

W5 on Missions



Rupen and Mamta Das

Who? Rupen and Mamta Das

Rupen has an extensive background in international development and relief. He has worked at Humber College in Toronto and at World Vision in several countries. He has provided consultancies with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) on developing more effective emergency response mechanisms. He has also published several articles, including a study on food security in Iraq and the impact of war. Mamta has a background in teaching and has a Diploma as a Personal Support Worker. She is gifted in hospitality and outreach.

Rupen and Mamta have considerable cross cultural experience having lived as a family in many countries, such as India, US, Belarus, Russia, and Papua New Guinea. They have two grown and married children who live in Canada.

When? Rupen and Mamta Das were appointed as Canadian Baptist Ministries Global Field Staff in July 2009.

Where? **Lebanon**, a democratic republic country in the East Mediterranean, is bordered by Syria to the north and east and Israel/Palestine to the south.

What?

Rupen and Mamta serve in the area of Integral Mission. Rupen's role is three-fold:

1. As Senior Advisor to the international programs department, he works from Beirut to assist in capacity building programs and organizational assessments for CBM's key staff and national church partners across the world.

2. As Director of Community Development and Relief for the Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development (LSESD), he works with local churches to help them proclaim the Gospel and demonstrate the Kingdom of God in both word and deed, enabling them to design and implement relief and development projects.

3. Rupen is program director for the Master of Religion in Middle Eastern and North African Studies offered at the Institute of Middle East Studies (IMES), which is part of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS).

Mamta not only supports Rupen through prayer and hospitality, but is actively involved in demonstrating the Gospel with their neighbors and friends.

Rupen writes:

"We are responding to the humanitarian needs of those displaced and vulnerable as a result of the Syrian crisis. LSESD, working with local churches, is providing food aid to 2600 displaced and vulnerable families (15,600 individuals) inside Syria and to 2500 refugee families (12,500 individuals) in Lebanon. Besides this we are providing blankets, kitchen and hygiene items to 2000 families inside Syria, rent for 600 families every month and medical assistance. In Lebanon we have started a school for 150 refugee kids and have run day camps for over 1000 refugee children. We are also distributing blankets and mattresses to over 2500 families as well as heating stoves and water filters.

In the midst of this horrible tragedy we are seeing so many Muslims and traditional Christians choosing to follow Christ. It is something that missionaries have prayed for over the past 200 years and we are seeing a move of the Spirit of God in an unexpected way. I also direct the new Masters program at the seminary here. We have just gotten through the first year and have started the process for accreditation. The program trains Christian leaders for the region."

Prayer requests: **1.** Pray for the Syrians choosing to follow Christ, that they would remain faithful to Him and would hunger for His Word. Pray for their protection. Pray for each of the churches involved that they would have programs to meet the spiritual needs of the refugees. **2.** Pray for protection of Syrian and Lebanese pastors and their teams as many work in high risk environments. Many of them are exhausted because of the crushing load of refugees and their needs. Pray for strength and renewal for each one involved. **3.** Praise God for the funds that He has continued to provide. We may always look for Him to provide all that is needed for the work here. **4.** Pray that the Masters program would continue to have a deep impact in the lives and ministries of those involved.

Why?

"The untold story in the midst of all of this is what God is doing in and through the churches as they reach out to those in need. All the churches we are working with report tremendous interest in the God who is compassionate and approachable through Jesus, from individuals and families from historic Christian as well as Muslims and Alawite backgrounds. There seems to be a move of the Spirit of God as hundreds are choosing to follow Christ, and from among them many are also choosing to be baptized... What a privilege to see this happening and to be involved. The foundations of this were laid by generations of those who have prayed and labored, with little to show. Thank you for your faithfulness in being not only interested but also being part of what God is doing here." (*Das News, October 2013*)

Lisa Lohnes

Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW