



NEW HEIGHTS

 **Beyond** October 2021
the Box

“*Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.*”

James 5:13-15

Prayers Offered in Faith

Sometimes, when faced with big problems, it is easy to forget that through prayer we have access to the God who is bigger than any problem. This month, we are grateful for your prayers for us in the difficult situations that we are enduring in Lebanon. **We are also witnessing the power of God as we pray for the people whom we are serving. Praise God that He is with us in whatever circumstances come our way, and that He allows us to be part of the answer to other people's prayers.**

An Afternoon of Visits

This month, we thought we would do things a little differently and give you a taste of what a visit day looks like, as described by a team member. It goes as follows:

8:00 am

We arrive at the office and share prayers together as a team for the day ahead.



8:30 am

As the school year has started, many people can't see us until after 2 pm, as that's when schools finish here. So, we spend the mornings working in the office as well as making sure we have the right number of boxes from our warehouse.

2:00 pm

We arrive and park up, carrying the boxes up the five flights of stairs to the apartment. As we enter the apartment, and gather our breath, the mother tells us that her children should be home from school any minute. She then tells us about her day and begins to cry as she describes a family conflict that is unfolding in the household. We comfort her and tell her that God is with her even amid this.



1:50 pm

We split into two teams and our team drives off to the first visit. This one is close to our offices, just around the corner. The area in which we are based was badly hit by the explosion and many buildings were damaged.

2:10 pm

We hear the voices of her children as they climb up the stairs. There are three of them, two girls and a boy. We help them with their school bags, exclaiming at how heavy they are. As they settle in, we begin to ask them about the previous box and activities that we brought them. The kids were shy at first when speaking to us in Arabic. The mother helps them to tell us about how they read the activity book on the balcony.



2:30 pm

The children look tired after their day at school. Before we leave, we ask if they would like to pray. They then lead us in the Lord's prayer, and we say our goodbyes, encouraging them to do the activities so that they can show us the results next time. Assuring the mother of our prayers, we set off to our next visit.

2:20 pm

We get the children to unpack the box so that we can explain the activity printed on the inside. This box contains activities related to Noah's ark, and we show the excited children how to turn their box into the ark.



2:45 pm

We arrive at the second home. Here, we are warmly greeted by two brothers, their older sister, and their father. The youngest boy, who is about eight years old, is particularly excited to see us. He talks eagerly about his day at school, asks us about the box's content, and we discuss finding the time to do our activities amidst his schoolwork. We share the activity sheet with the whole family and talk to them about the box. Then, we head off to our third visit.



3:25 pm

As we arrive at our final visit of the afternoon, we are greeted by the boy's aunt who tells us that God must really love us because there was electricity at just the right time for us to be able to come up in the elevator! This family is a single-parent family. The boy's mother and aunt are both present. This boy has completed all the activities from the previous book and enthusiastically re-tells us the story of the lost sheep. We explain the new box and the activity booklet to him and express how happy we are that he read the activity booklet and remembered the story.



3:55pm

Having safely delivered all our parcels, we hop back in the car and make our way back to the office.



Prayer Changes Things

As you can see from the descriptions above, our visits normally last for about half an hour. However, there are times when we get into deep conversations with people, which results in the visits lasting much longer than normal. One such instance was a visit to Janette and her children. We began to share with the family about God's love for us and the full life that we experience when we are close to God. **Janette's daughter challenged us, saying "You tell us to pray, but we could pray forever, and nothing would change."** We shared with them the story of the paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda and how Jesus was able to heal him after 38 years of illness. We also offered proof from testimonies taken from our own lives, showing how even if God doesn't take away certain hardships when we pray, he is with us and strengthens us in that situation. Janette was really affected. **She began to cry and told us, "You have encouraged me so much. I think God has sent you here to show me how far away I am from him. I don't go to church, and I don't pray, I am far from him."** She opened up about how difficult her marriage is right now and the problems she is having with her husband. We shared Bible story after Bible story with Janette and, as we were leaving, she asked us to keep her in our prayers, and we told her we would continue to pray for her. We did so, and also sent her devotions every now and then via WhatsApp messages. **Two weeks later, Janette sent us a message that said "Thank you so much for what you've been sending me and for the prayers. Things are much better between my husband and I - everything is fine in the house now."**



(Name has been changed)

This Month

Praise God for:

- Providing enough fuel for us to continue our visits despite the severe fuel shortage Lebanon is facing.
- Answering the prayers that we pray for people like Janette.
- Continuing to give us opportunities to enter people's houses and spread His word.

Please Pray that:

- God continues to help Janette and her family, and that He would bring them to know Him.
- Our team would be safe on the roads and that they would have the energy and strength to serve.
- We would be able to find medicine. We want to distribute medicine for children but it is becoming increasingly difficult to get many types of medicine in Lebanon

We appreciate your continued prayers and support

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