

Newsletter | JUNE 2019



Echoed through the ages, the first two words of the prayer Jesus taught us introduces a paradigm shift in the way humanity perceives its relationship with the divine. The basis of our relationship is not “commercial” anymore (I give therefore I receive in return) but that of a new reality: *Adoption*.

This ushers in a new kind of family/community, not an earthly one, rather a community that is fit for heaven.

Three words can be identified that are at the core of what it is to be a Father:

**1- Source:** GOD is the source of all existence. This truth is a source of peace and security given that He is the One sustaining His creation.

**2- Coaching** through which the family grows and no member would end up lopsided out of balance. This reminds us to be meek and humble as we are shaped into effective workers of the Kingdom.

**3- Love** that accepts in spite of differences and forgives in spite of mistakes. This compels us to be gracious with others as He is with us.

Our hope at LSESD is to become a community that reflects the characteristics of the Father to the churches and communities we serve.

Over the next 7 months we will be journeying together by reflecting on the prayer Jesus taught his disciples – The Lord’s Prayer.

**TONI EL HADDAD**

Chaplain & co-Principal of Administration and Operations | Beirut Baptist School (BBS)

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*We are mere  
stewards of the  
work God has  
started through  
them and many  
others*

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## GRATEFUL FOR OUR FOREFATHERS

It was a beautiful Sunday morning when Sheila and her husband Tim made their way to our church in Bikfaya. After the service, a group of seasoned church members enthusiastically gathered around them, each one waiting for their turn to greet the visitors with heartfelt hugs and kisses.

Although I had seen Sheila and Tim several times during the week, I realized that I did not really know their story.

For the post-civil war generation, they are Americans who speak some good Arabic and that have a heart for God's work in Lebanon. For my parents' generation, they are practically family.

This is when I understood that coming to Lebanon was going back to the roots for them! They were home.

Sheila was born in Lebanon in 1955 in Beirut while Tim arrived with his parents in 1961 at the age of 4.

Both their families were missionaries to the Middle East where they pioneered missionary work for four decades. They are the founding fathers of many of the ministries and churches that still exist today. Tim's parents, Paul and Virginia Smith, were working with pastors in Jordan while Sheila's parents, Finlay and Julia Graham, settled in Lebanon.

Being a history geek, I wanted to know the story behind the Grahams' legend and so I interviewed them at LSESD's head-office in Mansourieh.

### Q: What brought your family to Lebanon?

**Sheila:** My father, Finlay Graham, was a Royal Air Force navigator in North Africa and the Middle East during WWII. During a mission in Libya, his Lancaster bomber was shot down and he was the lone survivor. A Bedouin family found him in the desert, took him in and nursed him.

Read more at:  
[bit.ly/OurForefathers](http://bit.ly/OurForefathers)

**WISSAM NASRALLAH**  
Operations Manager | LSESD



## ECHOING THE FATHER'S LOVE

In a world full of imperfections and hardships, we search for support, for a hand to hold, for someone who will lift us up when we fall. We all seek and long for love, mercy, faithfulness, peace, and joy, all of which are provided by our heavenly father. It is through our relationship with Him that we learn unconditional love, and through Him that we walk with hope for the future. Through prayer, we seek guidance and comfort, as we try to reflect the qualities of our Father in heaven to those in need of our support, for those who are marginalized and vulnerable in our communities.

One of the SKILD staff, who herself has a child on the Autism Spectrum Disorder, claims that many parents who have children with special needs end up feeling misunderstood and frustrated. Affected by social stigmas and inequality, these parents spend their lives struggling to develop ways of coping and searching for peace. Our duty as Christians is to echo the Father's love for them and their children and provide guidance in how they can reflect His attributes as the ultimate parent to their children.

This desire to share our Father's

unconditional love and guidance was a driving force behind the establishment of the SKILD Center for children with learning difficulties and their parents who were struggling to find support.

Recently the team of psychologists at SKILD wrote **"Wise Parenting: 60+ ideas for tackling common childhood challenges"** Which reflects the values of good parenting that we acquire from our heavenly Father. This pocket book provides parents with tips on how to handle different issues that arise all the way from early childhood to teenage years. Because we know the value of parents' time, each tip can be read in less than a minute!

The parent-to-parent support group met for the third time this month at the Gateway Bookstore, an atmosphere that has now transformed into their haven. We pray that we will continue to provide support and refuge to parents of children with special needs as we walk with them, hand in hand, in their journey.

*Our duty as Christians is to echo the Father's love for them and their children and provide guidance in how they can reflect His attributes. . .*



**DANIELLA DAOU**

Partner Relations Coordinator | SKILD Center

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*The goal of this project is to see a new generation of leaders emerge (...) which are equipped to reach out to the children and youth in their communities with the message of God's love*

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## KNOWING OUR FATHER

For many people who've grown up in Christian environments, Sunday School teachers have played a vital role in growing their faith. They helped introduce them and guide them as they took their first steps in exploring the relationship together with our Father in heaven. Many of us have fond memories of these compassionate people, whether they were a young teenager or a retired, wise elder who helped establish the foundations of our faith.

### Discovering the Needs

In Lebanon there are hundreds of passionate leaders in the churches' Sunday School ministries that faithfully serve the children in their churches. However, according to a recent survey that BCYM conducted, most churches stated that they have a great need to equip their Sunday School Teachers to help them reach the next generation with the message of God's redeeming love in a life-changing way. Many desired the curriculums and practical tools that will allow them to be effective channels of God's grace.

“In light of these findings, we felt called to provide the local churches with high quality trainings on

relevant topics that will enable them to really touch the heart of the children and have an impact on their lives.” BCYM's ministry leader Gladys shares with us when we talked about the training track of their ministry. “Our first training was held in the beginning of May and was about how Sunday Schools leaders can help children to experience a true relationship with God through prayer, which was one of the topics that the church leaders had requested.”

### Starting Out

BCYM invited two trainers from Jordan to lead the one-day conference which 38 Sunday School leaders from 15 different churches from all over Lebanon attended. After an inspiring and informative day each church was offered the Prayer Covenant Sunday School curriculum free of charge for each leader and their pupils.

“It was an excellent training,” one of the attendees told us, “the topic was really interesting, and the speakers developed the ideas in ways that were easy to understand. When we got to apply the teaching in small groups during the second part of the training I felt that this can help us a lot.”

### Read more at

[bit.ly/KnowingOurFather](http://bit.ly/KnowingOurFather)

**ROBIN MINSHULL**

Program Officer | Baptist Children & Youth Ministry (BCYM)



## THE FATHER OF SECOND CHANCES

Two important aspects of our faith are the intimacy of our relationship with God and that we are part of a community of fellow believers. Both wonderfully highlighted in the opening two words of the Lord's Prayer. God's great love for all people is also a central theme of our latest book release When Righteous Fall by Rev. Dr. Nabil Haddad.

Based on his many years of ministry and pastoral care Rev. Haddad brings hope to all who have 'fallen' and failed God by emphasizing how, through grace, God gives a second chance to all who turn back to him with true repentance. With examples from the Bible ranging from King David through to the Apostle Peter this book will be a source of wise teaching and encouragement to the Arabic church worldwide.

We were also greatly encouraged by the support shown at the recent launch event for this book. With over 100 attendees from many denominations, as well as civic leaders and those from other faiths, it truly reflected the community of the church in Lebanon.

**COLIN GIBSON**  
Program Officer | Dar Manhal Al Hayat (DMAH)

Finally, we hope in the future to be able to continue our support and funding of Arabic speaking pastors and writers as they endeavor to spread the hope of the Gospel throughout the Arab world. We either sell our books at highly subsidized prices or give them free for marginalized communities and we rely on the generosity of donors to cover our costs. Your gift for more books like Rev. Haddad's will bring real blessing to the Arabic church.

This book will soon be available in digital format on [KONOZbooks.com](http://KONOZbooks.com)



*“Rev. Haddad brings hope to all who have 'fallen' and failed God by emphasizing how, through grace, God gives a second chance to all who turn back to him with true repentance.”*



# PRAYER REQUEST



The Beirut Baptist School is celebrating the accomplishments of its students this month as the academic year comes to an end.

With graduations around the corner and Father's day in between, join us in praying for the school

Read more at [bit.ly/PrayerforBBS](http://bit.ly/PrayerforBBS)

*None of this would be possible  
if it weren't for our faithful partners,  
friends and loyal supporters. *

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[www.lsesd.org](http://www.lsesd.org) 

**to learn more and read our previous newsletters**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BBS Preschool Graduation**

**JUNE 12**

**Philip Yancey Book Signing Event  
at the Gateway Bookshop**

**JUNE 15**

**Middle East Consultation (MEC) 2019** **JUNE 17-21**

**ABTS Graduation**

**JUNE 23**