

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

LEBANON

General Information

- Population: 5 million.
- Located in the East Mediterranean. It is bordered by Syria to the north and east and Israel to the south. Lebanon's location at the crossroads of the Mediterranean Basin and the Arabian hinterland has dictated its rich history and shaped a cultural identity of religious and ethnic diversity.
- In 64 BC, the region came under the rule of the Roman Empire, and eventually became one of the Empire's leading centers of Christianity.
- In ancient times, Lebanon was covered by large forests of cedar trees, the national emblem of the country.
- Government: Parliament of Lebanon has 128 seats and are divided equally between Christians and Muslims.
- The CIA World Factbook estimates that the population is 59.7% Muslim and 39% Christian, with other religions and non-believers accounting for the remaining 1.3%

Challenges

- Wars and fighting make mission endeavors very difficult. Some churches have withdrawn their groups because of hostilities.
- Christianity in this country is comprised mainly of Maronite Catholicism. Some Orthodoxy groups exist, but evangelical Christianity is a minority.
- Islamic growth and persecution.
- The increase of sinful behavior. Beirut has been called the "party capital of the Arab world."

Pray

- Joseph and Katie Farland, IMB missionaries to Lebanon, were once members of Providence.
- Protection of Christians as sectarian strife breaks out among Islamic groups.

Reference

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon>