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12-2006

Thou Shalt Honor... Assisting Aging Parents

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Recommended Citation

Murray, Susan E., "Thou Shalt Honor... Assisting Aging Parents" (2006). *Lake Union Herald*. 631.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs/631>

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Songs for Support

CONCERT BENEFITS LEBANESE REFUGEE

BY BONNIE MCLEAN

On the evening of September 2, the North Shore Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chicago, Illinois, hosted a benefit concert to aid the victims of the recent 34 Day War in Lebanon. During the evening, replete with songs of praise and worship, a number of local musicians, as well as members of the North Shore Church, lent their talents.

“The specific purpose of the [benefit concert] was to try to raise enough money to pay the tuition for [one] refugee child, a victim of the war, to attend BASS (Bou-chrieh Adventist Secondary School). This would benefit both the child and the school,” stated Glenn Russell, assistant professor of religion at Andrews University.

Glenn was himself an eyewitness to the hardships in Lebanon, having organized several student mission trips there, as well as including trips as part of the curriculum for his students. To send a child to BASS, the concert needed to accrue \$800–\$1,200. Glenn further noted, “Though there was not a large crowd present, a large spirit of generosity was manifested as \$1,500 was collected that night.”



Nestor Soriano envisioned a concert to help a refugee child from Lebanon.

Activities include Week of Prayer programs at the elementary, secondary, and university-level schools, as well as the surrounding community, in which all the students organize and participate in the programs.



Following a trip to Lebanon last May with his Introductions to Missions class, Nestor Soriano (third from right, back row) conceived the idea for a concert to help educate a refugee child, a victim of the recent 34 Day War in Lebanon.

Inspired by his visit in May 2005 and his experience as a member of the university’s Friendship Team, Nestor decided to extend a helping hand again, though it was not part of a class requirement or a mission trip. “Nestor’s experience in Lebanon and the kindness with which so many people met the group had a real impact on his life, and he wanted to do something in return,” said Glenn.

Glenn further directed a message to the leadership of the Adventist Church in Lebanon as an extension of the team’s goodwill. He emphasized the students’ initiative in organizing and directing the concert, declaring, “They did this because of the friendships you have extended to them. It is a small gift of thanks from us to you folks who were so kind to the team.”

Kjell Aune, president of the Adventist Church in the Middle East, said, “There has been a huge wave of public concern over Lebanon, which is being manifested by prayers, gifts of money, messages of encouragement, and donations in kind.” He also acknowledged the heartfelt efforts of the university team with gratitude: “I’d like to publicly thank Nestor Soriano and his team for this tremendous gesture towards the people of Lebanon. I know that the Andrews University students and Pastor Russell make a huge impact whenever they visit Lebanon and get involved in practical ministry, sharing their gift of music, witness, and offering humble assistance as needed.”

Bonnie McLean is a student news writer for University Relations at Andrews University.