

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

JOHN 1:5

SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

My First Thanksgiving in Lebanon

I had a great time celebrating my first Thanksgiving in my new country with my new family. It was not a traditional holiday, no turkey or pumpkin pie, but there was plenty of food and good fellowship. The Lebanese do not celebrate Thanksgiving, but they do know about it because of TV and movies. Everyone was more than willing to celebrate and to take time to thank God for all he has done for us. I had a great time eating and spending time with friends who are now family to me.

The highlight of my first Thanksgiving in Lebanon was being with the kid's ministry. The children were excited to hear about this holiday they have only seen on television. I told them about the Thanksgiving story. I emphasized how the Pilgrims had to trust God, and that He did by sending the Indians to help them. I explained to them that the Thanksgiving holiday commemorates the first feast that the Pilgrims and the Indians held to thank God for their harvest. The children were very interested in the Thanksgiving story. We also shared with them how in our own lives we can be thankful for what God gives us. We finished the weekend by having the kids make Thanksgiving Turkeys with the outline of their hand. The children wrote five things that they were thankful for on the fingers that made the feathers for the turkey, and were showing off their turkeys and telling everyone what they wrote. It was a wonderful weekend teaching the children thankfulness and to trust God in every situation.



Children showing off their
Thanksgiving Turkeys

Preparing for the Christmas Season

December will be a busy month preparing Christmas programs in both the children and youth ministries. We will be holding community outreaches to impact the youth with the love of Jesus Christ. Over 300 children are expected to fill the sanctuary during the kid's outreach! We believe that the message of Christ's birth will change the lives of our youth and children.

*May His love, peace and joy fill your lives this season as we celebrate
the birth of our Savior!*

Prayer Needs:

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

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

www.abundantlifelebanon.com

Send support to:

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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