

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

JOHN 1:5

# SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

Seasons are changing and the winter rains have come, bringing with it cooler weather. With each passing month, Beirut is more and more my home. The differences are becoming a normal way of living, and the language is coming more each day. I am enjoying serving in the youth and the children's ministry. It is an honor to be able to impart into young lives. I have also been spending time with several young ladies who are new to the church. I am building relationships with them to teach and encourage them and see them fulfilling the purpose God has for their lives.



At Abundant Life Church, we have had the opportunity to help several churches for foreigners living in Beirut. We are seeing great things among our new friends, who came to Beirut to find work and found Jesus! The church I have worked most closely with is the Sri Lankan Church in Beirut. Our assistant pastor, Charbel Louka, along with a team from ALC,



has been helping them with their weekend services. Most of this congregation comes from a Buddhist background and came to the Middle East for better pay, but their lives have been changed by the Gospel! It has been a great joy watching them grow in the Lord; they are so hungry for Jesus. Now

they are telling us, with great excitement, about how they want to return home to tell their families about Jesus. We believe God will continue to do great things. Opportunities are coming to help other foreign churches and we are happy to see that He is opening doors to minister to more people groups in Beirut.

There is much work to be done in this region of the world. I am so thankful for your partnership in spreading the Gospel in the Middle East. You are touching lives throughout the world!

## **Prayer Needs:**

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

E-mail:

[marybeth@shinethroughdarkness.com](mailto:marybeth@shinethroughdarkness.com)

Website:

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

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  
West Plains, Missouri 65775

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