

JEAN BOUCHEBEL

WORLD VISION PARTNERSHIP OFFICES

Jean Bouchebel, Director of Resource Development, had a comfortable job in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in the late 1970's when his homeland was torn apart by civil war. Feeling called to serve his people; he left the security of his life in Saudi Arabia and returned to Lebanon in 1980. Through the worst of the fighting he remained in Lebanon with a ministry of emergency relief, reconstruction and reconciliation.

Born in Bikfaya, Lebanon, Bouchebel was placed in an orphanage when he was eight years old after his father died. Eight years later his mother also passed away, and 16 year old Jean went to work to support his five brothers and sisters. Unable to attend high school, Bouchebel completed his education through night classes. From 1960 to 1975, Bouchebel was employed by the Intercontinental Hotel in Beirut. He worked his way up from waiter to the highest rank in his department, Food and Beverage Manager. In 1976, Bouchebel became Food and Beverage Manager for the Riyadh Intercontinental Hotel. The next year, he was promoted to Regional Food and Beverage Director for the Intercontinental Hotels group in Saudi Arabia.

Returning to Beirut in 1980, Bouchebel worked with churches and other groups in providing assistance to people displaced and otherwise affected by the Lebanese civil war, including survivors of the 1982 massacre at the Palestinian refugee camps. He joined World Vision on March 1, 1984, as project coordinator and became National Director in 1987.

Until the Lebanese civil war ground to a halt in the early 1990's, Bouchebel served in what would be one of World Vision's most dangerous offices. Often he had no electricity or phone service. Shifting battle lines made it difficult to visit projects. The office itself sustained war damage. However, Bouchebel rarely talks about the dangers of those years, rather he talks about the opportunity they gave him to "serve the 18 Lebanese religious groups represented in the country," as well as the promotion of "reconciliation among Lebanese nationals through many different projects."

In addition to his responsibilities as the National Director for World Vision - Lebanon, Bouchebel facilitated projects in the countries of Cyprus, Greece, Portugal, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq. In late 1994, he served briefly in Rwanda as part of his work on World Vision's Children of War initiative. At the same time, he also served as the office manager for the World Vision Cyprus office.

In May, 1998, Bouchebel was awarded an honorary degree in Humane Letters from Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon.

In January 1999, Jean transferred to the World Vision Partnership Offices in Monrovia, California, to help develop resources from potential donors for World Vision ministries and build relations with the Church Leaders from the Middle East.