

# MECO summer schools have lasting benefits

The heat of the Middle East means that schools close for 3 months over the summer. No matter how nice the weather and how inviting the beaches, that is a lot of time to fill with things to do! This provides MECO teachers with opportunities to run summer schools and interact further with the children.

**Matt\*** teaches at an English school in the Middle East. Here he describes the benefit of summer schools to the communities and the volunteers that come to help.

## Team members grow

For the last 3 years, a team of volunteers have come from the UK to help a school in the Middle East run its summer programme. These teams come to serve God and experience a new culture within the context of an established long-term ministry. They benefit from the experience of those living and serving here, and get to see a ministry at work. For some this is the beginning of God's guiding them to serve long term in the Middle East. For others it strengthens the year round partnership in prayer.

## Students lives are changed

The programme of 'summer fun' involves assemblies every morning followed by a full morning of activities for the children. After the children have gone home, we rest for the heat of the day! Then we do practical projects in the school before visiting families of the school in the evenings. There is then usually time for a quick visit to the beach before bed! Weekends involve trips, projects and more. Senior students at the schools queue up to help in the summer school, feeling the boredom of the long summer

*"For some this is the beginning of God's guiding."*

even more than the younger students. They form strong friendships with the visiting team of volunteers and gain experience and ideas in leading activities. For many students, their voluntary service and relationships during summer school mark a turning point in the development of their characters and their lives.

*"Planting eternal seeds in young hearts and minds."*

## MECO workers are encouraged

For the long-term MECO team serving here, it is a massive encouragement to have a visiting team of volunteers. It excites us to share the work. The school motto is "Planting eternal seeds in young hearts and minds" and God so often uses visitors to make the breakthroughs that we have been preparing for all year. We sow, they water but it is God who gives the growth.

## Join us this summer!

If you'd like more information about joining a summer school with MECO, visit [www.aboutmeco.org](http://www.aboutmeco.org), email [info@aboutmeco.org](mailto:info@aboutmeco.org) or call your local MECO office (details on page 2).

