

My story: Karla Latouf

Dear brothers and sisters from Virehoven kerk, and open hands,

I am Karla Latouf from Latakia/ Syria. I am 23 years old university student. I study architecture in the Arab Academy for science and Technology. The main reason I chose this university is that it is one of few universities that offers international level of education and it is proven internationally. I love traveling and discovering new cultures and learning new languages. On top of my interests is the art of building designs, material and architecture. Since I was a little kid at school, I was always fascinated with buildings lay outs, design and specially the old historic buildings in my city Latakia and the great architect of our old churches.

At that time, I had no other ways to express myself rather than drawing. I always enjoy drawing, it helps me express the world inside me and also how I see the universes outside. Later this passion developed to be central of my interests, studies, and future career through my choice to study architecture. Architecture is everything around us, we spend 87% of our lives within the buildings that we design and create. I see part of my contribution to this world is to participate to push this building creations one step forward.

On the other hand, this study was not without challenges. This bachelor program is for five years. Through the first three and half years, I faced a lot of challenges and set backs on the family level and stability level. However, that teaches me to be more resilient to fulfil my ambitions and dreams. The war situation made everything be very hard, it made everything and our daily living so challenging economically, socially and emotionally. I had times when I totally lost hope , stability and security. The challenge was to keep dreaming in a better tomorrow.

God always helped me and is helping me to get through. Now I still have three semesters to finish my bachelor and become officially an architect and fulfilled my dream. I thank God for his constant persons in my life, and to bring me back hope through your help. I had no financial ability to register for this academic year, my hopes were fading until you reached to me with your kind help to register for this academic year. That brought back hope and motivation to me to work hard and finish my studies and start working. I could finally register at the new academic years, and my courses successfully launched, I am excited to learn through this year and get ready to face all future challenges , God will always be there for me , for everyone , and may him be there for you as well and give you his blessings.

I thank you very much Vierhoven kerk and Open hands for bringing hope back to my life, and creating a way for me to have a better future.

May God bless you all , through all times.

Best Rgrds,

Karla