

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

JOHN 1:5

# SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

September is the last month of summer here and we took advantage of our time before school begins. We took the youth of the church to a local waterpark to enjoy the sunny days before the winter rains come. It was a great time of fun and fellowship.



## Encounter Attendees

The evangelism meeting for this month was so great. We had many new people come to the church, and many accepted Jesus as their saviour. Several of the new believers told us after the meeting that they knew God was in this place, and they were eager to get involved in the church. The following weekend, we held an “Encounter with Jesus”. This event filled weekend is a short course in freedom - freedom from habits, bondages, bitterness, wrong thoughts and past mistakes by encountering the cross of Jesus Christ. The attendees were of all ages, and came from many backgrounds, but all received a special touch from the Lord. Lives were transformed through the power of the cross. One of the young men who participated comes from a Muslim background. He doesn't have a good relationship with his father, who lives in another country. However, he learned how much his heavenly Father loves him by sending His only Son to the cross. This revelation changed his life. It is wonderful to be a part of God touching and changing lives.

On a personal note, I moved into my own apartment in September. It was completely bare at first, but it is being filled little by little! My hope for this home is that it is a place of rest, not only for me but the body of Christ. Once it is furnished and comfortable, I hope that it will be used for people to come and rest and spend time with the Lord without distractions, and a place for people from outside to be able to stay while they are with us (consider this an open invitation for you to come and visit!). As I left the temporary place I was in and I am settling into a more permanent place, I can see a little more clearly what it will look like to be in Lebanon for many many years. Of course, there is much left to be seen and I know that it is even more than I could ever think or imagine. Thank you for being a part of this work in the Middle East with your prayers and support.

## Prayer Needs:

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

## 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