

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

JOHN 1:5

SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

Home for the Holidays

I made it back to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the holidays, my first time back home in almost 18 months. It was very refreshing to spend time with family and old friends again. It was busy but enjoyable as I spent my weekends traveling to speak in churches and share about what God is doing in Lebanon and throughout the Middle East. My desire was that people would receive God's heart for the Arab World, and it was a delight to hear from people how their thoughts about the Middle East had been changed. I also had the opportunity to speak in several classrooms, including a public school classroom. It was joy be



The Thoms family



Speaking in classroom

able to teach this young generation about the Middle East and to be an example of following the call of God for your life. I had a great time in the States, and it was good to take a step back and see the big picture of what is going on here in Lebanon and the Arab World. I am excited to be back home in Lebanon, and I am looking forward to what God will do.

New Year 2009

I returned to Lebanon in time to ring in the year with Abundant Life Church. It was great to start out the year with my Lebanese family and declare that this will be a year of favor and harvest. I am excited about 2009, and I believe it will be a year of great breakthrough.

Now that I am back in Lebanon, I want to really focus on gaining fluency in Arabic. This really needs diligence, so I appreciate your continued prayers! In Lebanon, many opportunities are opening for ministry and I am excited about seeing God changing lives that I believe will impact the world.

I also desire to visit more countries around the Arab World and gain a broader view of what God is doing in the Middle East. I would like to see the work in these countries and be an encouragement to the believers there, and I would also like to keep you informed on how you can pray for and support the advance of the Gospel in the Arab World. God is doing so much in Lebanon and throughout the Middle East, it is an honor to be used here. I am so thankful for your involvement, as well, through your prayers, support and encouragement.

Prayer Needs:

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

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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