



Lebanon Relief FAQ

Giving to Beirut relief

As a result of mission pastors and leaders from the local church calling with questions regarding relief in Beirut, Lebanon, the EFCA International Mission has initiated questions and answers as a resource to the local church to give more information. The following are common questions being asked by local EFCA churches. The answers have been compiled by the EFCA IM Executive Director, the Director of TouchGlobal, the Leader of the Evangelical Free Church in Beirut, and the EFCA IM International Leader of Europe. The EFCA International Mission is working with TouchGlobal (former Compassion Ministries) and the Evangelical Free Church of Lebanon to get aid and help to our sister denomination quickly and most effectively.

What is the greatest need in Beirut?

Immediately: In speaking with the Evangelical Free Church of Lebanon leader yesterday, the two options we have at present are prayer and money. All traffic in and out of the country, of goods or people, are either being detained or destroyed. The biggest need is for food, medicine, and shelter. Funds raised at this point will go to paying for canned food and medicine (due to power shortages, fresh food will be consumed fairly quickly).

Is the EFC of Lebanon safe?

No. Both the people and the church building itself are in some degree of danger. However, the building is situated close to the city center where no bombings have yet occurred. It is far from Hezbollah's sphere of influence. The church is in the basement of the building, so relatively safe.

What is TouchGlobal's role in this relief effort?

TouchGlobal is involved in communicating with the Lebanese EFC and the EFCA and mobilizing the response of the EFCA to help meet the needs of our sister denomination in Lebanon. Much of their ministry activity involves ministries of compassion and to this end, we will continue to monitor how we might further enable them to engage in fruitful ministry after this time of crisis. In addition to TouchGlobal, ReachGlobal (EFCA International Mission) is in the process of partnering with the EFC of Lebanon to do ministry both in Lebanon and in other parts of the Middle East.

Is the Free Church of Lebanon held accountable to the EFCA?

Spiritually, they are accountable to Christ. Financially, all gifts are given to them as "grants" given in good-faith. However, the Free Evangelical Church of Lebanon is a member of the International Federation of Free Evangelical churches (IFFEC) and is a sister denomination to the EFCA and other such Free Church movements worldwide.

Is there a place to store the supplies that are purchased?

Yes. There is a newly built training center where much of this relief work is taking place. Although, most food products and supplies are distributed fairly quickly as the needs are immense and extremely urgent.

Are the banks secure?

The bank where the money is being transferred is the largest in Lebanon and very liquid. So there is virtually no risk of default. We have successfully made our first wire transfer and will continue to monitor this closely.

Who is held accountable for the wired funds?

We are in close contact with the Evangelical Free Church of Lebanon leaders who are in charge of this account. We have full confidence in them. As a result, we will receive written, verbal and pictorial reports on the use of these funds.

How are the funds being used to purchase supplies and advance the gospel?

Supplies are still available in the stores, although they are becoming more and more limited. The local church, though many have now fled for their safety, serves as the primary distributors of these relief supplies. Their ministry center is one primary location for refugees at this point. Teams visit these families being helped on a regular basis. An Arabic Bible is given to these families along with their relief supplies.

How can we pray for the church in Lebanon?

Pray that God would use these events to glorify Himself. Pray for strength, stamina and peace for our brothers and sisters as they interact with others of unlike faith.

Are those managing the money in Lebanon trustworthy?

Although we have never worked with them before in a financial venture such as this, the evidence of fruitful ministry, both in Lebanon and in other countries where they are involved in missionary ventures would indicate that their values, their passion for the lost and their commitment to Christ is above reproach. We have a high degree of confidence in the leadership of the EFC of Lebanon.