

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

JOHN 1:5

SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

Life in Beirut

The seasons are changing and my first summer in Lebanon is coming to an end. The weather is cooling off, and now the children are back in school. I have been living in Beirut three months now, and day by day things are becoming easier and more familiar. I perform small errands on my own now, such as buying fruit at the stand near my apartment, and shopping for small items at the market. I know where to go when I need to send mail, and I can grab a taxi to my school and a coffee shop when I need internet access.



**Prayer during
leadership meeting**

I finished my first term of Arabic courses with an A+! This term focused on becoming more familiar with the Arabic alphabet and reading and writing. This next term I will be learning more vocabulary and grammar, focusing on being able to form sentences so that I can communicate more in Arabic.

Abundant Life Church is doing very well and anticipating great things for the future. The church held an Encounter Level 2, a retreat for those who desire to become leaders, and will start courses to be trained. The attendees received a word from God that He will use them to reach their communities, and He will make them able to do all that He has called them to do. As we train servants to have compassion for the people around them and to believe that God can use them to do the impossible, we will see not only our communities changed, but this nation and all the nations of the Middle East!

Lebanon

The month of September saw both highs and lows in the political scene of Lebanon. The month began with a great celebration as the Lebanese army gained victory in their fight against terrorists in the northern Lebanon refugee camp of Nahr Al-Bared. The elation soon ended as disaster struck when one of our politicians was assassinated in a car bombing in the city. The Lebanese people are concerned about the upcoming presidential election. This is a very important election for Lebanon. We know that it is God who places authority, and we are praying for a godly president so Lebanon can flourish and the gospel can go forth from this nation into all of the Middle East!



**Pastor Chady El Aouad
praying for Lebanon**

Prayer Needs:

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

E-mail:

marybeth@shinethroughdarkness.com

Website:

www.shinethroughdarkness.com

For more information on the church where I am serving, please visit:

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