

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

JOHN 1:5

# SHINE THROUGH DARKNESS

## Spiritual Breakthrough Conference 2009

August always begins busy and exciting as we get ready for our annual conference. Each year it is getting bigger and better, and the hard work put into it always pays off. There were 500 Lebanese in attendance this year, and over 100 pastors and leaders who came from all over the Arab World to be in the conference, representing the nations of Syria, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Algeria, and even Iraq. Many are living in harsh conditions with pressure because of their service for the Lord, and they come to Lebanon to be refreshed, encouraged and equipped. After two years of serving in the Middle East, seeing many of the pastors is like visiting with friends. It is a joy for me to be a part of this conference that encourages and equips laborers for the harvest in the Middle East.



This is the year of "Favor, Achievements and Harvest" and we had speakers from America, the Middle East and Asia. We were encouraged that, despite the circumstances around us, now is the time of favor and that we will accomplish great things for the Lord. In an unexpected time, and when it seems impossible, we will achieve the harvest! We were also challenged to reach the harvest by first being an example of integrity and purity in our own lives and by being a servant to others. Our eyes were opened to see that we can reach the multitudes by discipling "one", and teaching him to do the same. I believe that this was our greatest conference yet. We were not only encouraged that we are God's "mighty men" and as we stay close to Him we will achieve great things for His glory, but we were also given practical steps to reaching the great harvest around us! I am excited at all that God did in our hearts during this week, and I am sure that God's hand will be upon us, His servants in the Middle East, and we will reap the harvest that is white around us!

### Kids Conference

While the adults were having their spiritual breakthrough, the kids of Abundant Life were having their own conference. We focused this year on teaching them about the Holy Spirit, with lessons on the fruit of the Spirit and also being filled with the Spirit. I believe that God did a great work in their lives as they learned about walking according to the Spirit, so that our lives produce His fruit, and also about being continually filled with the Holy Spirit. I am always touched



at how hungry these young kids for the presence of the Lord. I believe that God has great plans for this young generation, and I enjoy being able to teach them the Word of God and how to walk in God's ways. I am eager to see how God will use them in His plans for advancing His Kingdom in the Arab World!

### Prayer Needs:

- *Wisdom & Direction*
- *The Lord's protection*
- *Becoming fluent in Arabic*
- *Provision*

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### 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