

SHARBEL STORY

Here is a sad story of Sharbel, one of the victims of wars, plagues, oppression and economic sanctions. It comes to us as a sign on how much hope we can give to these people who are falling into despair.

Sharbel, a young man, died about a month ago. *Sharbel* is one of many young people in Lebanon, a victim, who because of the economic, health, terrorism, and social problems in the country of the Cedars of God, has taken his life in his own hands.

He broke the heart of his mother and his brother. *Rabie* his brother, a sister and his mother *Wardee*, are the remaining Family members.

Wardee's husband was killed by Syrian refugees in Lebanon about a year and a half ago. In Lebanon there are one and half million Syrian refugees over a population of 4 million people. *Wardee* had another son who also committed suicide over 2 years ago. The story of this family is very sad.

We started helping the family of *Sharbel* with food and clothing over a year ago. We are grieved we could not do more to prevent the worse from happening. *Sharbel* needed medical attention (he depended on 75 pills daily) that goes beyond our means as a mission.

Sharbel and his family lived in the hills outside of Beirut.

His home is on an underground level, and in the explosion on August 4th and since then, he has struggled to find food to feed his family. Out of major depression, and because the needs are so great, Sharbel fell into hopelessness and unfortunately decided to take his own life. Pray for him.

I can tell you personally that stories like this in Lebanon are very familiar and they are many. For a year now, our Team in Lebanon has been conducting research on food,

medical and educational needs for families in the Region of Jbeil. The results are scary indeed. They are signs of major human crisis. At least 55 % of the families in that region suffer from similar oppression and extreme poverty and are in major medical crisis.

We are seeking your help. We really believe we can up our assistance to families that by feeding them and helping them with medicine, we can save their lives.

Our operation president in Lebanon for the Mission of Hope and Mercy, received an urgent appeal over two months ago to start helping *Rabie* and his mother *Wardee* with Medicine so that we can help treating their trauma. And we did: You did!

I am thankful to you all, for helping us providing for this family now food for a year, once a month and medicine on monthly bases for the last two months.

The family now depends on the food and medical assistance that the Apostolate of Our Lady of Hope also known as St. Rafka Mission of Hope and Mercy brings to their table.

I offered my masses this past month for the rest of his soul and for the remaining family members so that we can help them more constantly and affect their lives in a positive way strengthening their hope and showing them mercy. Let God be present in their life through food and medicine.

Please help us to help them. This is what I call: “**Feed a family, Save a Nation**”. In fact, feed a family will save life!

I am asking you, in the Name of God, just like Jesus fed 5000 with 2 fish and 5 loaves to help us feed these 5,170 families with your generous donation.

For over 2,000 years, Christians have contributed to recovery efforts from pandemics, poverty, genocide and persecution.

It is our intent as the Apostolate of Our Lady of Hope also known as St. Rafka Mission of Hope and Mercy, to continue with this noble tradition and to respond to the needs of people who are in grave danger of starvation, degeneration, war, captivity, plague and even extermination.

You are the foundation of our good acts of hope and mercy and help us complete tremendous acts of charity and bring awareness to the world-wide persecution against Christians and other victims of persecution and hate.