

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

JOHN 1:5

# SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

## “Encounter with Jesus” Kids Weekend

We had a great weekend in the beginning of May, bringing the kids through an “Encounter with Jesus” retreat. We taught the children about sin and repentance and about the Cross where Jesus paid the price for our sin. We shared with them the importance of feeding on the Word of God, how they are fearfully and wonderfully made, and we had a session on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.



We had several kids at this retreat who had never been in the church and may have for the first time heard that Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins. It was really amazing to see kids so hungry for God and receiving from Him. It was really a great weekend, and it was a delight to see the kids lives changed by the power of the Cross!

## Pastors & Leaders Conference for the Arab World

Following the Kids weekend, Abundant Life Church hosted a conference for pastors and leaders. We had speakers from Britain and America here to minister to Christian workers from around the Arab World on setting priorities in our life and ministry. We had attendees from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, UAE and Kuwait. It was really amazing for me to be able to meet and talk with some of the people on the frontlines around the Middle East. I spoke with one couple from Iraq who told me that while it is very dangerous in their country, they feel that they are living in a world away from the violence because of the Lord's protection surrounding them.

I was encouraged to hear about the work that God is doing all over the Arab World, and I hope to visit these places soon and give you a first hand account of what is going on and the needs of the ministry in the Middle East.

## Upcoming

- **Travel to West Africa** The first two weeks of July, we will be holding youth conferences for girls and young women in the nations of the Ivory Coast and Liberia, one of our leaders from ALC will be traveling with me. Please pray for those who will be attending the conference, for Rana and me as we prepare, and that all finances needed for the trip will be provided.

## 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:

Kathryn Smith  
P.O. Box 1231  
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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