

## Thanks from Syria

**Darrin Yoder to:** Irma Gonzalez, Elizabeth Stajic,  
Linda Dickinson, Maynard Knepp, 22/07/2014 6:16 AM  
Arthur Mann, Nadine Zook Mitler,  
Darrin Yoder, warehouse

I received this note yesterday from one of our reps in Lebanon, which also covers Syria. I'll let her words speak for themselves.

Thanks again for making this happen. MCC's care for those in Lebanon is truly appreciated. While sitting with Bishop Selwanos from Homs today as he told Linda and Silas his story, these words stick in my, "What do you say to your people after the atrocities and awful things that have happened? What is the difference that MCC makes, or the impact from the MCC help this year?"

Besides other things said, his answer was, "MCC helps us to carry the cross of Jesus – like Simeon, a very heavy cross for Syrian Christians right now." (He was saying he tells his people they need to accept the road of Jesus – a road that involves carrying the cross...)

He also said the greatest impact was left psychologically by all the Easter Basket aid – something we all think is so small, for them was huge at that time, people were overjoyed and will remember for a long time and it helped the entire church and area to feel encouraged and strengthened to carry on being the church in Syria.

Another partner just got their allotment on Monday. We were able to visit a home of a recipient in Baabal and see a personal distribution to a Syrian family that has escaped from bombing and a destroyed home near Raqqa last year. They left behind all the rest of their family, and now survive the high cost of living as a refugee in Lebanon, with their 11 year old son working, sweeping and dusting at a toy shop down the street, and a husband who tries to work as a day laborer, making 26 USD a day, but only works 1-2 days and then 12 off. They too are very, very thankful for being remembered by others like MCC and for the help that will help their suffering be a little easier to bear.

So Darrin, please thank your staff and the warehouse folks for helping to carry a very very heavy cross for those inside Syria who choose peace over arms."

Naomi Enns

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