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The following news concerns Lebanon

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Special guests hear the Bible message at Christmas

LEBANON — Since it opened in November 2002, the Bible Society in Lebanon's *Bible World* attraction has proved extremely popular with both visiting children and the adults who accompany them. One reason for the success of this interactive, multimedia Scripture experience is that it appeals to visitors of many different backgrounds and levels of understanding. This was clearly demonstrated when a group of mentally and physically handicapped children visited *Bible World* just before Christmas.



Bible World Coordinator Paula Ziadeh was initially rather concerned about receiving visitors from the 'Foi et Lumière' (*Faith and Light*) movement, an interconfessional volunteer organisation that serves the spiritual needs of mentally and physically handicapped individuals. "I was a bit worried about how we would handle our special guests, and whether they would understand the purpose of *Bible World* and the Bible message," she recalls. Her concerns proved unfounded, however.



"They toured *Bible World*, engaged in all its activities and understood most of its components," she says. "Some even cried when they watched the *Bible World* film."

This special visit on December 21 was designed to give the guests an opportunity to encounter the Bible message at Christmas. Accompanied by Bible Society volunteers and staff members, each visitor was guided through *Bible World*; information was provided along the way as they participated in the various Bible activities. The visit ended after Santa handed out Christmas gifts to the guests. "Our vision statement is to present all generations with the opportunity to encounter the Bible and its life-changing message," says Ms Ziadeh. "All generations and people, including special people."



For earlier stories about Bible World, see World Report 375/34 and 391/22.

Photos (Bible Society in Lebanon):

LEB06DJ-48: Handicapped visitors to the Bible Society in Lebanon's *Bible World* attraction in December 2006.

LEB06DJ-49: Paula Ziadeh, Coordinator of the Bible Society in Lebanon's *Bible World* attraction, with handicapped visitors in December 2006.

LEB06DJ-50: Handicapped visitors to the Bible Society in Lebanon's *Bible World* attraction in December 2006.

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