

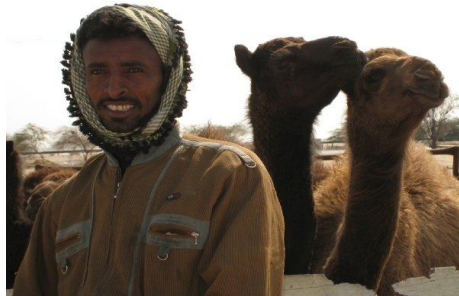
“ The light shines through the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

JOHN 1:5

SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

A month in Kuwait

I spent the first month of 2008 in Kuwait living with the Dailey family and working with The Lighthouse Church (TLC) while the church in Lebanon worked on my resident visa. Kuwait may only be a 2-hour flight away, but stepping off the plane was like stepping into another world, one that consisted of two different extremes. On one extreme, Kuwait is like a little island of America in the Middle East. The other extreme is that I experienced more of what you would expect when coming to the Middle East, such as going out to the desert and driving through the “Tent Cities” and then stopping by to see some Bedouins and their camels, drinking camel milk and tea inside their tent. This was my first time seeing another part of the Middle East, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there.



A Bedouin and his baby camels

The work in Kuwait

The Lighthouse church in Kuwait is doing a great work in this Gulf nation. Seventy percent of the population in Kuwait is foreign workers from all around the world, and these are the people that TLC is targeting. In one church, I met people from Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. Who would have thought that I would get my first taste of authentic Indian and Philippino food in Kuwait?

TLC is similar to Abundant Life in Beirut and my home church, Bethany World Prayer Center. A large part of the ministry at TLC focuses on small groups and reaching out to people by building relationships. They also hold Encounter weekends, which I was able to be a part of my first weekend in Kuwait. It was a great time as many lives were changed by the power of the cross. After the Encounter there are classes once a week where these new believers are taught some of the foundations of living the Christian life. I was able to take part in teaching these classes, and it was great joy to see these disciples growing in the Lord and to be able to encourage them in their faith.

This church in Kuwait is also actively involved in helping the needy in the community. I was a part of team that visited hospital patients who did not have any family to come visit them. These patients were so needy and very lonely; they were so touched that people came to help them. I was also able to see compounds where foreign workers live in very poor conditions. A pastor at TLC began to reach out to some African workers by bringing them buckets to help them get water. This opened the door to the entire African community at the compound and now many of them are coming to church. It does not matter what part of the world we are in, we can bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others by taking the time to help them in their need.

I experienced and learned so many things in Kuwait. It was such a blessing to be part of what God is doing in other parts of the Middle East.

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