



## What's Up:

*A Ministry Update of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Mastita, Lebanon  
Volume 1, Issue 1*

Dear Ministry Partner.

A war is raging between Hezbollah and Israel. But, there is Good News coming out of Lebanon. The Gospel is being preached. People are turning to Christ. The Holy Spirit is active all across Lebanon!

Want to learn more? Philadelphia Baptist Church!



**Bringing the lost into a saving relationship with Christ...  
See how the Holy Spirit leads**



**A New Home for Philadelphia Baptist Church, January 2024**

2024 is a milestone year in the life of Philadelphia Baptist Church (PBC), Mastita, Lebanon. After outgrowing our worship facilities twice in recent years, our leaders sought a more permanent solution to our facilities dilemma. As PBC entered 2024, we moved into our permanent Community Worship Center in Mastita, in the heart of Mount Lebanon. Members marked the occasion with a festive Dedication Service that was attended by more than 50 PBC members, celebrating the blessing God has bestowed on the church and its ministries. Our new church home (Formerly the Byblos Hilltop Hotel) is a flexible space that allows PBC to fulfill every facet of its mission in ministry and vision for the future of our community.



**More than 50 PBC members turned out on New Year's Eve for spirited worship and the Dedication of our new Community Worship Center in Mastita, in the heart of Mount Lebanon. The Center will be a blessing to all who seek to know more about our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

**PBC Community Worship Center** brings families and individuals together to worship and glorify our Savior, Jesus Christ in a welcoming environment. While the primary purpose of the Center is to bring praise and glory to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Center serves as a hub of community activity where residents find a warm welcome, trusting friendships, and a safe respite from the pressures of life in a country in chaos. Open to all members of the community, the Center enables families to enjoy Christian fellowship - a range of activities. At the core of the Center is a new Sanctuary where people worship and praise the Lord. The Center includes a Library where believers and seekers can learn about and grow in faith as they gain better knowledge of Jesus Christ and, His ministry. The Center provides secure accommodations for Conferences and Seminars,

fully equipped meeting facilities, and friendly spaces where Christians can come to build their relationship with Christ. Visitors can watch Christian films or listen to praise and worship music, and chat with friendly staff who can provide assistance and help in areas of need.

**Ministry to Women:** PBC is home to a number of Women's Ministries, weekly gatherings for Lebanese and refugee women to study the Bible, explore family and community relationships through the lens of Scripture, discuss pressing personal and family needs, pray, and enjoy healthy Christian fellowship. Mentoring and coaching by skilled leaders have equipped many participants to start similar meetings to Arab communities across Lebanon, reaching women with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ – women who has previously been completely cut off hearing the Good News of the Gospel. Plans to expand this vital ministry revolve around training that will be delivered through the PBC Worship and Community Center. Our current Women's Bible Studies meet weekly with group sizes ranging between 10 and 15 women Our Friday *Sobhieyeh* (social hour) meets every Friday, providing women from the church and from the wider community to get acquainted in a positive environment.



More than 50 women attended a series of Friday workshops to gain vital ministry skills. Lectures and practical demonstrations imparted skills that will benefit many congregations in our area.



Because of the crises Lebanon is facing, many children and youth are growing up in homes that do not teach the importance of belonging to a church, or living as a witness for Christ in the community. PBC's Children and Youth ministry is designed to help kids live out their faith.,

**A Thriving Ministry for Children and Youth:** PBC's Children and Youth Ministry has proven to be a great way to connect with the younger members of our church family, and to reach out beyond church walls to touch the lives and hearts of children and youth, ages 6 to 16, in the greater community beyond. We meet twice monthly on Saturday for a special time of friendship and fellowship centered on the Word of God. We build a basic understanding of Biblical truths and values and help kids build a successful future Christian life in the midst of an ever-changing world. Praise and worship songs, Biblical stories, age-appropriate activities and lessons that provide practical applications of Biblical principles engage our younger members so they begin to grow, think and live their lives in a God-honoring way.

**The PBC/MCF Respite Center:** PBC understands the enormous pressure that Christian members of the Lebanese Armed Forces face as they try to lead families in the country today. Military families in Lebanon are, today, suffer silently, victims of the country's economic and social collapse. Wages paid to military families are equivalent to less than US\$ 75.00 per month, with no provision for health insurance, rental assistance, food support, etc. In light of Lebanon's economic and political collapse, PBC helped establish a new ministry called MCF (Military Christian Fellowship - Lebanon) to strengthen the faith and Christian witness of officers and enlisted personnel, provide discipleship training, and encourage them to spread the Gospel among their families. PBC and MCF serve families that have unmet needs, helping to provide food, medicines and medical supplies, emotional counseling, family strengthening activities, and practical assistance to those most in need. Everyone needs a place to belong. Members of the armed forces may be far away from their home and friends, we help them to enjoy a warm atmosphere with new friends, food, fun, Bible study, a "PBC Prayer Room," and offer them a place to get rest in a clean and calm bedroom. The PBC Worship and Community Center is the hub around which these services are based. Serving Lebanon's military community is a privilege.



A WEEKEND IN HEAVEN  
..and Eternity there later  
30 March – 4 April 2023

Attended by nearly 50 military and ex-military members, the formative meeting of MCF-Lebanon was celebrated nearly a dozen different military delegations from Lebanon, Europe, the Middle East, and other countries from around the world.

**There's Much More to the PBC Story:** Space available in this Ministry Update doesn't allow me to share other aspects of PBC's ongoing ministry, but there is so much more to work we are doing to advance God's Kingdom

in Lebanon. Our Children and Youth Program Vacation Bible School, the proposed development of a safe house for converts, an extensive array of training activities in discipleship and evangelism are a few among many facets of ministry that are being planned as 2024 unfolds. In future issues of What's Up at PBC, I will be sharing about our weekly classes in Theology, Convert Care Initiative, CPR Certification classes, plans for the PBC Respite Center, an After School Learning Center, and more. In each update, I will share updates of ministry activities, events that will be sponsored by or hosted in the new Community Center, and special ways that you, as PBC Ministry Partners can become a vital part of our ministry regardless of where on earth you may live.

**Impact the Arab World for Christ:** Achieving the Great Commission is a command given by Christ to all who follow Him. Working through current conflicts and events, God has created opportunities to reach more than 1.5 million non-Christians from other Arab countries living here as refugees in a land of freedom of religion and belief. But time is running out. Many in Lebanon are pressuring refugees, forcing them to return in the near future.

PBC believes in the Great Commission. But, we cannot achieve success on our own. Is the Lord leading you to partner with the PBC Network. **Here's how you can help!**

- **Prayer:** Every accomplishment we achieve is the result of prayer. The Network has several social media outlets where you can keep informed about our activities and needs. Please contact us for more information on our developing global prayer network.
- **Promotion:** The PBC Network has a presence on several social media sites. We securely share how member Churches follow Jesus Christ and are striving to bring the nations under the authority of Scripture. Contact us for details. Check us out!
- **Partnership:** Is the Lord be leading you to partner with the PBC Network? Sending a small ministry team. Providing in-kind resources... perhaps supporting discipleship courses? Or helping support local Arab missionaries who 'Go' to reach the nations in a culturally appropriate and intensely effective way. Again, please contact us today.

Thank you for your time considering the work of the Philadelphia Church Network. Please join with us, praying for the fulfillment of the Great Commission in this challenging yet vitally important part of the world. I ask you please to contact me with any questions you may have, and for additional information about our activities. I look forward to speaking with you when your time permits.

Many blessings in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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**Philadelphia Baptist Church  
in Review**



**Starting the day at Better World Refugee School, 2019**



**Formal Evangelism Training, 2022.**



**Dozens come to faith during Revival,  
Celebrate Jesus.**

