

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

JOHN 1:5

# SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

## Southeast Asia

The first three weeks of April I spent far from my home in Lebanon, traveling to Southeast Asia in the nations of Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Thailand. While I missed Lebanon a great deal, it was a wonderful experience to be in that part of the world for the first time.

### Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, I was with a team from Abundant Life Church ministering in a church that we are connected with through the Sri Lankan Church in Beirut. We have been helping the church in Beirut for a year, so it was wonderful to get a taste of their native culture. Charbel Louka led the team of four and ministered in services on the main campus and branch churches, leadership classes, the youth meeting and the Palm Sunday service. The week was busy, but we had a wonderful time ministering to the Sri Lankan people.

I was able to speak to the children's ministry on two Sundays. The pastor's desire was for the kids to see someone who had committed their life to serving Jesus. It was really an honor to be an example to these children. I believe that seeds were planted in these young hearts of future pastors, missionaries and leaders of Sri Lanka.

### Malaysia & Thailand

As the team returned to Lebanon, I traveled on to Malaysia to see my mentors from the States, Tony and Margaret Foster, who are now missionaries based in Penang. Malaysia is a Muslim nation, and it was interesting to see Islam with a tropical flair. There are also many migrant workers in this nation, and many practice the religions of Hinduism and Buddhism. Throughout the city you see mosques, Buddhist and Hindu temples and churches. The church reflects this diversity as they reach out to all of these groups.

I then traveled to Thailand where Tony Foster was teaching in a bible college on "building a disciple-making ministry". I was able to sit in on a few classes and it was encouraging to be directed back to what ministry is about: relationships and seeing people become disciples of Jesus. We can get too focused on doing something big, when we were commanded simply to make disciples. It was a great blessing to sit with the Fosters for two weeks and learn from their life and ministry.

My time in Southeast Asia was eye-opening as I was exposed to these eastern religions extensively for the first time. It broke my heart to see how these people worship idols that they feed, bathe, clothes and even hide to protect them. I am so thankful that I worship the Almighty God, who protects and takes care of me. May the name of Jesus be exalted, and may the people of Southeast Asia be freed from this darkness and brought to His marvelous light!



Sharing with the  
children's ministry

### 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:

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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