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July 11, 2021

INSAAF INSIGHTS



*Justice and Compassion for Migrant Workers
in Lebanon*



NEW BEGINNINGS

I will sing the Lord's praise for he has been good to me. Psalm 13:6

With the opening of our new space, we have been able to resume our classes on Sunday and add more classes during the week. Sunday is the day maids are given a day off. In the afternoon, we hold computer classes and language classes for interested migrant domestic workers. In the computer classes, the women learn programs like Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. This provides them with basic computer skills that can be used in other employment in the future. Because not all migrant workers come from Arabic or English-speaking countries, it is helpful for some maids to learn basic Arabic and English so that they can communicate with their employers.

New for the summer, we have started holding classes for children once a week. Monday mornings we have “Mommy and Me” classes for toddlers and their moms. We have music, storytime, and activities to help develop fine motor skills for children ages 2-5. Most migrant domestic workers with young children are not able to enroll them in school, so these “Mommy and Me” classes give them an opportunity to learn important developmental skills. On Monday afternoons, we have an art class for children ages 5 to 8 with their moms. The children learn about some of the great artists and they try their hand at recreating their art. So far we have learned about Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet, and Georgia O’Keeffe.



LEA LEARNS ARABIC AND HELPS HER CHILD

Lea, who works very hard as a Migrant Domestic Worker in several Lebanese homes, somehow still makes time to attend the weekly Arabic class we run at the INSAAF Center. She had much opposition from her husband who didn’t like her attending the class and felt it was a waste of her time. But despite his disapproval, Lea persisted. She would complete her chores at home, make sure her three children are engaged in homework and rushed to our Center to attend classes.

In April of 2021, the COVID lockdowns were lifted in Lebanon. Life gradually eased back to Normal. Lea attended our Friday Bible Study and prayer time at our Center. I casually asked her how her family and children were doing.

What Lea shared touched my heart! She was so grateful for the Arabic classes she attended! She not only improved her own skills, but was also able to teach her little daughter Arabic. They could not afford an Arabic tutor, nor did she have a reliable Internet connection at home. But having attended the Arabic classes at the INSAAF Center, she was emboldened to tutor her daughter in Arabic! One Friday, she excitedly shared with our Bible Study group how her own efforts helped her little girl to pass her Arabic Tests in school! Her husband realized his mistake and apologized to Lea for being a stumbling block.

We praise God for the little miracles He continues to do in the lives of MDWs in the midst of their weary and tired lives!

WAYS TO HELP:

We are repatriating new women every month and more of our migrant domestic workers have increased medical needs during this time, including doctor's visits and blood work. If you would like to contribute towards these needs, please contact us at insaaflebanon@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

We rejoice in the many varied ways God is using us to be His hands and feet to "the least of these" in Beirut at this time. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and for your generous giving!

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