

A photograph of a large group of diverse students sitting at desks in a classroom, overlaid with a purple tint. The students are looking in various directions, some towards the camera. The text "THE YEAR OF 2016" is superimposed in large, light blue letters over the center of the image.

# THE YEAR OF 2016



## The Year of 2016

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” **John 16:33**

We would like to share our joy and celebrate the things that God has done through our ministry in 2016. As we look back over the past year, we can only praise God for all the opportunities that we have been given to serve children. Using innovative ideas through performing arts, clubs and camps, God was impacting the hearts of children and youth in a very personal way.

God has paved the way for our team to gain access to schools across several regions in Lebanon in both private and public schools. Moving from Beirut across to the North, the Bekaa or the South, our team has been able to engage children with God’s Word through an array of different programs. Over 20,000 children were reached through one of our 40-minute interactive plays, each play covering a specific educational, awareness or Scriptural theme. Whenever possible, portions of Scripture were given out to children in the form of books such as the “Book of Hope” and the “Good Samaritan”.

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**20,000+**  
children

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through  
**110**  
performances





In June, we celebrated the launch of our new Vacation Bible School curriculum (VBS) “LinabniHayatahom”. The curriculum is made available online, free of charge, to all churches. It is a discipleship program that includes songs, memory verses, skits, bible studies, discussion questions, games and quizzes. During the summer, reports started to come in from different churches in Syria and Lebanon who have successfully used the program. Since its launch 131 churches have downloaded one of the modules with an estimated 5,200 children impacted through their local churches.

It also became apparent to us that many churches in Lebanon do not have the resources, skills or volunteer base to run a VBS. So our team has come alongside them and helped kick start a VBS program at their church; by combining the efforts of our full-time team with their volunteers. First two weeks our team executes the program while their volunteers observe. As they gain confidence, the church volunteers start to take part in the program and by the sixth week they are completely running it. Through this model we are able to multiply the number of VBS clubs around the region and partner with the local church in a profound way.

[www.linabnihayatahom.org](http://www.linabnihayatahom.org)

The Lord paved the way for our team to be able to reach the more spiritually remote Syrian camps in Lebanon. An asset map study we conducted showed that out of the estimated two million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, 30,000 have been reached with God’s word at least once in 2016. This leaves the vast majority of refugees unreached.

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**8,000+**  
Children

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through  
**35 Clubs**

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**243**  
Kids

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through  
**6 Camps**

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In 2014, New Heights partnered with OneHope to develop a Psychosocial program that would address the felt needs of young Syrian refugees as they struggle with displacement and lack of hope. The program developed is based on a 20-minute short film called **“Not Alone”** which is a narrative story of a displaced Syrian refugee family showing the struggles and challenges that they face. After the viewing, the audience is divided into groups where they discuss the different themes of the film. It is in these discussions where kids engage with God’s word.

God introduced us to **“Men of Peace”** within the Syrian refugee camps who have helped open many refugee camps for our team. Because of this, our ministry with Syrian refugee children has grown over the past year. Most of the children reached this year have never been exposed to the Christian message before. The Not Alone movie has proven to be a great tool for psychosocial development among children who have experienced the war as it helps them open up about the things that they have gone through as a result of the crisis.



## Testimony:

The New Heights team arrived at one of the refugee camps in the Bekaa Valley. Ali, a seven-year-old boy started to yell and scream at our team. He pulled on his mother's dress and waved his arms hysterically. There was fear and panic in his eyes.

Confused, the team found out from Ali's mother that a few days before, the Lebanese Secret Police had arrested his father. Ali thought that the team was another secret police unit coming to arrest his mother. Realizing the source of Ali's fear, team members gathered around him, joking, playing, and high-fiving him until he calmed down and a faint smile appeared on his face although it was apparent that he was not totally relaxed.

The next day, the team returned to the same camp to run the program. To everyone's amazement, Ali was at the entrance of the camp waiting for them! He greeted each member with a hug and a wide smile. This was a different Ali than the one they had met 24-hours earlier. During the program, Ali was there in the front row participating, raising his hand to answer questions and excited to engage with us in every possible way.

The transformation in Ali was visual and real. Ali still lives in a refugee camp and his father is still arrested by the authorities - but he has experienced the peace of God like never before. The seed of love has been planted in his shattered heart. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in his life.





In June and for four consecutive weeks, we organised all our summer camps back to back. This allowed our team to set up the camp side in such a way that best served our program and save a lot of effort in packing and setting up. The camps were a refreshing time for children to spend a few days away from their families and a great opportunity for them to engage with God's word. Camps were filled with outdoor activities, water games, and challenges.

We praise the Lord for another successful year and for a truly committed team who have really got behind the purpose of our organisation. Our full time staff and our volunteers have been so important in the progress of our mission and have been a real blessing in their commitment to fulfill all the tasks that have been set. God has really blessed us during 2016 and we pray that he will continue to do everything he plans for 2017 through us.

We are planning to produce a new Scripture-based program targeted for children between the age of 7 & 12. The program will be a 40-minute play, followed by a 30-minute in-class workshop for kids. We expect to perform this program in 30 primary schools in Lebanon during 2017 reaching an estimated 6,000 children.

The production phase will include: script-writing, set design and construction, song recording, costumes and rehearsals. To accomplish this work we have worked out a budget of \$11,500 and we are writing to ask if you could financially give towards this appeal and equip New Heights to share the Gospel of Jesus and the hope we find in Him?

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**9,000**  
Children

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through  
**140**  
Screenings

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**791**  
Children

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through  
**7**  
inflatable  
events

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