

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

JOHN 1:5

SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

Happy New Year!

I can hardly believe that we have passed through not only another year, but another decade. I am amazed at what God has done, and I am excited about the days ahead. I know that God will continue to do exceedingly abundantly above all that any of us could ask or think!

I feel that this past year held many breakthroughs for me, both in my personal life and in ministry opportunities. I experienced so much growth in the ministry in Lebanon, and in ministry around the world.

Kids Ministry: I am really happy with how my role in this ministry has grown this past year. I have moved from helping to more teaching and leading. It is really fun being with the kids (you never know what they will say or do next!), and I enjoy being a part of not only the ministry, but a part of their lives.

Youth Ministry: My main role with the youth is mentoring through relationships; it is satisfying to be with them as an example, and as someone they can talk with. Several have shared their desire to be in ministry, and even doing missions work. It is an honor to help these future leaders of Lebanon grow and find God's purpose for their lives.

English Ministry: ALC started holding a meeting entirely in English to be able to reach foreigners living in Lebanon. I taught a class with the faithful attendees of this ministry, and it was a great joy being able to impart into their lives. I have grown a lot with this ministry because I am more involved, I am thankful for the opportunities that have come and the things I have learned.

It is really busy in Abundant Life Church, and I am happy to be a part of their work in reaching Lebanon and the Middle East

In addition to the ministry in Lebanon, I also had opportunities in other parts of the world:

Southeast Asia, March 2009: I traveled to Sri Lanka as a part of a team from ALC. We had a wonderful time encouraging the believers there; and I was even able to minister to the kids! From there, I traveled on to Malaysia and Thailand. It was really eye-opening seeing the Asian cultures for the first time, and it was really exciting to be a part of ministries that are doing great things in this region of the world.

West Africa, July 2009: We held conferences for young women in the nations of Liberia and the Ivory Coast. It was a powerful time as we taught and encouraged them from the book of Esther. Many lives were transformed as they learned how valuable they are to God and they were encouraged to fulfill their destiny. I enjoyed my time in West Africa and hope to return in the fall of 2010.

This past year was great, and I believe that even more is in store for 2010. I am so thankful for your support of this ministry with your prayers, giving and encouragement. Together we are bringing the light of Jesus to the nations!

Prayer Needs:

- *Wisdom & Direction*
- *The Lord's protection & provision*
- *Becoming fluent in Arabic*
- *Open doors to minister the Gospel*



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

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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