

“ The light shines through the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

JOHN 1:5

SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

The month of July is the first month of summer vacation in Lebanon and it was very busy for Abundant Life Church. We held our monthly evangelism meeting in early July. A message of salvation was presented through drama and preaching. Many people responded, giving their lives to Christ. Abundant Life Church also worked with sister churches to hold outreaches in strategic parts of the city. ALC was a part of revival meetings in a church that recently moved into a building that was formerly a night club. Now, God is raising up a new generation that is set apart for Him! The meetings were full of powerful preaching and ministry time that lasted until late in the night.

At the same time, ALC was participating in evangelism meetings held in Downtown Beirut. It was remarkable to stand in a place where I have seen many pictures of politicians and protests and now see the name of Jesus lifted up in worship and in preaching of the Word of God. Many accepted Christ and there was prayer for those who needed healing. It was powerful to stand in an open-air meeting in the middle of Beirut and declare, so that everyone can hear, that Jesus is Lord over our city and our nation!

Later in the month we held a baptism service where around 40 people were baptized to signify their death to their old nature and that they are resurrected into their new life in Jesus Christ. It was a tremendous celebration, and many of those being baptized were touched in a special way. I have been able to spend some time with many of the women who were baptized, and it is a great joy watching them grow in the Lord.

We ended the month with a Girl's Day, taking the teenage girls of the church to spend a day with them ministering to their needs. We brought in a specialist in children and young girls' ministry and covered topics from God's love to finances to relationships. It was humorous to watch the girl's dismay at having to take the cell phone off the "must-have" list and replace it with clothing and food. It was also a great joy to see them understand that God

does love them and cares about what they are dealing with. The girls were very open and ready to receive from the Lord. One of the teenagers shared with me that it changed the way she thought about what kind of relationships are appropriate for a believer. Another girl told me that the teaching on tithing was new to her, but now she understands how important it is. This is such a crucial age to reach, if the we do not train and teach them, then they will learn from the ways of the world. I am encouraged by what God is doing in their lives and know that He is going to use them for His kingdom.

It has been a great start to the summer, and we are expecting to see many great things in these coming months. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.



During my weekend with
the kids



Meeting in Downtown Beirut

Prayer Needs:

- *The Lord's protection*
- *Provision*
- *Wisdom & Direction*
- *Becoming fluent in Arabic*
- *Adjusting to new life & culture*

E-mail:

marybeth@shinethroughdarkness.com

Website:

www.shinethroughdarkness.com

For more information on the church where I am serving, please visit:

www.abundantlifelebanon.com

Send support to:

Kathryn Smith
P.O. Box 1231
West Plains, Missouri 65775

Make checks payable to
Westside Church.

List "Mary Beth Thoms" in the memo line.

Support received after 20th of the month will apply to the following month cycle.

I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1: 4-6