

## Devoted service in desperate times

### Letter from the Coordinator



This has been a challenging year for us—especially our colleagues in the Middle East—to be able to continue critical support to those in desperate need

in the midst of political and economic crises. In spite of enormous difficulties, the Jinishian Memorial Program has persevered and continued our health and emergency relief services. This was possible only due to the unbelievable courage and devotion of our partners and staff in the Middle East. We have assisted hundreds of people who were left without jobs and shelter—who were unable to meet the basic needs of their families.

“This is when it is tremendously important not to abandon the most vulnerable.”

During these times when everyone is concerned for their own safety, when basic human values are shaken, when all that you considered reliable vanishes, and you have to face the cruel reality alone, this is when it is tremendously important not to abandon the most vulnerable.

Hard work, compassion, perseverance, and a strong sense of our mission are essential requirements for humanitarian work, enabling us to help those who suffer even as it jeopardizes our own lives. “Love one another as I have loved you,” Jesus said. “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for a friend” (John 15:12-13). This is the time when you prove your existence as an organization and as a human being.

Explore Armenia’s beauty, culture and people

June 3-14 & September 16-27

Engage with our exciting work during 2013 Study Tours

[www.pcusa.org/armenia-studytour](http://www.pcusa.org/armenia-studytour)

## Courageous partners in Syria continue critical health care programs

By Ani Cholakian, Country Director, Syria

The people whom we serve in Syria typically have no health coverage. Consequently, by the time they apply for assistance after having ignored their symptoms, they are already complaining about health issues. Many have found that they cannot cope with their condition. After all, a person’s state of health critically affects virtually all aspects of functioning. Our helping process, therefore, must employ a holistic approach for the well being of our patients and their families.

“Heal me, O LORD and I shall be healed, save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.”

(Jeremiah 17:14)

Health care, in its broadest sense, is the most successful, effective, ongoing program offered by Jinishian Memorial Program to the community in Syria. We have seen consistently encouraging results year after year. Utilizing our resources wisely, we develop appropriate follow-up treatments and recovery periods based on the needs of our patients. We supply affordable

medications, and we continue our strong legacy as advocates for increasing health awareness through educational programs.

This is a perilous time in Syria. Existing social organizations are standing up together for the many needs of the most vulnerable Syrians. For our part, the Jinishian Memorial Program continues to meet emergency medical needs and, more specifically, to supply medications which have become rare and difficult to obtain in the market.

Two out of three of our patients have chronic illnesses, necessitating our continued support unless their family situation improves significantly. These desperate people rely upon our aid, and even amidst these violent times, we will not abandon them.

### How you can partner with us!

To donate or volunteer, email us at [jmp@pcusa.org](mailto:jmp@pcusa.org), call 502-569-5317 or visit [www.pcusa.org/give/E051792](http://www.pcusa.org/give/E051792)

## Working in community reduces and prevents human suffering in Lebanon

By Seta Pamboukian, Country Director, Lebanon

The Jinishian Memorial Program in Lebanon (JMP-Lebanon) provides compassionate development programs that give hope and support to the Armenian community, and improve their living conditions.

Mr. H.B. is in his late forties with two children and has undergone an open heart surgery: “I am grateful for the medication and for the access I have to medical check-ups and follow-ups because of JMP. I am maintaining a healthy life and continue to be the breadwinner of my family. I am able to send my children to school, and also pay the rent of my apartment. My siblings could not help me because my parents are dependent on them, and they



Each year 2,100 individuals receive assistance with prescriptions, testing, and follow-up visits with medical professionals for chronic illness including hypertension, cardiac disease, diabetes, and mental or anxiety disorders.

continued on page 2

# Thousands of Armenian children learn to live in peace and love

By Armen Hakobyan, Country Director, Armenia

Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Luke 18:16). What can be more rewarding than encouraging and witnessing spiritual growth in children?

In 2006 when the project “Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children” came to life in remote villages of Armenia, we believed that it would turn into another special project. We tried, and we succeeded. Four hundred children received baptism, 2500 children participated in pilgrimages, and what really matters—more than 2670 children received spiritual enrichment and learned to live in peace and love.

We saw the deep need for spiritual development among younger generations in Armenia during summer camps funded by the Jinishian Memorial Project (JMP-Armenia). Hundreds of children surrounded the priest. They approached him with unlimited questions related to Christianity: traditions, sacraments, beliefs, and morality. The priests were still being challenged to cover all the questions as the camp session was coming to an end.

“We saw the deep need for spiritual development among younger generations in Armenia.”

Over the last six years in remote villages without a church, “Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children” has introduced the younger generation to Christianity. Priests promote the role of spirituality in children’s development through regular visits to the project sites, Bible studies and spiritual discussions, distribution of spiritual literature, baptism and pilgrimages. All these activities enable children to experience God, to enhance a personal faith in Christ, and to find the spiritual path which is right for them. Most importantly, the children become peer educators as they share their experiences and literature with family and friends in their home villages.

The JMP-Armenia’s enduring partnership with the Armenian Church helps target this program in the villages where it is most needed. The priests enjoy a profound respect among the population and have become highly involved. They strongly believe in the success of these discipleship efforts.

What is most exciting for everyone involved in the project is hearing the stories of faith that come from these children over the years.

The Jinishian Memorial Program in Armenia believes that planting seeds of faith and hope in children will give a bountiful harvest.



Witnessing the children during these spiritual events accompanied by beautiful spiritual songs, rhymes and prayers is truly inspiring.

## Help us bring hope to more children

Because of the tremendous impact this program has on current and future generations of entire communities, the Jinishian Memorial Program in Armenia is anxious to continue and expand the project. Due to budget limitations, “Spiritual Experiences and Education for Children” reaches only two regions of Armenia. Additional support can bring hope to other remote villages as well.

Interested in helping? Even a \$25 contribution can provide an opportunity to an Armenian child to receive spiritual enrichment by getting involved in the “Spiritual Education and Experiences for Children” project for one academic year. You can help by giving at: [www.pcusa.org/give/E051792](http://www.pcusa.org/give/E051792). We will be extremely grateful for any support generated through the donations to reach as many Armenian children as possible.

*Working in community, continued from page 1* themselves live in hardship.” We assist many people like Mr. H.B. who have few places to turn. Most of the chronically sick comply with their medication prescriptions and have fewer health complications.

Through social and health services and development projects, we are committed to reducing human suffering and helping people in need to function more effectively in their communities. We strive to relieve economic burdens and to assist those without access to affordable health care because they have no social and medical security coverage and live below the safety net. Also, the program is unique because it has both curative and preventive impact.

“I now have a sense of belonging to a bigger group. My life has changed.”

Mrs. Sonia, a young mother of three, was suffering from anxiety disorder and hypertension. “I am thankful to JMP for the opportunity to participate in a stress management training workshop,” she says. “I realized that it was not only me who had problems. I feel more confident and respected. I am psychologically relieved, especially after the spiritual retreat. I have a sense of belonging to a bigger group and am already volunteering in the JMP community activities. My life has changed and it reflects on my family dynamics.”

By surveying community needs and consulting with grassroots leaders, we work in partnership, networking with governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the participation of beneficiaries and the larger community. Known for our professional expertise, as well as automation, transparency and accountability in reporting, we continue to receive donations of medications. Partners include the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation, World Vision and the YMCA.



This past year 56 women attended training workshops led by volunteer professionals for preventive health care, health awareness, stress management, healthy nutrition, physical exercises, and spiritual retreat.