

NEWS FROM WISSAM NASRALLAH in Lebanon

I had intended to write to you this week with a different kind of update, one focused on ministry progress at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, institutional developments, and the many encouraging signs of God's faithfulness among us. But the circumstances unfolding in Lebanon have compelled me to write a different letter.

As Lebanon once again stands at the edge of war and widespread displacement, our hearts are heavy. The anxiety and grief are real. For many in this country, this is not unfamiliar terrain. We have walked through such crises before. Yet each time, the uncertainty is painful, and the toll on families, communities, and the nation is profound.

As Christians, we are people who take reality seriously without surrendering to it. We do not minimize the gravity of the moment, but neither do we yield to fear. Our hope is anchored in the living God: steadfast, sovereign, and near to the broken hearted. When the future feels uncertain, His mercy does not.

In many ways, this is a kairos moment. There are moments in the life of the Church when we are called not merely to endure events, but to discern how to respond with faithfulness. We believe this may be such a moment. It presses us to ask not only, "How do we survive this?" but also, "How do we bear witness in this? How do we embody the presence of Christ in the midst of brokenness?"

In such a time, the calling of Christians becomes clearer, not less. We are called to be light in the darkness, not with slogans, but with presence; not with abstraction, but with costly love. We are called to steady the fearful, receive the vulnerable, strengthen the weary, and bear witness to a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

There is also a tension many of us are living in these days. On the one hand, there are immediate needs that cannot be postponed: safety concerns, displaced families, staff welfare, operational adjustments, emergency planning, and the day-by-day decisions required in a volatile environment. On the other hand, long-term priorities remain just as important: formation, theological education, leadership development, and the slow, faithful work of nurturing disciples for the Kingdom. In other words, we must care for the present emergency without losing sight of the long obedience required for the future.

At ABTS and Thimar, this means being prepared to serve in practical ways as needs arise, including opening our guesthouse and campus to receive those who are being displaced. We received our first families in the early hours of Monday, the 2nd, only a few hours after the start of hostilities. At the same time, we continue to serve our remarkable student body spread across the Arab world.

PRAY FOR Lebanon: for restraint, for peace, for wisdom among leaders, for protection over civilians, and for the mercy of God upon this land.

PRAY THAT, in this kairos moment, the people of God in Lebanon would be found faithful: calm in spirit, firm in hope, generous in love, and ready to serve.

PRAY FOR our staff and community as they navigate uncertainty, make difficult decisions, and care for others while carrying their own burdens.

PRAY FOR Sophie, Elise and Antoine who are doing well. They are holding the fort while I am outside Lebanon at the time of writing this letter.
By now, they know the drill.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership.

With gratitude,

NEWSLETTER FROM THIMAR Lebanon

In moments of upheaval, the instinct of the Gospel is not to move away from pain, but toward it. We have often said, half-seriously but with deep conviction, that we must never waste a good crisis. Not because suffering is good, but because the Spirit often opens doors for witness when the world's false securities collapse. Crisis has a way of clarifying what is real: who our neighbours are, what love costs, and where our true kingdom lies.

This is why, as the displacement has begun, ABTS has opened its doors since the first hours of the conflict. Our guesthouse and campus are receiving families who have nowhere else to go. Our wider sister ministries are mobilizing, preparing meals, and coordinating help. In a time when so much is being taken, the people of God are called to give: space, bread, dignity, prayer, and the simple gift of presence that says, "you are not alone".

We are convinced that this is not a public relations gesture. It is Christian witness. To receive the displaced is to echo the heart of Jesus who "did not come to be served but to serve".

Still, we feel the tension: the urgent needs of today and the long work of tomorrow. We must respond to the emergency without abandoning the enduring, faithful task of forming leaders for the church in the Arab world. This is why all of our programs, serving around 250 students across the MENA region, are still fully operational online.

SO, WE ASK YOU TO PRAY.....

PRAY FOR Lebanon: for restraint, for real peace and for mercy upon this land.

PRAY FOR the displaced: safety and shelter.

PRAY FOR our community: calm in spirit, firm in hope, generous in love, wise in decision making, and ready to serve.

And **PRAY THAT** in this kairos moment, the Gospel would not only be spoken, but also seen and embodied.

PRAY FOR Beirut, not only for protection from violence, but for the countless families caught in uncertainty: for parents sitting in traffic with frightened children, for the elderly and vulnerable struggling to move quickly, for those anxiously wondering whether they will be able to return home tonight, and for wisdom, safety, and calm amid fear.

PRAY THAT peace would prevail over anxiety in a city weary from carrying so much uncertainty, that the ceasefire would hold and not deteriorate further, and that hope and protection would surround those facing this difficult day.

As the high-stake negotiations continue along two parallel tracks, we ask our partners and friends to pray. Specifically, **WE PRAY THAT** these negotiations will lead to a fair and just peace agreement for Lebanon and the Middle East, one that respects territorial integrity and the rights of citizens.

ALSO PLEASE PRAY FOR.....

ABTS (Arab Baptist Theological Seminary).....

that it can continue to support displaced families sheltering at its campus during the ongoing war, while educating and training leaders for the Arab Church both in the Middle East and globally.

BBS (BEIRUT BAPTIST SCHOOL)

that it continues to be a lighthouse in the community as it serves its students and staff, and their families.

DMAH (DAR MANHAL AL HAYAT).....

our publishing arm, that its books, podcasts and printed resources will reach Arabic speakers with the truth of the Gospel.

SALT AND LIGHT.....

that its childrens' camps and church activities will empower churches, and strengthen believers serving on the frontline.

SKILD CENTRE.....that its staff will be able to continue supporting children with special needs and their families

MERATH.....our relief and development arm that their aid will meet people's immediate physical needs

THIMAR STAFF....that God will strengthen them to face the challenges ahead