



# GROW

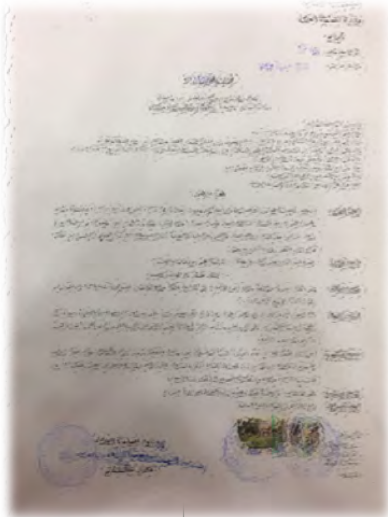


## THE PHILEMON PROJECT

July 2017

### GROW Receives License!

GROW Early Childhood Development Center provides wholistic Christian care for at-risk families by providing a safe, high quality, early childhood development program for 1 – 4-year-olds as well as adult mentoring program for their parents/caregivers. GROW center creates a Christian environment where children thrive, and parents become active participants in the success of their child through the love of Christ.



organization strengths, and by God's grace moved the project through various challenges and obstacles.

One essential obstacle we needed to overcome was gaining our license with the Ministry of Health. Without our license, we could be closed down at any moment and disrupt a thriving ministry. When we face challenges, God's word

encourages and instructs me to gain perspective. Recently, Acts 16:16-40 provided some impressions, where we see Paul and Silas challenge the status quo and wind up in legal hot water. As Christians, we often think things should go our way, without any problems, and when they don't, we wonder where is God's favor. Here's what we learn from the text when facing organizational storms:

Since our beginnings, the Philemon Project has grown! We have 16 full- and part-time staff members and 3 volunteers committed to carrying out the best



Christian early childhood and adult mentoring program. We hired legal counsel and an outside accounting firm to ensure

First Paul and Silas do good work and wind up in jail. We knew we're doing excellent work and had numerous case studies to support our results. Second, they prayed, sung songs of encouragement (v 25). If you think about it, you can't sing encouraging songs if you're anxious and

stressed. Leading healthy organizations requires a non-anxious presence, in the midst of confusion or troubling times. Our staff know their role and carry out the day-to-day duties with excellence. And finally, Paul and Silas persevered and remained faithful to the gospel (v 31). Paul and Silas teach us that good leadership needs faithful perseverance.

I am delighted to announce that the Ministry of Health granted the Philemon Project's GROW Early Childhood Development Center our licensure. We are a legal institution with full rights and privileges to grow our work throughout Lebanon.

### Transforming Community

The Project is committed to the central mission of bearing witness to Jesus in our context. We believe Gospel witness is best when we are present and involved in the people's lives whom we serve.

Recently the GROW Center held a graduation ceremony for 28 four year-olds who are transitioning into elementary school this fall. The ceremony was well attended by family and friends of the children. The teachers worked together to present a slide show and video of the kids and various things they have learned, such as their numbers, colors, shapes, etc. The children performed several songs for the



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guests: "This is the Day" in both English and Arabic was a big hit! The ceremony concluded with the kids receiving their diplomas and all sharing refreshments.

According to Early Childhood Development experts, working with children in the early years is critical for a life time of impact on a child and their families. It helps build communities and contributes to wholistic transformation.

We know the 28 children graduating from our Early Childhood Development program have been mentored, educated, and loved. Our prayer is the seeds planted will produce a harvest in God's time.

# GROW



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healthy patterns into a broadbase of families.

As Christians, we see our work

ultimately as investing the gospel — the life transforming message that demonstrates the love of Christ in words and deeds.

can give to our support through the same EPC weblink used to access the Philemon Project. Simply choose our personal account: H. Robert and Joyce #125 to make your donation.



### Why Invest?

A recent global study found that (ECD) programs yielded both immediate results in addition to the expected long-term outcomes for children and communities. For example, in the population we serve, 60% had improved nutrition and completed their immunizations. While 83% had improved physical and cognitive development.



UNICEF found that every \$1 invested in ECD produces a \$7 return in the future in societies who invest. Another important reason for investing in ECD is an investment towards breaking intergenerational cycles of dysfunction and poverty. According to clinical psychologist Edwin Friedmann, family "sins" are handed down generation to generation. Our work introduces biblical

### What Does It Cost?

Our yearly budget to run The Philemon Project's GROW Early Childhood Development Center is \$285,000. Here's an easier way of thinking about the cost. **It costs us \$16 a day per child to provide them with the full service ECD program.** If you or your church would like to learn more about partnering with The Philemon Project, please contact me. **Or you can give online** <https://secure-q.net/Donations/EPCLivonia/11480>



### Family News

Joyce and I had a fruitful summer in Beirut, serving GROW. She is getting ready for another year teaching high school English and History in DC. Ben's business continues to flourish in Northern Virginia, where he lives.

Joseph spent some time in Lebanon this summer, and is preparing for his second year of teaching high school



Please search for World Outreach Project—The Philemon Project/GROW #458.

### What About Your Support?

Since 2014 we've focused all our attention on raising adequate funds for The Philemon Project. As 2017 unfolds, our personal support account is projected

to be in the red and we need to raise up our support in order to meet our Terms of Call (TOC). You



Arabic. Lydia is eager to start her final year of university at Randolph

in Lynchburg, Virginia.

### Contributions can be sent to:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
5850 T.G. Lee, Blvd., Suite 510  
Orlando, FL 32822

\*please mark your donation H. Robert & Joyce or The Philemon Project

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