

European Baptist Federation Emergency Appeal for Lebanon



Like us, you will have watched with growing horror the images coming from the latest violent conflict in Lebanon. Hundreds of people have been killed, most of them innocent civilians and around half of them children. Whole villages have been destroyed and half a million people have been made homeless.

Photo: BBC News



The situation is changing daily, and for the sake of the lives of the people of Lebanon we hope and pray for a ceasefire very soon. But what is clear is that much of Lebanon's infrastructure has been destroyed and that there will be an urgent need for help with reconstructing and the rebuilding of lives when this terrible conflict is over.

The Chief Executive of the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, Nabil Costa and a member of the EBF Executive, has kept us updated with regular bulletins and pictures, especially of the Baptist relief effort. The Beirut Baptist School has opened its doors to hundreds of Muslim refugees who have come in desperate need of food and medical care.

Photo: LSESD



AS well as making a Statement on the conflict which can be found on our website (www.ebf.org), the EBF has joined with the BMS World Mission in the UK and Baptist World Aid to send an immediate emergency grant of \$40,000 to help with the Baptist relief work.

But it is clear that much more will be needed. Here is what the President of the Lebanese Baptist Convention, Samuel Kharrat, has written recently:

Dear Tony Peck

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your concern and love.

In my request as the president of the convention, kindly requesting some funds assistance to Baptist Churches and families in Lebanon, I am aware of 40.000\$ that was sent to the Baptist society to support the relief work of BBS and ABTS. However, there are displaced Baptist families who were obliged to leave their towns and homes as well.

In case you have any funds support to assist our Baptist brothers during this conflict and even through coming weeks after the cease fire that we are expecting it will be highly appreciated. Please continue praying for our country and people.

*Best regards
Samuel Kharrat*

We would to begin **NOW** to put together a financial response from the EBF to what is expected be a huge humanitarian need. Therefore we are appealing to each Church and Member Union to consider how much it can give, great or small, to help the desperate situation of Lebanon. We will continue to work with BMS World Mission and Baptist World Aid to jointly fund projects suggested to us by the Lebanese Baptists to help with reconstruction.

Last November the EBF General Secretary preached at the 50th Anniversary of the Lebanese Baptist Convention. In his sermon on that occasion he said:

Before I came here I was reading again the book by Brother Andrew about his experiences with believers in the Middle East in the 1980s and early 1990s. He recalls going into a shop in Beirut 1981 when so much lay in ruins in this city. And the shopkeeper said to him: 'Mister Andrew, God has forsaken us. He has left Lebanon!'

How many times some of you must have let that thought pass through your mind even for a moment — despite your faith in the loving and faithful God. God has forsaken us. He has left Lebanon.

But thank God that we are here today to celebrate the fact that God has never left Lebanon. The faith has been refined by fire but has proved to be real and genuine and lasting.

Now once again much of Lebanon lies in ruins and we need to assure our Lebanese brothers and sisters that God has not left Lebanon, and that he will honour the faithful witness of his people there as they reach out with the love of Christ to people who have lost everything. We want to assure them too, that the prayers, the concern and the practical giving of brothers and sisters in the EBF family will continue to support them.

In the fellowship of Christ

Helari Puu
President

Tony Peck
General Secretary

Jan Saethre
Chair of EBF Finance Committee

**Please give as generously as you can
to the EBF Lebanese Emergency Appeal**



Here is how you can give:

Account holder:
European Baptist Federation
Nad Habrovkou 3, Jeneralka
CZ-16400 Praha 6

Account number: 171700

Bank name:
Spar- und Kreditbank Evangelisch-
Freikirchlicher Gemeinden eG,
Bad Homburg, GERMANY

IBAN: DE64 5009 2100 0000 1717 00

Bank code: 50092100

BIC: GENODE51BH2

SWIFT: GENODE55