



**NASRELLA'S
STORY**



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Nasrella is a sweet 10 year old boy with a kind disposition. He's scared, but thankful.. thankful to live in a tent in the Bekka Valley, as long as it's far away from the bombs and shelling that was so devastating back home in Syria.

This tented settlement has been home for 7 months. Back home, he had 11 close friends. One of these friends is here with him now... "Only Hussein came with me from Syria," he says. When asked about his other friends, he replies, "I don't know where they are, I don't know if they are ok – I don't know anything about them."

Back home in Syria, he won merit awards. "They gave me a merit award because I was smart and very good at school," he says. "I miss it (school) so much, because I want to learn," he says. It's a story that's all too common. Nasrella wants to be a teacher. But unfortunately, teachers need to have an education before they can teach others.

He smiles when he talks of his father, who he misses greatly. His father has not been in contact for 7 months, and they fear the worst. But what stands out about this beautiful boy is his gratitude for what he does have. "I feel this place (tented settlement in Lebanon) is better than the older one (home, in Syria), we live here in peace. We are away from the clashes. I wouldn't change a single thing about this tent."

- **Pray for Nasrella as he yearns to find out what happened to his father and friends.**
- **Pray that Nasrella will reach his goal of becoming a teacher to inspire others around him to reach their goals.**
- **Pray that the children of Syria don't lose another year to bloodshed and suffering. Pray that we don't lose this generation of children.**

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OBIDA'S
STORY



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STORY



OBIDA'S
STORY

"They shot my teacher. When we were leaving Syria, there was so much bombing all around. My school was bombed. A lot of my friends died."

No matter what the question, 10-year-old Obida's answers always seem to come back to conflict and school. He describes the tanks, he talks about the bombs and how his uncle was killed in the conflict – the same uncle who used to help Obida with his school lessons.

"I am not comfortable. I am not happy here," he says.

It has been more than two years since Obida was in formal school. In Syria his school was destroyed. Currently, he is still not enrolled in public school. His parents can't pay for the transportation.

So Obida attends a remedial class several times a week. Because he has missed so much time, he sits awkwardly in the same classroom as his little brother, looking clearly much older and bigger than the other children. He struggles to do the basic alphabet and numbers lessons designed for 7- and 8-year-olds.

His family says he was once first in his class. Even having missed so much school, his intelligence is immediately clear when he speaks. His teachers in the remedial school saw that promise and now tutor him five days a week.

"I believe the centre gives a big chance," his mother says, "A big push forward for my sons and their education so they can remember what they learned and also catch up on what they missed. Thank God that they can go to this class – it's better than nothing."

- Pray for those who teach the remedial classes to help children like Obida catch up on their missing years of learning. Thank God that Obida that he can get to this class.
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MAIS'
STORY



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STORY



MAIS'
STORY



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Mais is a refugee. Her brothers search bins in the neighbouring town in hope of striking lucky and finding some additional food scraps, or maybe some clothes someone has thrown out.

"I used to have fun with my friends and talk about living in a tent, or spending some time in a tent for fun, like an entertainment, but I thought I would never live in a tent for real, but it is happening for real."

"Sometimes I pretend that I am not in Lebanon, that I am with my friends in Syria, I imagine that and feel it, and then when I think about it again I see myself in Lebanon. This is for real – I am in Lebanon."

The power of her incredible imagination only goes so far. She is a smart girl, whose favourite subject was biology. She would like to be a science teacher when she grows up.

"It's like a bad dream, I couldn't believe.... I couldn't believe that our house was totally destroyed and it was all on the ground." She knows that if she gets to return to her homeland, things will not be the same. "If I return to Syria, I know I will sleep on the ground."

Unfortunately, these days Mais doesn't play. She's searching for any kind of work to help contribute to their dire situation when she should be in school, and pitching tents on the weekends playing house with her friends.

- **Pray for Mais' desire to be a science teacher and for the opportunity to continue to grow in an environment of learning.**
- **Pray for Mais' brothers to find food that will feed the family. Pray for the hope of peace to one day return home to Syria.**
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AMIR'S
STORY



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STORY

"We are brothers." At first glance, you would think they were twins. Only a year apart, their bond is tight.

"When the clashes started in Syria, some people came and took my parents, and I don't know where they are now, I don't know who took them. My grandmother came and took us, and brought us here to Lebanon," Kameron, nine, says.

Incredibly strong, kind and loving, the boys last saw their parents two years ago. These boys have experienced war in a way no child should have to. Amir tells us of the terrible day he ran away from a building about to be bombed, but his best friend was still inside, killed by the explosion. "I saw dead people. I saw people on fire. I saw bombs. We saw it with our eyes. We didn't imagine that someday we would see this."

They recall it like it was yesterday.

"I feel like I have to take control. I feel like I need to get food for my family. I go and work in the potato fields to get money for my family. I work 6am – 12pm," Amir says. He's only ten years-old. He misses his father reading books to him on the balcony, and the birds in the trees back in Syria. "I draw pictures of trees and birds," he says. "I haven't seen them in a while... but the trees are all burned and the birds are starving, as there is no one to feed them."

And that is Amir's reality. But it is Syria's as well.

- **Pray for Amir's mind and memories to heal and recover from the terrible things he has seen. Ask God to feed the children and the birds of the field.**
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**OUJELAN'S
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At 13 years old, Oujelan works a 12-hour day. His jeans and sturdy boots are caked in mud, his hands hardened and dirty. They're the hands of man, yet they clutch a stack of brightly coloured certificates. Red pen marks exclaim "Excellent!" and "Number one in the class!" They are his certificates from his school in Syria, before the war.

"Every week I look at these and they remind me of my school, of my friends and how I played at school," he says.

The last one is dated more than two years ago – before his family had to flee Syria and the violence. Oujelan used to dream of becoming an Arabic teacher. Now he has little time for dreams. He falls asleep shortly after coming home from his job picking grapes.

"I'm very tired from working. I'm always on my feet," he says. Oujelan's mother tears up as she looks at the certificates, her face a mixture of pride and sadness. The family has no money to send him to school. They can't afford to lose the income he brings home each day.

"When he wakes up at 5am to leave for work, I wake up too," she says. "I cry as he leaves. He gets angry, but it's his right. He should be in school."

For now, time hasn't fully stolen his dreams for a future. "If I get an education, I can get a real job. I'll be an employee instead of a worker. I want to go back and have a future."

- **Pray for Oujelan's ability to return to school and continue his education. Pray for Oujelan and young children like him who have to go to work to help their family survive this war.**
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"When he wakes up at 5am to leave for work, I wake up too," she says. "I cry as he leaves. He gets angry, but it's his right. He should be in school."

For now, time hasn't fully stolen his dreams for a future. "If I get an education, I can get a real job. I'll be an employee instead of a worker. I want to go back and have a future."

- **Pray for Oujelan's ability to return to school and continue his education. Pray for Oujelan and young children like him who have to go to work to help their family survive this war.**
- **Pray that the children of Syria don't lose another year to bloodshed and suffering. Pray that we don't lose this generation of children.**

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At 13 years old, Oujelan works a 12-hour day. His jeans and sturdy boots are caked in mud, his hands hardened and dirty. They're the hands of man, yet they clutch a stack of brightly coloured certificates. Red pen marks exclaim "Excellent!" and "Number one in the class!" They are his certificates from his school in Syria, before the war.

"Every week I look at these and they remind me of my school, of my friends and how I played at school," he says.

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ISRAA'S
STORY



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“With war, there is no more,” Israa says.

Israa was an honour student, the top in her senior high school class in Syria. On the day of Israa’s final exam, warring groups destroyed her school, shattering her life and her dreams of earning a high school diploma.

“I was in school when the bombs hit,” the 17-year-old says. “The windows were blown out, glass everywhere and some hit my friends in the face and hands. Glass hit my face. I ran out, ran home to be with my family, my father. There were hurt people everywhere on the street. I saw bodies on the streets. I saw a lot of blood.”

The former student now spends her time inside cramped quarters with at least 10 others in the most impoverished street in Zarqa, Jordan.

She flashes a big, toothy smile when asked about her life before war. Israa dreamed of becoming a lawyer. She wanted to help women and children, protect them from injustice.

Israa longs for the day when she can run through the cobbled streets in her home town to hug her father, her teachers and her friends who stayed behind.

“I want to return to Syria, my Syria, a free Syria.”

- **Pray for the youth who have had their future hopes and dreams put on hold. Pray when the feelings of hopelessness rise that God would send ministering spirits to bring comfort and courage to continue living.**
- **Pray for Israa as she negotiates life after seeing such horrors.**
- **Pray that the children of Syria don’t lose another year to bloodshed and suffering. Pray that we don’t lose this generation of children.**

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