

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

JOHN 1:5

# SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

## In America

I traveled to America for a week at the beginning of October. Pastor Chady El Aouad was speaking at a conference in Virginia to share news on the work that God is doing in the Middle East. It was a great joy to show another side of the Arab World, a side that is warm and friendly and a side that really is hungry to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Despite all the terror and violence we see in the Middle East, great things are happening. It is an honor to serve the Lord in this area of the world, and to be a representative of His work here.

I had good time in America, and I really enjoyed being able to see my family. However, I see even more clearly than I did before that my heart is in Lebanon. After only two days in the States, I was more than ready to be home and counting the days until I could return. There is no better place to be than right in the middle of God's purpose for your life.

## Back in Beirut

It was so great to be back home in Beirut. I went straight to the evening prayer service at church and was overwhelmed as I watched the believers pray. At that point, I realized that this is exactly where I am supposed to be.



**Children of Abundant Life Church**

Once I recovered from the jet lag, it was time to get back into the swing of things. I spent the weekend services with the children, teaching about water baptism. It is such a joy to be able to plant seeds of Truth in these young lives. I am humbled by the thought I am a part of raising future pastors, missionaries, teachers and leaders who God will use to change the world. During the last weekend of October, I also shared with the youth that we need to be separate from this world to fulfill the ministry that God has for them.

I want to encourage you that we all have a ministry of reconciling others to God. You do not have to leave your country to be in ministry. God has called you to reach the people around you: your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. As we turn from our desires for the world, God will fill us with His desire to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

## Prayer Needs:

- *The Lord's protection*
- *Provision*
- *Wisdom & Direction*
- *Becoming fluent in Arabic*
- *Adjusting to new life & culture*

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

Send support to:

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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