



The Fellowship Child Sponsorship Newsletter

Spring 2023

When you sponsor a child, you make a long-lasting, holistic impact in the life of a child, providing love for today, and hope for tomorrow.

Updates from The Fellowship Child Sponsorship ministry locations.

For more updates on The Fellowship Child Sponsorship ministries and other FAIR projects, visit the FAIR Blog at fellowship.ca/FAIRBlog



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PO Box 457 Guelph ON N1H 6K9
Tel: 519-821-4830
Email: FAIR@fellowship.ca
fellowship.ca

Casa Hogar [Honduras]

Fellowship International missionaries:
Melodie Francis, Rick and Ena Ward

Casa Hogar is a home for marginalized and vulnerable children and youth rescued from the urban streets of Honduras. You can learn more about the ministry at fellowship.ca/HondurasCasaHogar



For the first time in three years, Casa Hogar had the pleasure of receiving not ONE, but TWO short-term mission teams from Canada. The first group came in November 2022 and the second in January 2023. The teams ran a Vacation Bible School, helped finish a chicken coop for 100 chickens, and built relationships with the children. During their time in Honduras, 10 of the Casa Hogar children were baptized and publicly professed their love for the Lord.

At the end of March, the roof of the main Casa Hogar building was replaced. This was a huge undertaking that has been needed for several years, but was delayed by COVID-19. All the children and staff had to be relocated while the work was completed. While the roof was being replaced, two thunderstorms came through the area, causing significant water damage to the exposed parts inside of the home. Praise the Lord that accommodations were available for the children during the time needed for the additional repairs.

Praise the Lord for the 10 children who have committed their lives to following Him. Praise the Lord for providing for the logistical needs of replacing the roof and water-damaged parts of the home in time for the return of the children and staff.



Cedar Home [Lebanon]

Fellowship International missionaries:
Karim and Rita Anayssi

Cedar Home is a Christian home for abandoned newborns, as well as orphaned and disadvantaged Syrian, Palestinian, and

Iraqi refugee and stateless girls in Lebanon. You can learn more about the ministry at fellowship.ca/LebanonCedarHome

Fellowship International missionary and Cedar Home director Karim Anayssi recently shared: *"If I were to describe Lebanon in one word for the last six months it would be: freefall – on every level! There has been unprecedented levels of poverty and exodus of minds, a bleak political view, closed banks and government offices, and an unstable Middle East region."*

The present and future outlook in Lebanon remains bleak, and poverty is the reality for the majority of its residents. Cedar Home remains a present reminder of the hope found in Christ as it remains operational and even expands in the midst of economic collapse. The relief program to 63 families within the community continues, providing a tangible reminder of God's love and provision. Rita encourages the girls through the POD (Path of Discipleship), and helps them discover how to be disciples of Jesus. Renovations on the future boys' home and vocational school started this May and two short-term mission team visits are planned for this summer. Cedar Home's rooftop café will also be an open and available space for all young adults and teens from the church.

Praise the Lord for the ability to remain a constant presence within the community. Pray for Karim and Rita as they seek to care for the girls and raise them up to love the Lord and be a positive influence wherever they go.

Who do you know who may consider sponsoring a child?

We are so thankful that you choose to support the Fellowship Child Sponsorship program. The influence of the holistic care evidenced in this newsletter is only possible through your generosity.

As we add new ministries and new children join our existing ones, the Fellowship Child Sponsorship program is growing. We are praying for 1,050 child sponsorships by 2026 to reach our sustainability needs. We encourage you to share this newsletter with anyone you think might consider sponsoring a child.

Clementia Life Centre [Lebanon]

Fellowship International missionaries:
Bechara and Roula Karkafi

CLC is a school and community outreach centre that serves Syrian refugee students and their families in Lebanon. You can learn more at:

fellowship.ca/LebanonClementiaLifeCentre



In 2014, CLC opened its doors for the first time and welcomed 15 unschooled refugee children. Nine years later, the program has expanded and so have the community's needs. CLC not only provides access to education for 100 refugee children and youth, but also food packages, healthcare, mental support, and spiritual encouragement to the 40 families of the students. CLC hosts psycho-social and spiritual meetings for the mothers. Teens from the vocational program also attend church youth meetings on Saturdays, encouraging and equipping them to become disciple-makers within their Muslim-majority communities. The CLC team has also grown, including two new teachers, a program coordinator, and two speech therapists, as well as two psychologists provided by local partners.

The February earthquakes that caused so much destruction and loss of life in Türkiye and Syria also shook Lebanon. This added to the loss and trauma of Syrian refugees since many of them have family still living in Syria. CLC was able to speak into this experience and extend the love of Christ through psycho-social supports not available elsewhere.

Please pray for open hearts to the Gospel and healing among the families this year. Also, pray for wisdom, protection, joy, and strength for our staff, especially those in new roles.

Joy Foundation [Dominican Republic]

Fellowship International missionary:
Helene Hwang

Joy Foundation is a school that serves the children of undocumented Haitians living in the Dominican Republic. You can learn more about the ministry at fellowship.ca/DominicanRepublic

In 2022, Joy Foundation opened its second location (a preschool) and accepted 20 children. The vision of the preschool is to encourage reconciliation between the Haitian and Dominican Republic people, starting with the children. So, half of the children and staff are Haitian, and the other half are Dominican. Helene shared that, "[The] children became one in such a short time. The problem was the adults. Adults who have never done anything together."



To help create unity, a WhatsApp group was created to share pictures: mothers began to encourage, rejoice, and pray together for their children. Then in November, a short-term mission team came from Canada and hosted a beach picnic for the children's families. It was a time of great happiness, community, and joy for all involved.

Pray that the Lord would instill a desire for reconciliation amongst the parents of the preschool children. Pray that the relationships built there would impact the broader community.

Love Trust [Sri Lanka]

Fellowship International missionary:
Ronald Jeyaseelan

Love Trust is made up of four preschool programs located in rural Sri Lankan communities where extreme poverty is the norm and social services are inaccessible. You can learn more about the ministry at fellowship.ca/SriLankaLoveTrust



Despite ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka, life and ministry goes on. Fellowship International missionary Ronald Jeyaseelan, who oversees the Love Trust ministries, visited the Love Trust villages with a short-term mission team in early 2023. While there, the team ran Vacation Bible School programs at all four locations, attended preschool graduation ceremonies and children's art exhibits, and helped host outreach meals within the communities. They also visited the newest preschool plant location in Ramboda which is a very remote location. Reaching Ramboda involved travelling on a treacherous gravel mountain road, climbing for nearly four kilometres – a true journey of faith!

A highlight of the trip was the opening ceremony of the new three-level multipurpose building in Lindula. The building will function as the village preschool on the first level and be used for Sunday worship, church events and outreach, vocational training for women, and much more.

Please pray that the lessons learned through the preschool will make a lasting impact on the children, instilling the desire to know Christ personally and to be a positive influence in their community.