

# THE LEBANESE SOCIETY FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



The Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD), also known as the Lebanese Baptist Society, is the parent organization of several ministries working locally in Lebanon, regionally in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) and extending globally. Together these specialized components of LSESD provide a model of holistic ministry, supporting LSESD's mission:

**TO SERVE THE CHURCH IN LEBANON AND THE ARAB WORLD THROUGH SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**



Darkness cannot drive out darkness;  
only **LIGHT** can do that.

HATE cannot drive out hate;  
only **love** can do that.

These words of Martin Luther King, Jr. sum up what LSESD is all about. Our faith-based values call us to come alongside the marginalized and disempowered in society. We strive to create opportunities and environments where individuals and communities can develop and grow into their full, God-given potential. Our desire is to serve the Church in Lebanon and the Arab world through spiritual, social and educational development. We feel that God has placed us in a position of leadership in the MENA region, and we are responsible to Him to influence upcoming generations to commit their futures to Kingdom work.

We influence Lebanon and the MENA region through equipping leaders for effective and collaborative service, often in highly challenging contexts. Developing tools and resources for capacity building of local, community-based organizations goes hand in hand with our leadership development work. Raising awareness and addressing issues of poverty, vulnerability and the right to education for all, especially for students with learning difficulties, are rapidly growing ways through which we express our values. In parallel, we continue to respond to the crisis in Syria, partnering with local churches and community-based organizations to alleviate the suffering of affected families.

This brochure provides an overview of our ministries, including opportunities for enriching vision trip, mission team and learning experiences available to our partners.

*We too have a dream - that light and love will prevail in our country and region.*

**Nabil K. Costa**

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



## ARAB BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (ABTS)

### SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

ABTS is a Christian Evangelical theological seminary serving students dedicated to working in their home countries in the MENA region. The seminary's impact reaches at least ten nations: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, South Sudan, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. The ABTS curriculum equips graduates to lead the Church into authentic engagement with communities and societies as they are today. The seminary welcomes individual students, married couples and families, committing to provide the best learning opportunities. This approach ensures that the student body represents a variety of socio-economic statuses and community backgrounds, creating a richly diverse academic and spiritual family. Today, graduates are leading the body of Christ in their communities and churches, often in hostile and high risk environments.

### INSTITUTE OF MIDDLE EAST STUDIES (IMES)

IMES seeks to bring about positive transformation in thinking and practice between Christians and Muslims in the Middle East and beyond, through various opportunities for learning and engagement in the MENA region. For instance, the Middle East Conference is an annual gathering that brings together Christian workers from all over the world who are interested to learn more about Islam and the Middle East. The Lebanon Practicum is a short-term study opportunity for those from outside the Arab world which includes participation in the Middle East Conference and Arabic language study at the Institute's Academy for Languages and Practical Skills (ALPS). It allows students to practice cross-cultural work in a dynamic context, and engage in mutual learning between Christian and Muslim communities. IMES' Masters of Religion in Middle Eastern and North African Studies is a graduate program designed for individuals who want to be involved in addressing the real issues in the MENA context. The program is open to students from within and outside of the Arab world.

## SKILD CENTER

[ Smart Kids with Individual Learning Differences ]



### BEIRUT BAPTIST SCHOOL (BBS)

BBS is a private Christian school for students from nursery school through grade 12. Founded in the 1950's, BBS established a high standard of education that led to its accreditation in 2010 as a Quality School by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) – an accreditation division of AdvancED. Over 90% of the 1,300 students come from Muslim families who recognize the school's Christ-centered values as a major benefit. Parents often attribute their childrens' strong morals and positive contributions to family life to their BBS education. Students are exposed to faith-based teachings through bible classes and weekly chapel meetings. In such a diverse place as Lebanon, BBS has the great honor and responsibility of furthering knowledge, truth, faith, tolerance and understanding for the future leaders of Lebanon.

The SKILD Center is an oasis of hope for children with learning differences in Lebanon. Due to socio-cultural factors, children who are unable to find immediate success in mainstream schools are left with no other options for education and inclusion in society. They are often hidden away in homes, as many families are not aware of or do not have the ability to access appropriate resources. The SKILD Center provides specialized services for a wide range of needs by the Center's team of experts. It offers professional assessment and evaluation, and intervention services such as speech therapy, special education, occupational therapy and counseling. In parallel, SKILD works with partner schools conducting assessments and following up on students with learning difficulties. The Center also holds an annual summer day camp, giving children the opportunity to experience special aspects of childhood as other children are able to. Another contribution of SKILD to Lebanese society as a whole is its work to create community awareness about the realities and possibilities for children with learning differences. A major success of such efforts was SKILD's leading role in the creation of the annual National Day for Students with Learning Difficulties, designated on April 22.





## DAR MANHAL AL HAYAT (DMAH)

DMAH is a publishing house devoted to making available and accessible Christ-centered materials in Arabic. Recent translated titles include the MacArthur Study Bible and David C. Cook's Action Bible.

DMAH also works with ABTS on producing theological textbooks in Arabic. Its other function is to develop Arab writers to create indigenous materials. In parallel, LSESD's latest project is the development of "KONOOZ" an Arabic e-reader APP, and "KONOOZ BOOKS" an e-bookstore for Arabic Christian resources produced by various publishing houses in the region. As such KONOOZ will make accessible an enriching collection of digital resources to those who may have access to the internet but not to certain physical books, often due to socio-political or economic factors.

DMAH believes that knowledge leads to independent thinking which can lead to communities opening up to the Gospel. It is through these efforts that DMAH seeks to expand the Kingdom of God.



# RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT



## RELIEF & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Relief and Community Development Program at LSESD was born out of emergency relief that the various ministries provided to internally displaced persons (IDPs) during the 2006 War. That experience highlighted the opportunity for LSESD to engage in development projects in the country, as was requested by former IDPs after they returned home. The program was created and has since undergone rapid expansion back into the relief realm, responding to Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Syria. This has become an impacting ministry as churches have been the primary partners distributing relief supplies and conducting activities, resulting in unexpected fellowship between refugees and church members. This byproduct of the relief activities has considerably enhanced the work of the Church in the areas where LSESD is providing aid. This serves to not only meet the physical and social needs of the refugees, but has broadened the spiritual vision of Lebanese Christians involved in the response, enhancing the role of the Church in Lebanon.

# VISION & MISSION TRIPS



**VISION TRIPS:** LSESD offers short vision trips designed to provide one or all of the following to participants:

- A deeper understanding of the MENA and Lebanese contexts
- To learn about the work of the ministries under the LSESD umbrella
- To see what opportunities there may be to get involved in the work in Lebanon and around the region

## **MISSION TRIPS**

### **BAPTIST CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY (BCYM)**

BCYM holds summer and year-round camps and conferences for children and teenagers, focusing on vulnerable children, youth and most recently Syrian refugees. BCYM has also incorporated a puppetry ministry into their events. The events are often the highlight of the year for many children, providing time and space for them to feel special, make connections with caring adults and older youth leaders, and be in a safe environment where God's love for them is expressed through relationships. BCYM also offers children and youth the opportunity to make global connections through the many volunteers who come from outside of Lebanon to participate in the camps. This aspect of the camp program provides supplemental support to BCYM staff but also offers

volunteer groups a rich and meaningful experience in the MENA region, promoting cross-cultural friendships and understanding.

## **SKILD CENTER**

The SKILD Center is able to offer longer term (six weeks minimum) volunteer opportunities for individuals or groups with relevant technical skills.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **INSTITUTE OF MIDDLE EAST STUDIES**

- Lebanon Practicum
- Middle East Conference
- Masters of Religion in MENA Studies

### **ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES AND PRACTICAL SKILLS (ALPS)**

ALPS offers Arabic language courses for individuals looking to increase their ability to communicate within the region and in everyday life in Lebanon. Students may study the colloquial Lebanese dialect or Fusha, classical Arabic, privately or with a small class (3-5 students). ALPS is equipped to offer short to long-term language learning solutions. Unique to ALPS is its very own language curriculum, which greatly assists students in reaching their language learning goals.

Contact us to learn more about any of these ministries and how they contribute to accomplishing our mission.

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#### VISIT OUR WEBSITES

- Academy of Languages and Practical Skills, [www.abtslebanon.org/ALPS](http://www.abtslebanon.org/ALPS)
- Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, [www.abtslebanon.org](http://www.abtslebanon.org)
- Baptist Children and Youth Ministry, [www.bcymllebanon.org](http://www.bcymllebanon.org)
- Beirut Baptist School, [www.bbs.edu.lb](http://www.bbs.edu.lb)
- Dar Manhal Al Hayat, [www.dar-manhal-alhayat.com](http://www.dar-manhal-alhayat.com)
- Institute of Middle East Studies, [www.abtslebanon.org/IMES](http://www.abtslebanon.org/IMES) | Blog, [www.imeslebanon.wordpress.com](http://www.imeslebanon.wordpress.com)
- Konooz, [www.konoozbooks.com](http://www.konoozbooks.com)
- Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, [www.Lsesd.org](http://www.Lsesd.org)
- Relief and Community Development, [www.Lsesd.org](http://www.Lsesd.org)
- SKILD Center, [www.skild-edu.org](http://www.skild-edu.org)

For our partners in the United States, the Middle East Bible Outreach (MEBO) is a 501 C 3 corporation and can issue tax deductible receipts.

Visit MEBO at [www.mebo.org](http://www.mebo.org)

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