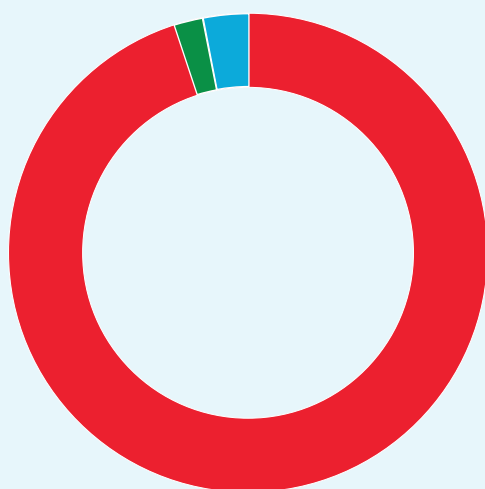
VISION CAMPAIGN BUDGET

	TOTAL AMOUNT	FUNDING SECURED	BALANCE NEEDED
CAPITAL BUDGET - CENTER FOR BLESSINGS			
Purchase of building	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0
Fittings and fixtures, equipment, security, landscaping	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET	\$1,850,000	\$1,500,000	\$350,000
PROGRAM BUDGET - AID/EDUCATE/SAVE			
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
OPERATIONAL BUDGET - US AND LEBANON			
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
TOTAL BUDGET 2023	\$2,350,000	\$1,500,000	\$850,000

MISSION OF HOPE AND MERCY FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

We are committed to stewarding the resources of the organization and ensuring that the funds donated are used to help as many suffering and in need as possible. More than 90% of all funds are used to provide programs benefiting those in need.

2021 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



● PROGRAMS ● ADMINISTRATION ● FUNDRAISING

2021 FINANCIALS

REVENUE
\$770,057

EXPENSES
\$421,983

CHANGE IN ASSETS
\$348,074

ASSETS
\$366,074

LIABILITIES
\$4,908

NET ASSETS
\$361,166

2021 Financials Independently Reviewed by Martillaro Raub and Associates.

*Defend the weak
and the fatherless;
uphold the cause
of the poor and
oppressed.*

Psalm 82:3

You Can Be A Part Of Our Vision



The truth is that every day our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East are being persecuted and even killed for their faith. The crisis is real. The urgency is upon us. The time is now. The mission is ours.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous gift of \$1,500,000 from The Blake Family Charitable Foundation that will enable us to secure a suitable building for the Center for Blessings. But we have a long way to go. We need your help.

We need an additional \$350,000 to complete the building and to equip it with all we need to provide the programs of the Mission of Hope and Mercy.

The annual cost of delivering our programs to the needy through the Center for Blessings in Lebanon is \$500,000 (including US and Lebanon operation costs). Our total funding need for 2023 is \$850,000.

We cannot realize our vision for the Center of Blessings without the generous support of our faithful donor and mission partners.

Please help the God's people and those in need in Lebanon today by giving your most generous gift. Your donation is a tangible outpouring of love for your brothers and sisters in Christ who have suffered so much.

May your act of obedience and sacrifice be blessed and multiplied in the hands of our sovereign Lord, for the blessing of His people and His great glory forever and ever. Amen.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

John 4:7-8





APOSTOLATE OF OUR LADY OF HOPE
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