



Dayr Al Barsha Report 2018

Dayr Al Barsha Facts

Sponsored Children	87
Un-sponsored Children	29
Total Children	116
Village Staff	Botros, Randa, Nesrin

Jesus

- AWANA
- Kids Conferences
- Discipleship Groups
- Home Visits

Healing Grace is working in four churches in Dayr Al Barsha – the Evangelical Church, Baptist Church, Faith Church, and Christian Example Church. The four churches interact and work well together to meet the needs of the children and the ministry. An example of this would be the gathering for monthly disbursement of food packages. The churches plan this gathering each month at one of their buildings, and the mothers of sponsored children come together to receive the packages. All four churches host AWANA clubs.

There is a need for more leadership training within the churches, as there are plenty of leadership roles that could be filled in order to serve the community better. We would like our leaders to have the best possible training, so they can be well equipped to serve our children.

The children in Dayr Al Barsha, along with their siblings, had the opportunity to attend a children's conference in 2018. The conferences and their topics differ by age group: elementary-age children and teenagers. Several villages are invited to attend each conference, so children can meet new people and make friends from other villages in their age bracket. The themes for this year's conferences were:

Elementary: "Speak to Me" – the story of Samuel, God's calling, discerning the voice of the Lord, true belief, making Jesus the priority, the importance of the Bible, having a relationship with Jesus, and awareness for abuse

Teenagers: "Spend Time with God, not on Social Media", correcting false concepts about God, establishing a relationship with Jesus through prayer, value, and humility

Every child deserves a chance.



The sponsored children meet once a week for discipleship group. This is a meeting, in addition to AWANA, when the sponsored children learn more about Jesus and how to live fully for Him. The elementary age groups are generally taught by going through stories of the Bible. This year, they have focused on stories about children in the Bible. The middle and high school groups focus on learning Christian doctrine. Their main topics of the year have been about discipleship, psychological and spiritual issues, using social media wisely, problem solving by finding the root of the sin, sin and salvation, God the Father, and a better life in Jesus.

The village staff visit each child a minimum of three times a month in their homes. These meetings give the staff one-on-one time with each child and their family. They are able to meet the needs specific to the child, pray with them, encourage them, and build trust and a stronger relationship with their family. The most frequently asked prayer requests from the children are for their family problems, prayers for their parents, prayers for academic success, and for God to provide for their needs.

Education

- School
- Tutoring
- Preschool

One of the requirements to be a part of Healing Grace is that all of the sponsored children must attend school. In the villages, it is common for parents to keep their children from attending school, in favor of starting to work at a younger age, or doing chores to help the family instead. Many parents do not understand the long-term benefits of education, but our staff works with these parents to help them see the importance of education.

All 116 sponsored children in Dayr Al Barsha receive additional tutoring. Literacy is the key focus of tutoring. While good tutors and strong literacy curriculum is difficult to find in the village, Healing Grace is continually seeking opportunities to help our students become literate and successful in their education. Right now, the children are tutored by a variety of teachers in the village. They choose their own tutors with their parents, based on staff recommendations.

There is one preschool in Dayr Al Barsha that serves 80 children. We started the preschool because we saw a need to get the youngest children off the streets, to start schooling at a young age and give them a head start in their education, and to create healthy habits needed to thrive intellectually.

Health

- Water Filters
- Medical Care

There are three water filtration systems installed in Dayr Al Barsha, which are located in the Evangelical, Baptist, and Faith Churches. Most of the families use the filtered water, but the village goes without water for long periods of time, sometimes days at a time, due to the government doing maintenance on the water network in the area. Unfortunately, there is no timetable for how long the maintenance will continue. Also, the filters require even more frequent replacements than other villages, as the water is especially dirty. While the Healing Grace staff continue to encourage families to use clean water, the village would benefit from more educational outreaches/campaigns on the importance of clean water.

The most prevalent health issues in Dayr Al Barsha are hepatitis C and bronchitis. Many of the parents in the village have hepatitis C and need or receive treatment. In the village, bronchitis is often caused by tonsillitis that has been left untreated and can often progress to pulmonary disease if never treated. There are medical clinics in the village, but our families still rely on the Healing Grace doctor, who is the first point of contact for all medical needs.

Building Healthy Family Clubs

Building Healthy Family clubs are held twice monthly and are intended to teach parents how to fulfill their roles as leaders of their home. This is taught by focusing on the 5 C's: Christ, Calling, Community, Character, and Competency.

There are four Building Healthy Family clubs in Dayr Al Barsha. They are held at each of the four churches. 43 couples and 226 individuals attend meetings regularly, for a total of 312 participants. There are three couples from the local church in Dayr Al Barsha that are trained by Healing Grace BHF Staff to lead the meetings. The couples are volunteers and are supervised by our BHF staff. The majority of the attendees are women.

The topics for each meeting are chosen by the BHF staff and voted on, so the most relevant needs are addressed in each village. Some of the topics that have made a great impact on the parents' daily lives were giving women a break, family devotional time, raising teenagers, and Christian unity. There have also been a few topics that have been a challenge to teach because, culturally, parents are not as receptive to them. Some of the most challenging discussions have been about differences between men and women, intimacy in a marriage, and physical unity.