

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

JOHN 1:5

# SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

## West Africa

The first two weeks of July, I jumped continents over to West Africa to minister in young ladies conferences. This was a special trip for me because I went back to the same place where I traveled 7 years ago, working with many of the same people as well as meeting new faces. One of our leaders in ALC, Rana Gedeon, traveled with me to hold the “ Esther’s Conferences”. We used the life of Esther to encourage and challenge the young ladies of West Africa!



## Liberia

Our first stop was the nation of Liberia. This is a nation that has been devastated by civil war, and is only now beginning to build itself up after years of fighting. The ladies of Liberia were waiting for us and so hungry for Jesus, and many walked from other villages just to be in the conference. It was a powerful time as we focused on forgetting your past and fulfilling your destiny. Many were deeply touched and encouraged. At the end of the conference an offering was taken up that raised enough money to start a pepper farm that will sustain a new church in a nearby village. Liberia was blessed not only spiritually, but economically too! There is so much need in this country, and the people are so hungry for teaching. It was an honor to be able to go in and encourage the believers. We had wonderful time in Liberia ministering to the believers in this country.



## Ivory Coast

We spent the last week of our trip in the neighboring country of Ivory Coast. It had been seven years since I had been to the city of Abidjan, and it was a joy to see the work that has continued since then. One such place was Harvesters Victory Center. Seven years ago, it was only a dirt plot, and our team went and prayed for the church that would be built there. This visit, I was able to see the church that is now built and even ministered there for the Sunday morning service!



We held the second “Esther’s Conference” in Abidjan and ministered to the church there, as well as pastor’s wives of nearby churches. We were able to spend time with the people and encourage them. It was an amazing time for me to be back in the Ivory Coast. I really saw the faithfulness of God, in one way by seeing the work that has continued in Africa since my first visit. Also, I see God’s faithfulness by seeing His work in my life since I left Africa. I am living a life I could not have even dreamed of seven years ago. I left Africa encouraged, knowing that God will continue to do great things and fulfill His plans for my life, and I will continue to be amazed at His faithfulness!

## Prayer Needs:

- *Wisdom & Direction*
- *The Lord’s protection*
- *Becoming fluent in Arabic*
- *Provision*

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

[www.abundantlifelebanon.com](http://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