

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

JOHN 1:5

SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

Conference 2008

August was an exciting month as we held our annual conference for . Abundant Life Church. The attendance at this year's conference was nearly twice as much as last year. We are encouraged that God is opening doors from all over the Middle East for believers to come and receive ministry, with attendees traveling from Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates to be a part of what God is doing in this region of the world.



Since we are in Lebanon, the food was of course, amazing with three big meals a day, but, the greatest blessing was the spiritual food we received from speakers who came from around the world to challenge and encourage us. The theme of this year's conference was "Restoration, Healing and Opportunities". The teaching and ministry will have a lasting impact on, not only Lebanon, but the entire Middle East. Revival will spread as restoration has begun in the lives of the believers and leaders in this region. Our hearts were burdened that we have to take the opportunities to reach those who are without Jesus.

This year's conference also saw the regional debut of our youth drama team, "The Awakeners". These young people are part of a generation that is seeking God's face and praying to awaken this generation in the Middle East by prophetic dance, drama and worship. I believe God will use this new generation to do great things for His kingdom. This is only the beginning!

At the same time of the church conference, we held a conference for the children. The theme was "The Kingdom Culture" and we taught them about different cultures around the world, how we need to pray for each country and what it reflects about the Kingdom of God. The kids learned about worship in Brazil, prayer in Korea, and evangelism in Africa. I spent the day with the kids teaching them about Africa. They enjoyed learning about a culture so much different from their own. They were impacted by seeing the poverty and were moved with compassion to begin praying for children in Africa and to help by giving. Several kids expressed a desire to be a missionary to other countries. It is a great delight to teach the kids about other cultures and missions, and a distinct honor to be a part of planting seeds in their life.

There is a lot to be done in this region of the world, and it is exciting to see God moving. Thank you for your prayers and support. With your help we will see the name of Jesus glorified by every tribe and tongue in the Middle East.



Teaching the kids about African culture

Prayer Needs:

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

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

www.abundantlifelebanon.com

Send support to:

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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