

MECO teacher impacts lives for His glory



Ruth is a teacher working with MECO in a school in Lebanon.

She recently took over as head teacher in a Lebanese Evangelical School (LES) in a mountain village. Here she gives us a snapshot of life there.

In Lebanon, MECO has the unique opportunity of placing English-speaking teachers in Christian schools, and together we are bringing Christ's love to local families.

As the teachers mentor, teach, laugh, sing and listen to the children, they are able to bring God into the equation and introduce these precious lives to the One who loves them completely. One such teacher describes a typical day for her:

6.00am Alarm goes off. The cold air in my room is a sharp reminder that I'm in the mountains of Lebanon! I resist the temptation to stay in my warm bed and start planning how many layers to wear today. The buildings are designed to stay cool in the summer and remain that way in the winter too.

7.15am As the Christian staff members meet for prayers, we hear the happy sound of the children arriving - heavy bags are dragged along the ground, games begin and greetings are called to the arriving teachers.

8.00am Chapel finishes for the senior students. Another attempt has been made to draw them out of their indifference. Many of them know the stories, but we long for their hearts to be changed.

9.00am Grade 10 English is finished for another day. All are fluent, but some have bad habits such as always telling me that someone 'said for him' something.

10.00am During their computer lesson, some students lose their work when the power changes from the school generator to government electricity. I did tell them to save their work ...

11.00am First break ends for the seniors. Grade 8 students have been trying to persuade me to organise a trip - anywhere as long as it involves a stop at a fast food restaurant!

12.00pm A quick tour of the school. Grade 1 greet me enthusiastically: "Good morning Miss Ruth!"

1.00pm Elementary chapel finishes. As usual they have been keen to answer questions and sung with enthusiasm.

2.00pm Bible lesson with Grade 9. How many 'red herrings' will they come up with this week?

3.00pm The buses have left and the school is strangely silent. Time for lunch!

4.00pm A walk down to the village to

buy some groceries - of course everybody needs to be greeted on the way. Locally produced goods and staples such as rice are very cheap, with fruit and vegetables abundant in their seasons.

5.00pm Visit a family in the village, having met the mother on the way back from the shops. An opportunity to practise Arabic and share in a simple way about the Lord's love when a question comes up. The visit ends with bitter black coffee and a promise to come again.

6.00pm A beautiful sunset over the mountains. Frogs croaking in the distance. The power comes back on. Time to do some marking and preparation.

"We long for their hearts to be changed."

Another day almost finished. What has been achieved? We can measure the academic progress of the students - or lack of it - but what about any spiritual progress? The Lord knows their hearts. Our task is to be faithful in sowing the seed and showing love to each of the students.

Pray with us for the Lord to work in their lives and to send others to join us in the work. We really need people to teach Bible lessons, sports, art, music, computer, science and also to lead chapels. Will you join us in prayer and consider whether you may be part of the answer? ☒



Smiling faces, changed hearts?

Could God use you to change lives in the Middle East?

MECO is looking for people who could serve as:

Teacher - Lebanon

Length: 3+ years (would accept someone for one academic year, Sept - June).
Useful Qualifications: Qualified teacher (nursery, elementary and secondary), ability to teach more than one subject useful. **Language:** English.

Programme Manager for Development Work - Iraq

Length: 3+ years. **Language:** Willingness to learn Sorani Kurdish.
Qualifications: Experience in managing staff in community development.
Useful Qualifications: Experience of rehabilitation of disabled children, training teachers in school for blind children, writing project proposals.

Café Hosts - Northern Cyprus

Length: 1+ years **Language:** English. Turkish and Iranian an advantage.
Useful Qualifications: Interpersonal skills. Baking/cooking skills.
Nationality preference: European (for residency reasons).

Computer Teacher - Arabian Peninsula

Length: 6 months (minimum) **Language:** English. Willing to learn Arabic.
Useful Qualifications: Qualified Computer skills (Word, Excel, Access etc).

Vocational Trainer - Egypt

Length: 2+ years **Language:** Arabic.
Useful Qualifications: Vocational skills (electricians, welders, cooks, carpenters, hairdressers, plumbers etc.)

Nurse - Mafraq, Jordan (near Syrian border)

Length: 3+ years **Language:** Arabic is essential. Must be committed to completing a minimum of one year Arabic training.
Useful Qualifications: Internationally recognised qualifications.

Teacher - Amman, Jordan

Length: 1+ years (schools terms from Sept - June).
Language: English. Willing to learn Arabic.
Qualifications: Teaching certificate. Ability to teach more than one subject.

For more opportunities and information, visit www.aboutmeco.org/opportunities



MECO teachers are touching lives and making an impact on society