



NEWSLETTER

September 2020



Food Distribution Libanon

**"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."
"2.Tim. 1.7 NIV**



Margret Meier

Dear friends and supporters!

We live in a new era with new rules and where people have developed new insecurities. The last six months of life with the coronavirus have brought many unexpected changes and restrictions. It's so good to know that God doesn't change. He remains the eternally faithful, absolutely reliable God. Unlike us humans, he does not get thrown into one crisis after another. His values do not deteriorate, his springs do not dry up, for he is the Lord. We Christians have the gift of his spirit, the DNA of Jesus and despite all the uncertainty around us, we can be filled with his strength and love.

PAKISTAN

In April all the schools in Pakistan were closed by the government. Our **School of Grace students** have no internet at home nor cell phones. As a result, for six months their education came to a standstill. Everyone had to stay at home. It has now been announced that as of September 15th classes can begin again. **50 children will be accepted for the first time.** The teachers have made the new lesson plans and are prepared for the new challenges. After the long break, everyone is looking forward to going back to school again.

There was a strict work ban for the workers in the brick factories. They too had to stay at home, which was a very tough restriction. A few weeks ago, the regulations were relaxed and work resume for a few hours each day. For the day laborers, the consequence was that after a short time they no longer had anything to eat.



School of Grace



Men are forbidden to work

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Emmanuel Church worship



Grocery shopping



Mustafa with his new cargo taxi



The church and town of Zahlé



Food assortment



Relief goods

We received a call for help, food supplies were urgently needed. Thanks to your donations, we were able to react quickly. Our partners together with all the male employees at the school, acted immediately. Their bulk purchases included flour, rice, lentils and similar dry staples. In the school buildings they were packed into family-friendly cardboard boxes, each with enough supplies for one month. Food was distributed in seven brick factories. In this way, for last five months we have been able to provide for those who would otherwise have nothing to eat. Himmelsperlen, true to our motto has fed many starving people.

The Emmanuel Church now holds regular services- provided the weather permits. In the summer the heavy monsoon rains fell and flooded everything. For a few weeks now, a second church service has been taking place in a second brick factory a little further away. This means that together with the Emmanuel Church, 150 people can now be reached each Sunday. **Salamat, the preacher and leader of the church,** preaches God’s word with such passion that even the illiterate can understand. **We have planned the construction of a building for church services** in 2021. We also want it to be a place where women can learn tailoring and men carpentry. In addition fruit and vegetables can be grown. Buying land is very expensive. The project is still in its planning stage, we first have to save money.

A new life in freedom has started for **Mustafa Ghulam** and his family. We were able to help him become self-sufficient by buying a new cargo taxi. He thanks the Himmelsperlen donors very warmly and is happy about his freedom.

LEBANON in Crisis

Our answer to the needs of the refugees is our food supply. In the past few months, with the help of many supporters, we were able to transfer money to Lebanon again and again, many thousands of euros have been donated so far. Since April, we have distributed food parcels and medication to around 1,500 Syrian refugee families. One such package meets their needs for a month.

A team of employees from the True Vine Church is constantly involved in this mission to the refugees. What do they need? Not much. In the Middle East, as well as in Pakistan the staple foods are: flour, rice, noodles, lentils, beans, oil, powdered milk, water and tea. Soap is added and used for everything that needs to be washed.

Soon, we will be sending a container by ship to Beirut with a cargo of long-life food and other essentials. If everything goes well, **this first container from Himmelsperlen** should be on its way by the end of August. Inflation is so high in Lebanon that everything has become either very expensive or no longer available.

The severe economic and political crisis has resulted in the country’s collapse. The Lebanese pound has lost 80 % of its value. Unemployment is now at 40 %.

The crisis has brought about a new spiritual openness among the Lebanese people. What hasn’t happened in decades is now coming true: many of the Lebanese people have come to believe in Jesus Christ.

The town of **Zahlé** sold a large piece of land to **True Vine Church** last year. A center for refugee aid is to be built there later. Already, the land is being cultivated, many different crops have already been harvested. Some of the vegetables are taken home for the families' own needs, everything else is sold.

Our next medical outreach is planned for mid-October. A team of 13 has already been put together. We very much hope that everything will work out as planned and that we will not be hindered by the corona pandemic.

SYRIA

In June, Pastor Rami received shocking news: Damascus City Police had closed and sealed-off the Alkalima Center. The accusation was that non-registered school activities had taken place there. After lengthy clarification, discussions with the authorities and a review of the timetable, it became clear that it is a center for development and health. At that time, this sort of programme was unheard of in Damascus. After only three weeks the green light was given to reopen. Through this experience we saw how God answers prayer. Now, the courses are running again and fully booked. Many children are waiting to get a place.

Wassem (name changed) is a young man from the Alkalima parish is Wassem. He was a soldier in the Syrian Army for 10 years and had many traumatic experiences. Now that he's released from the army, he's left with no money and no training. The state does not have the resources to provide severance payment. Wassem is currently selling sweets for children on two tables in front of the Alkalima Center. That is pathetic. Wassem barely earns enough for his own food. We want to enable him to become financially independent with a one off gift to get him started. This is the sort of help we have been able to offer others in need.

NEWS

Now own YouTube channel!

In the last few weeks **we have produced several films which present our services and projects** to anyone interested. These includes clips about **Corona Aid in Pakistan and Lebanon.** They are suitable for various groups and/or church services. We have also opened our own YouTube Channel to be used to make films even more widely available.

You can find us at: www.Himmelsperlen International e.V.-youtube

Sandra Dümmer - our new colleague. Sandra began working as an **assistant in the Himmelsperlen office** on a „mini-job basis“ in March 2020. Her appointment was a clear answer to our prayers. Sandra seamlessly took over the tasks of the predecessor. She is in the office on Mondays and sometimes Fridays. Her work with us complements her freelance work as an IT trainer and her own consulting agency.



Refugees' harvest



Field with vegetables



Alkalima Center



Sealed entrance to Alkalima Center



Street children in Damascus



Wassem

The visit of the Pakistani head-teacher couple Aurangzaib and Kiran Ghauri is planned for mid-November. They are coming to Germany for several days to observe the educational methods used in a school and kindergarten here.

For the Friends' Day, I recommend registering quickly because of the limited number of seats available.

A helpful hint: When transferring donations, please give your full address so that we can send the donation receipts at the beginning of the year.

I wish you all good experiences with God's „spirit of power, love and self discipline!“

With kind regards

Your



Attachment

- Poster School of Grace Pakistan
- Friend anniversary invitation



Sandra Dümmer

2020 Friends' Day

On Saturday
October 10, 2020
from 11 a.m. to 5
p.m. in Kelsterbach
(Frankfurt)

our friends' day
(which was postponed
in March) will now
take place.

To participate we
need a **written
Registration Form**
sent to

*freundestag@
himmelsperlen.org.*

EDITORIAL NOTES

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Please include your complete address with bank transfers.

Gifts are tax-deductible.

Donation receipts will be sent automatically at the beginning of the year.

MANAGER / CHAIRWOMAN



Margret Meier

FURTHER INFORMATION

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