



Jan 29, 2024

Grief, Gratitude, & Grace

Issue #9



Grief

Across the world, people are grieving the destruction of Gaza and death of civilians in Israel. In our collective grief, we yearn for Salam - peace for all people in Israel. We recognize that time is running out for desperately-needed humanitarian aid to arrive in Gaza. Gazans must receive the immediate supplies and medical aid they need and be allowed safety and security to return to their homes.



In Lebanon, on January 2, there was a drone attack by Israel on a Hamas leader in Beirut, just 3 miles from our sponsored school. The ground shook, but no one at the school was injured. The blast killed 6 people and seriously damaged several buildings (photo below). Just days ago a strike near the Israeli border killed two Hezbollah leaders. The confrontations between Hezbollah and Israel have killed 227 on the Lebanese side, including 161 Hezbollah members and 37 civilians, according to Lebanese security sources. Fear of the war expanding further between Lebanon and Israel is a constant worry.



Over the last two months, Amine has given many presentations in the community on the subject of "Israel and Hamas War: How Did We Get Here?" Filtered through his lens as a Lebanese American, he briefly recounts the history of the region over the last 100 years, and the current crisis, ending with our hope for peace in the region. These presentations have enabled us to spread the word about Noor to a wider audience.

Gratitude

The generosity of our partners at year-end enabled us to move forward with doubling the number of students at Noor El-Salam Academy. Teachers now have morning and afternoon sessions for 60 students each. The morning session is from 8-11am and the afternoon session is from 2:30-5:30pm. Between sessions we started a pilot class with older children who are unschooled or who have not been in school for many years. We are hoping they will be able to catch up and receive a certificate with their age-mates. This pilot program is dependent on additional grants for which we are applying for in 2024.

The holidays were a very happy time at school with face-painting and the appearance of Baba Noël (Santa Claus). The students were grateful for the fun and treats!





Grace

*Grace is the essence of life that enables us to see the world not simply as a place for **us**, but as a place for **all of us**. -John Baldoni*

With your help, we are working to make a difference in the lives of 140 children and their families in a distant land. How can we do that? With **Generosity**, the will to do something more for others. With **Respect** for the dignity and worth of all people. With the **Action, Compassion, and Energy** of our staff and board. **Grace** abounds. See the photos below for proof!



Meeting with new afternoon students, above



Science experiment with beans and lentils, above and below



Colorful posters surround new whiteboard; recent purchase of storage cabinet, below



The children know they are loved and respected!



Supplies Needed

If you are local in or near Longmont, CO, or want to have delivered to us an on-line order, the list of supplies Amine will be taking over to the school in March includes:

- Stickers of encouragement for students
- White board markers
- White board erasers
- Drawing notebooks
- Tampons
- Staplers
- Scissors
- Glue

Cash contributions are needed on an on-going basis as you are able:

[Donate Online](#)

Or donate by mail:

Noor El-Salam
1237 Purdue Drive
Longmont, CO 80503

We will continue to work for peace and to give children hope.

Amine