

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

JOHN 1:5

SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

I want to thank each of you for your prayers, support and encouragement during the unrest Lebanon faced in the month of May. The month began in the same political standoff that the country has been in for almost two years. The opposition was leading a sit-in that stifled the economy of Downtown Beirut in an attempt to topple the government, and there was still no agreement on the next president of Lebanon. The standoff culminated in fighting that some were calling the beginning of the next civil war.

Knowing that the solution to the fighting would not be found in national politicians or world leaders, we focused our daily prayer meetings at Abundant Life Church on the peace of Lebanon. We gathered together seeking God to perform a miracle for our nation, and He has done what we would have considered impossible. One week, Lebanon looked like it might slip into another civil war; the next week, the situation and outlook has improved to better than when I arrived here. The opposition has removed the tents they had set up in Downtown Beirut and lived in for almost two years, which discouraged tourism and business. This part of the city was like a ghost town, but is now bustling with people. In fact, as I write this I am sitting near where tents were set up only a few weeks ago, but the streets are now back to life. In addition, after six months without a president, Lebanon has finally agreed upon a leader. We have seen God answer many prayers, and we are full of faith that He will continue to work all things together for good and that we will see His Kingdom advance in the Middle East!

While the future is looking much brighter for the nation of Lebanon, there is only peace and security in Christ Jesus. We are not seeking more tourism or a better economy, but a peaceful and prosperous Lebanon where Jesus is Lord, so that will see the Gospel flourish here and throughout the Middle East. Please continue to pray for this nation and region.

Please pray:

- **For the peace of Lebanon.**
- **For the Lebanese churches to be a light in the darkness**
- **Against worldliness and distractions, and that the people will hunger and thirst for truth and righteousness.**
- **That Lebanon will be a strong democracy in the Middle East with a government that has complete authority over all of Lebanon.**
- **Disarmament of all militia in Lebanon, as they are still a threat to the stability of Lebanon.**
- **For our annual conference that will be held August 6-10, 2008 (We are expecting visitors from many Arab nations and all over the world.)**

THE LORD REPLIED, "LOOK AROUND AT THE NATIONS; LOOK AND BE AMAZED! FOR I AM DOING SOMETHING IN YOUR OWN DAY, SOMETHING YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE EVEN IF SOMEONE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT.

HABAKKUK 1:5 (NLT)

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

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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