

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

JOHN 1:5

SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

Christmas in Lebanon

I had a great time my first Christmas in Lebanon. I was very busy with many things going on at the church and also spending time celebrating the holiday in the homes of several families. The Christmas season has always been a special time for me, and it was no different spending it in Lebanon with Abundant Life Church.



Children's Celebration

We had several programs at the church to celebrate the season. The youth meeting had the theme “Rebirth of Hope”. It was a great time as the youth gathered for fun, fellowship and to focus not only on the rebirth of hope when Jesus came to earth but the rebirth of hope in our lives as we believe God will do great things in the youth of Lebanon.

Happy New Year!

We held a special community outreach in the children's ministry. It was amazing! Around 400 children filled the sanctuary of Abundant Life Church to hear about the birth of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas. It is great to be able to plant God's Word in so many young hearts, and know it will not return void, but will accomplish all that God desires for it!

Wow, we are already in 2008! A year ago, Lebanon was still only a dream for me. That dream has been a reality now for six months, and God has continued to do exceedingly abundantly above what I could ask or think! I rang in my first year in Lebanon with a big celebration with my church family at Abundant Life. Before the New Year arrived, we had time of celebrating in the presence of the Lord and I got my first shot at learning the traditional Lebanese dance. The best part of the night was being able to pray in the New Year with the church, and declare that 2008 will be a year of restoration! The youth performed a drama illustrating Ezekiel prophesying to the dry bones. Many may see Lebanon as a valley of dry bones, but from dry bones God raises up an army to advance His Kingdom. This year God will restore in our lives and in this nation all that has been lost and appears to be dry bones. Lebanon and the Middle East will live again!



Learning traditional Lebanese Dance

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