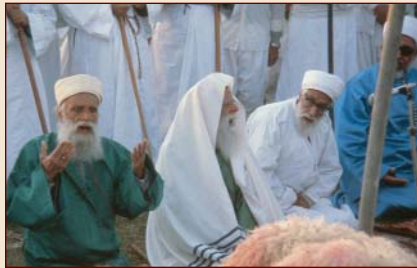




**LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES**

International Ministries Facts about

Lebanon



THE MINISTRY...

Office Established:

Beirut, 1950

Locally known as:

Middle East Lutheran Ministry (MELM)

Director:

Fadi Khairallah

Population:

3,874,050

Ministry in Action:

Evangelism outreach programs:

- Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC) for adults and children
- Radio broadcasts
- Various publications
- Audio CDs using primarily Christian music and hymns
- Interactive Telephone Voicemail "Life Line" available 24 hours a day with eight topics
- Videos and DVDs
- Ministry to Bedouins



LHM-Lebanon staff share books with African refugees.

TODAY IN LEBANON...

Christians are the minority in the Middle East. LHM-Lebanon faces the problem of freedom of expression within this part of the world. In Lebanon, the mixture of religions has created the need for sensitivity, especially since the previous 15-year religious civil war which ended in 1990. Converts to Christianity still face persecution and some are forced to flee the country. Yet, LHM-Lebanon is committed to Christian education and evangelism through different mass Media tools.

It broadcasts to 22 countries including two radio programs each week to North Africa and one program per week to the Middle East through Trans World Radio (TWR). Radio programs are written in the Arabic language by the LHM staff. There are 13 programs in a series, and each program is 15 minutes long.

LHM-Lebanon's Bible

Correspondence Course (BCC) is the most successful of its ministries. It provides eight Bible courses for adults and two for youth. Written in Arabic, thousands of people study them in the Arab World. They are now distributed in bound "book forms." In addition, they are used as study guides in churches, day schools, youth meetings, and Sunday Schools. Fifteen spiritual books, including "Luther's Small Catechism," are available to those who are interested. Other publications include three pre-school Bible stories and 17 Arch Bible books with pictures.

Fifteen CDs of Christian music and religious hymns are available, as well as some dialogue

spots in the Arabic language dealing with everyday subjects. LHM-Lebanon has 10 films and animated videos about Jesus, Christmas, Easter and other general topics--many with Arabic, English and French subtitles.

Telephone counseling is available to people in spiritual need and who want to learn more about the Christian faith and doctrine. In addition, a new Bedouin ministry focuses on the Bedouin nomads and tent villagers who live in the Bekaa Valley.

RELIGION IN LEBANON...

The Lebanese government's policy of "confessionalism," or the grouping of people by religion, plays a critical role in Lebanon's political and social life. It has given rise to Lebanon's most persistent and bitter conflicts. At the time of Lebanon's independence in the 1940s, there were more Christians than Muslims. In the following years, many Christians emigrated outside Lebanon.

Simultaneously, Muslims had a higher birthrate than Christians. As a result, Muslims became the majority group in Lebanon. Today, an estimated 70 percent of Lebanese are Muslim, while most of the remaining 30 percent are Christian.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Become a sponsor through **Reaching Out** and assist LHM ministry centers around the world. Call 1-800-944-3450 for details, or visit our Web site at www.lhmint.org/reachingout.

Volunteer your talents in a two-week **Global Work & Witness** program. For details visit www.lhmint.org/globalmission.

WANT TO KNOW MORE...

For the latest listing of fact sheets of countries in which Lutheran Hour Ministries is carrying out its vision of *All Nations, All Peoples, All in Christ!*, visit our Web site at www.lhmint.org.

Our world is full of people who NEED to know they are loved. Please join us in reaching out to them with God's love.

CONTACT INFORMATION...

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Continued...

Every person's religion is encoded on a required, government-issued identification card. The government recognizes 17 distinct religious sects: five Muslim (Shi'a, Sunni, Druze, Ismailite, and Alawite), 11 Christian (four Orthodox, six Catholic, one Protestant), and Judaism.

THE COUNTRY...

Sometimes referred to as the "Switzerland of the East," Lebanon is located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The country is 7/10 the size of Connecticut and is bounded by Syria in both the north and east and by Israel in the south. Its climate is mild to cool with wet winters, and hot, dry summers. The country's mountains experience heavy winter snows. The coastal area of present-day Lebanon was settled more than 7,000 years ago and later evolved as the heart of seafaring Phoenicia. Christian culture developed about 2,000 years ago, but was later overwhelmed by Islamic influences. In the 1970s, the country experienced increasing hostility among rival religious groups. These and other domestic tensions, intensified by foreign influences, erupted into the devastating Lebanese Civil War from 1975 to 1990. Beirut is Lebanon's capital, principal port and largest city. Lebanon grows and exports citrus, grapes, tomatoes, apples, vegetables, potatoes, olives, and tobacco. Its primary industries include banking, tourism, food processing, mineral and chemical products, wood and furniture products, oil refining, and metal fabricating.



THE PEOPLE...

Lebanon's four million inhabitants primarily live along the coast and on the lower western slopes of the Lebanon Mountains. Some 90 percent of the population is urban.

About 93 percent of the population is Arab, five percent is Armenian, and the remaining two percent of the population belongs to Kurdish, Assyrian or other ethnicities. Arabic is the official language, but French is commonly used, especially in government and among the upper class. English is also widely used, particularly as the language of business and education.

Men and women mix freely and attend schools in equal numbers. Christian women are similar to Western women in dress, attitude and activities. Most Muslim women are more conservative in attitude and dress than their Christian counterparts. Men generally wear Western clothes, although some older Muslim men wear the Arab headdress, or kufiyah. In their leisure time, Lebanese people enjoy lively conversations over Turkish coffee, participating in outdoor activities, and eating good food.

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE...

You can help us reach unchurched people around the world by:

- Considering a gift today for International Ministries
- Praying for the overseas ministry staff and volunteers
- Getting involved in short-term mission trips
- Continuing to learn about the ministry by visiting our Web site at www.lhmint.org.

For more opportunities to serve, contact: cheerful@lhm.org or (800) 944-3450 x 4275. Through your commitment we can reach people around the world with Christ's message of hope.