



HATTA BAUGH family  
GO MIDDLE EAST

# IMPACT REPORT

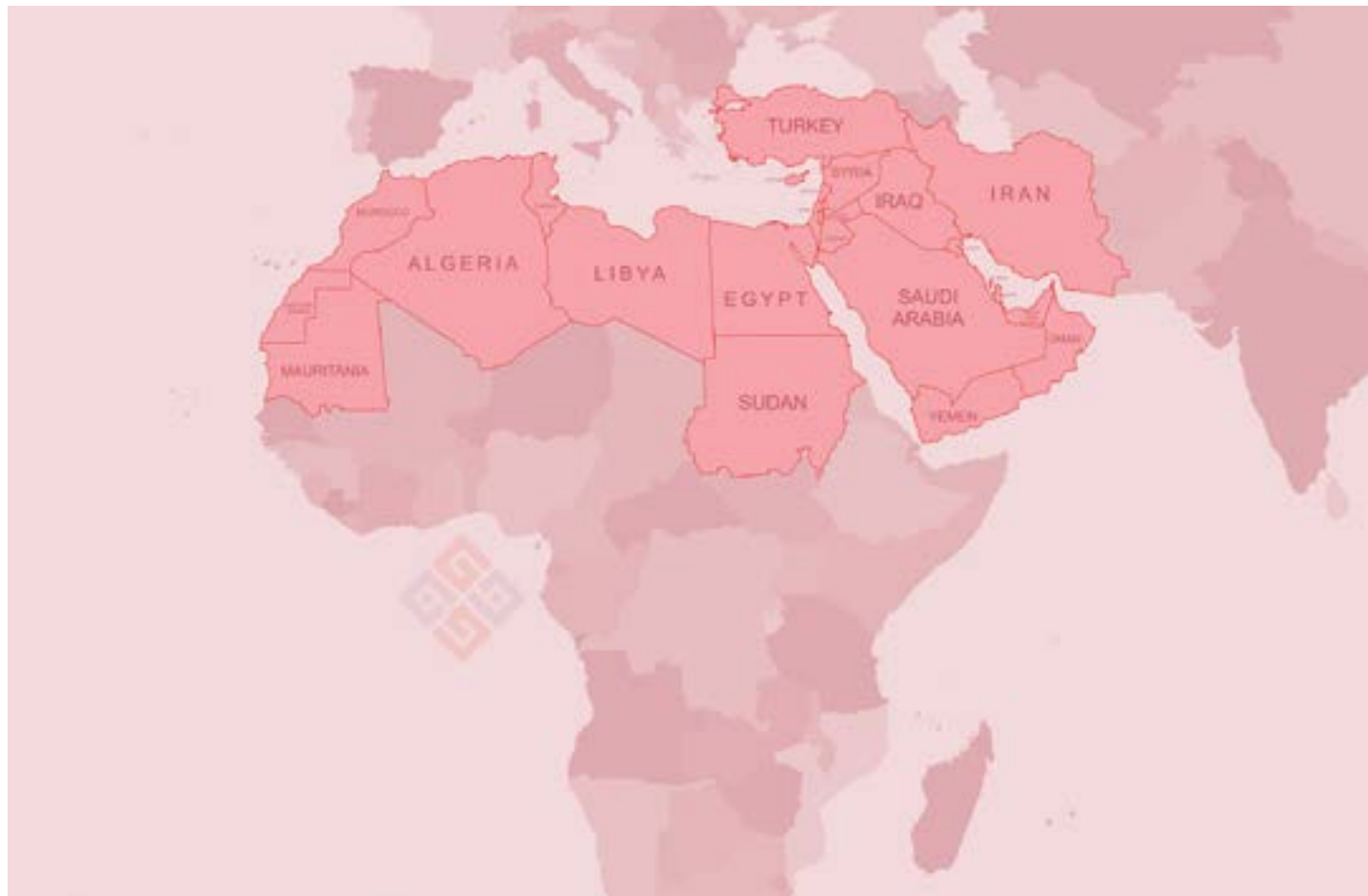
2024 — 2025

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MATT & JULIE HATTA BAUGH

Missionaries | Beirut, Lebanon





# About Us



## WHY LEBANON?

In October 2015, as I sat in a bustling Beirut café, the laughter and warmth around me were met with an unexpected flood of tears. Three times, I tried to regain composure, each time asking, "What is happening to me?" Finally, alone in prayer, the Lord made clear what I was experiencing—a glimpse of His immense love for Lebanon and its people. That moment ruined me in the best way possible. I realized that His heart aches for every one in Lebanon (and everywhere) to encounter His unconditional love.

Like the Apostle Paul, my ambition and aim is to preach Christ where He is not yet known (Romans 15:19). Since that night in 2015, our heart passion is to see Lebanon filled with His love. From Akkar to Naqoura, our vision is that Lebanon will experience the unconditional love of God, grow in His love, and GO with His love to the surrounding nations. It is this overwhelming love that empowers us to pour out our lives in Lebanon.

Train leaders and church planters to reach the unreached - that is what we are all about. We aim to ignite a passion for church planting across Lebanon and the MENA region. We equip leaders and churches through partnerships, training, and outreach to bring hope and transformation to their communities. This past year, we have seen incredible strides as believers step into their call to serve and share the Message of Jesus. From the heart of Beirut to areas beyond, we continue to empower local believers, training them with the tools and resources needed to impact lives.

None of these testimonies would be possible without your love, care, and faithful support. We are privileged to witness firsthand the transformation of people's lives here in Lebanon—a miraculous work only Jesus can do. In seeing these lives changed, Julie and I are aware that it is because of you and your support of what we are doing in Beirut that Jesus is able to stretch out His hand to this nation.

Every church planted, every leader trained, and every life transformed begins with supporters like you, who share a vision for spreading the Gospel and equipping believers to carry out Christ's commission. Your monthly support or one-time gifts to specific projects make it all possible. Together, we are witnessing an incredible move of God, creating a legacy of faith that will endure for generations.

Inside this report, you will find stories of transformation and testimonies of lives touched by God's love—stories that you, our faithful supporters, have made possible. Each testimony reveals how your support is fueling growth, expanding outreach, and planting seeds of faith that will change the Middle East. Join us as we celebrate these remarkable milestones, and your role in spreading the light of Christ across borders. If you are not one already, consider joining us in partnership.



## FROM JULIE'S HEART

It is the honor of my life to be in the place God has called our family and to serve the people in the Middle East.

Every day, we are reminded of the beauty and resilience of this region. Lebanon has taught us much, from the vibrant culture to the deep-rooted traditions. The unmatched hospitality here shows us what it truly means to love your neighbor. We've had the privilege of walking alongside people whose courage inspires us and whose stories humble us. God's hand is evident in every connection and moment we share. We are continually amazed by how He weaves our lives together for His purposes, and we are grateful for the opportunity to be a small part of His greater plan.

Our years in Lebanon has been filled with exciting opportunities and challenges, but through it all, we have found God's favor and faithfulness.





# We Train Leaders

## Focusing on 2 Timothy 2:2

Ministry to Lebanon and the Arab world's unreached demands a strategic and Spirit-led approach. With over 500 million people across the MENA region, many of whom have never encountered the Gospel, the need for well-trained leaders and church planters is as urgent as ever.

The model of training and sending is exemplified in the life of Paul, who not only preached the Gospel but also raised up leaders like Timothy, Titus, and many others. In his letters to Timothy, Paul instructs him to steward what he has learned, entrusting the Gospel to "faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2, NIV). Paul's approach shows us the power of multiplying leaders who understand their cultural context and can shepherd their communities in relevant and transformative ways.

Today, we follow this model by equipping leaders and church planters in Lebanon. Training leaders from within the

community means they are equipped with Biblical knowledge and practical skills and are grounded in the culture and language of the people they serve. This contextual understanding is essential for ministry in the Arab world, where family ties, traditions, and a deep respect for cultural values shape people's daily lives and belief systems.

Furthermore, locally trained leaders create a sustainable and reproducible church growth model. When leaders are empowered to plant and grow churches within their own cultural contexts, the message of Christ spreads more naturally and endures beyond our direct involvement.

In Lebanon, we see this reproducible model beginning to bear fruit. Church planters we have trained are now leading their own congregations, mentoring new believers, and reaching out to surrounding communities. Each leader represents another opportunity for the Gospel to take

root in the hearts and lives of people who may have never heard the Good News.

The call to train leaders for the Arab world is filled with hope and purpose. We see the hand of God at work, opening doors and preparing hearts for His message. As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful," (Matthew 9:37, NIV). By training and sending out more workers, we answer this call and participate in the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan for the Arab world.

We are committed to train and send well-prepared, Spirit-filled, and culturally aware leaders. There are many challenges, but our God is greater than all. As we plant and water, we trust that He will bring the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6, NIV). We are privileged to be part of His work in Lebanon and the Arab world.





# The Cedars

## A Biblical Legacy

Everywhere in Scripture, the cedars of Lebanon stand as symbols of strength, resilience, and divine blessing. These majestic trees, known for their strength, resilience, and beauty, were highly prized in the ancient world. The Bible frequently references them, especially in connection with the building of Solomon's Temple, one of the most significant and sacred structures ever built. The temple was intended to be a dwelling place for God, a holy site where heaven and earth could meet. Today, we see a powerful metaphor in these cedars as we work to build a "spiritual temple" for the Lord in Lebanon—developing leaders and church planters who will carry the message of Christ throughout this region. Together with our partners, we are, in a sense, building with the "Cedars of God" as we labor to make a lasting impact in the Middle East.

### THE CEDARS OF LEBANON: A BIBLICAL LEGACY

In the Bible, the cedars of Lebanon symbolize strength, durability, and divine blessing. These trees, which grew tall and strong in the mountains of Lebanon, were noted for their resistance to decay, making them ideal for construction. Solomon, in his wisdom, chose these cedars to construct the temple in Jerusalem. First Kings 5:6 recounts Solomon's words to King Hiram of Tyre: "Give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set." (New International Version). The cedars became the framework, pillars, and temple adornments, representing the strength

and beauty of God's dwelling place.

The psalmist also uses the cedars as a symbol of righteousness and flourishing. Psalm 92:12 says, "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree. They will grow like a cedar of Lebanon." This imagery draws a connection between spiritual vitality and the strength of these ancient trees, suggesting that those who belong to God are rooted and steadfast, able to withstand life's challenges because of their firm foundation in Him.

The temple built by Solomon was magnificent, a place where the presence of God dwelled tangibly among His people. But in the New Testament, we see a shift. In 1 Peter 2:5, the apostle Peter describes believers as "living stones" being "built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." The physical temple, once constructed of cedar and stone, has now become a spiritual temple built of people—individuals who are shaped and molded by the hand of God to become His dwelling place.

In our ministry, we see this imagery come to life as we invest in people who will, in turn, become the "living stones" of God's temple in the Middle East. Every leader we develop and every church planter we equip is part of this spiritual construction. Like the cedars of Lebanon, these leaders are meant to be strong, resilient, and deeply rooted in their faith, able to stand tall amidst the challenges of ministry in this region.

### PARTNERS IN BUILDING

Our work in Lebanon would not be possible without the faithful support of our partners. Just as King Hiram's laborers worked alongside Solomon's builders to bring the temple vision to life, our supporters also played an essential role in building this spiritual temple. Through your prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts, you are shaping leaders who will make a difference in Lebanon and beyond. Together, we are building with the "Cedars of God," constructing a spiritual temple that will testify to our Lord's power and faithfulness.

In Lebanon, where the challenges are immense and the spiritual needs are great, we are witnessing firsthand the importance of this partnership. Each leader we train and each church we plant represents another stone in the living temple God is building. Like the ancient cedar timbers that stood in Solomon's Temple, these leaders and church planters are being prepared to withstand the test of time, standing strong in their faith and purpose.

The cedars of Lebanon were not just impressive in appearance; they were built to last. In the same way, our goal is to cultivate leaders who have the strength to endure and make a lasting impact. We do not aim to simply "plant churches" superficially; instead, we seek to establish deep roots and cultivate resilience in the leaders who will carry forth the Gospel. In the challenging soil of the Middle East, where persecution, economic hardship, and cultural opposition are accurate, the leaders we train must have both spiritual depth and practical resilience.



We have seen how God has used this ministry to grow leaders who are firmly rooted, able to stand tall and unwavering, like the cedars. These leaders are becoming pillars in their communities, providing strength, guidance, and hope to those around them. And like the cedars in Solomon's Temple, they represent something much larger than themselves. In this place, God's presence can dwell, and His glory can be revealed to the world.

### ROY'S STORY

In the heart of our ministry, Roy stands as a living example of what it means to be built up as a "cedar of God." When he first joined GoChurch and enrolled in our ministry training center, Roy was passionate but searching, eager to grow but uncertain of his path. Yet, from the start, he displayed a remarkable willingness to learn and a deep commitment to his faith. He applied himself wholeheartedly, taking advantage of every opportunity to grow spiritually and develop his skills for ministry.

Through the training center, Roy immersed himself in studying the Word, learning to apply its truths in his personal life and interactions with others. His hunger for spiritual growth and his humility in receiving guidance set him on a steady path of transformation. Over time, we began to see Roy's natural leadership qualities emerge. He became a reliable and steady presence within GoChurch, always willing to serve, support, and encourage others.

Today, Roy has grown into a leader in his own right, taking on significant responsibilities within our ministry. He leads parts of our outreach and discipleship programs, ministering to others with the same care and dedication he experienced during his training. Roy's journey is a testament to the power of spiritual growth when one is rooted in Christ and willing to be molded by God.

In many ways, Roy embodies the strength and resilience of the cedars of Lebanon. Just as these trees are known for their enduring quality and ability to stand tall, Roy has developed into a pillar within our ministry. He is not only a great help in our work but also a symbol of what is possible when we invest in building strong leaders.

Through supporters like you, we can invest in people like Roy, equipping them to grow into leaders who will impact Lebanon and beyond. Each person we train, each life transformed, is another "living stone" in the temple of God we are building together. Roy's story is just one example of the many lives being shaped, strengthened, and sent out as part of the legacy of faith in this region.

### A CALL TO BUILD TOGETHER

The work we are doing in Lebanon is not easy. Still, we are inspired by the vision of building a lasting spiritual temple for God. As our partners, you are just as essential to this mission as we are. Together, we are part of something much bigger than any of us—a movement to see the Kingdom of God established in this region, not just for today but for future generations. Every prayer, every gift, and every word of encouragement is like another beam of cedar being set in place, creating a structure that will stand as a witness to the Gospel.

We are building a legacy as we continue to invest in these "living stones," training and equipping leaders and church planters. This legacy is not of wood or stone but of people whose lives are changed by Christ and who will go on to impact countless others. Just as the cedars of Lebanon were used to build a temple where God's presence dwelled, we are working to build a "spiritual house" that God will inhabit, filling it with His presence, power, and love.

This season, we are reminded of the beauty and



strength of partnership. We could not do this work alone, and we are deeply grateful for the friends and supporters who stand with us. Together, we are building with the "Cedars of God," establishing a spiritual foundation that will outlast us all and continue to bear fruit for generations. Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, may we see the Kingdom of God take root and flourish here in Lebanon, one living stone at a time.





# Faith & Leadership

## Discovering God's Plan

by Krystal Baddour

I often ask the Lord, “Why me? Why now?” At a time when I claimed to hate God and rejected His existence, I wondered why I was chosen when others seemed to have more potential, ability, and resources. The answer I received was clear: “I equip the called, not call the equipped.”

Being in ministry isn't easy; the more you carry, the greater your responsibility. When I realized the Lord wanted me to stay in my country, He enveloped me with His love in an unforgettable moment. Initially, I thought I had lost my chance to achieve something significant. My heart was set on traveling abroad to work and build a business to support my family, friends, and strangers. Yet, I kept reminding myself, “If it's for Him, it's okay.” Little did I know that the fulfillment I sought was right here in Lebanon.

After choosing to stay, God surrounded me with friends who are now core members of GoChurch Beirut. They dedicate their time to serving and planning wherever needed, and their presence has been an immense blessing. My pastors, Matt and Julie Hattabaugh, have played a pivotal role in my growth. The teaching and coaching I have received from them have transformed my life and shaped my future business plans. In just a few years, I have experienced growth that would normally take a decade to achieve. This was all possible because God and my pastors said “yes” to coming to Lebanon and believing in me when I couldn't believe in myself.

Through this process, the value of relationships became clear. I recognized that God had nurtured leadership qualities in me from childhood—qualities that I had not seen in myself. I often compare relationships to oil and water. Just as oil can coexist with water but requires boundaries to prevent mixing, relationships should be loving and accountable, but boundaries are essential to create a safe space for growth. We must respect each other's limits while fostering healthy, respectful connections.

What I've shared here is only a fraction of what my pastors and those around me have taught me since I chose to submit to God's authority in their lives. By deciding to be teachable, I acknowledged that I still have much to learn. The Lord revealed my heart for this generation when I began

attending youth services. Through multiple confirmations, He showed me that I was created for this specific time to lead the youth.

Leading youth has been difficult, but it has been a learning journey. I began to understand how young people think, and I realized that I was in this role because no one had been there to guide me at their age. God desires to raise this generation as leaders, as Paul reminds us in 1 Timothy 4:12-13 (NIV): “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young; instead, set an example for the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.” Engaging young people in leadership roles can be challenging, but it becomes a joy when they recognize that you nurture their gifts rather than merely use them. At that point, leadership becomes a blessing, not just a responsibility.

### DEVELOPING LEADERS

The Lord has called me to train and develop regional leaders. Since childhood, I have seen qualities in people that others might overlook. This insight helps me place individuals in environments where they can thrive. Everyone has the potential to contribute; it all depends on how we view them and where we position them. While teaching a task may be easy, developing someone's character takes time and effort. Through our actions, God speaks to their hearts. Do we celebrate them? Do we honor their efforts? Do we encourage them? The way we approach people significantly impacts their growth.

At 23, I started my first Grow Group. As a young woman with limited biblical knowledge, it was an incredibly challenging experience. I am thankful to Pastor Matt and Julie, who stretched me while providing the protection I needed to grow into who I am today. Leading the group was initially difficult, but I realized that the Lord wanted me to grow and learn alongside the group. I wasn't there to provide all the answers; I was there to journey with them. This shift changed everything. Over time, more people joined the group, including familiar faces from six years ago. It's incredible to see how God works, bringing people into my life with whom I never imagined I would one day share the Gospel.

God has been guiding me, teaching me, healing my past wounds, and renewing my hope for the future. Each day stretches me, but it also reveals more of His hand, shaping me into the person He has called me to be.

I am forever grateful for Pastor Matt and Julie Hattabaugh. They have been instrumental in my journey, patiently guiding me and helping me see my potential. Their mentorship has been a true blessing in my walk with the Lord. What makes this journey even more remarkable is knowing that I'm not alone. The people God has placed around me, like Pastor Matt and Julie, are part of His plan for my growth. God uses others to speak into our lives, challenge us, and remind us of His grace when we fall short.

I know my journey with the Lord is far from over. There are still areas in my life where I need to grow, learn lessons, and overcome obstacles. But I am confident in His faithfulness. Just as He has been with me in the past, He will continue to shape, heal, and lead me into His perfect plan. I am excited for the future, knowing He will guide me every step of the way.

# Faithful Ones Who Can Teach

## 2 Timothy 2:2 | Generational Replication



Joseph Tannoury embodies the spirit of Paul's words in 2 Timothy 2:2, where Paul instructs Timothy to entrust the Gospel to "faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (NIV). Joseph has proven himself a faithful steward of the Gospel, dedicated to nurturing others in their faith and equipping them to share the message of Christ. His commitment to spiritual growth and practical ministry makes him invaluable to our team.

Joseph's faithfulness is evident in his knowledge of the Word and his heart for people. He has a unique ability to connect with those he mentors, blending empathy with wisdom to guide them in their walk with Christ. His approach is rooted in deep humility and a reliance on the Holy Spirit, understanding that teaching others requires more than just imparting knowledge; it requires investing in lives, building trust, and modeling a life of faith. This aligns beautifully with Paul's instruction to Timothy—a calling to teach and entrust the message to those who will carry it forward.

Joseph's life and work are a testament to a faithful person's impact on God's kingdom. He encourages us, knowing that as we invest in faithful men and women like Joseph, the legacy of Christ's love will endure and expand across generations.

Psalm 78:4 states, "We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done." To bring about change in a nation, we must engage every generation and equip them to positively impact their communities.

At GoChurch, we are committed to empowering people of all ages—from children to seniors—to share the Gospel. Through teaching, mentoring, and inspiration, we help individuals become beacons of faith for their families, friends, and communities. Generational change begins when each person is trained to live out their faith and share God's goodness. By investing in others, we plant seeds of hope and transformation.

Together, we can build a lasting legacy of faith that brings revival, restores communities and transforms nations. It is about teaching faith and living it boldly and intentionally, creating a ripple effect that reaches every corner of society. As we celebrate God's goodness, we inspire others to carry His light forward, ensuring that His love and strength are known by every generation to come.



### A NEW BREED

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

The unreached await us—the church. A new breed of believers is being prepared in Lebanon—men and women ready to step into the world's darkest corners in the Spirit of faith.

Equipped with the Word of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and driven by love, these laborers are engaging in spiritual warfare to reclaim lives from the grip of the enemy.

This is not just a calling; it is a movement—one that aims to transform nations and generations for the glory of God.





# EXPERIENCE Christmas

## First time in Lebanon

This Christmas season, GoChurch Beirut embarked on an ambitious outreach event called “Experience Christmas.” Hosted in one of the largest shopping centers in Beirut, the event featured an immersive 3-meter by 4-meter structure designed as a wrapped Christmas present, drawing the curiosity and engagement of thousands of visitors.

For the first time in Lebanon, the Christmas Story was presented using immersive projection technology. This groundbreaking approach allowed attendees to step inside a room where the ceiling and walls came alive with the story of Christ’s birth. The original production was scripted and produced by GoChurch in collaboration with a professional film company. Despite production challenges (e.g., the war in Lebanon) and delays that saw the final video delivered the night before the event’s launch, the presentation powerfully conveyed the message of the Gospel and the message of salvation through Christ alone.

Rather than branding the experience as GoChurch, we created an opportunity for collaboration among local churches. Each church can engage with new people and invite them to be part of their congregation. This models our heart for unity within the Body of Christ and a focus on reaching the unreached. Each church could take a 4 or 8-hour shift. During the event, teams ministered to attendees, shared the Gospel, and offered prayer. After the event, participants received Gospel materials for adults and children, ensuring they were left with life-giving resources.

The impact for GoChurch has been extraordinary. More than **5,000 people EXPERIENCED Christmas with GoChurch!** Our gathering venue is already at capacity, prompting plans to add additional services and new locations to accommodate this growth. The event’s reach extended far beyond the physical location, as local media outlets and social media platforms amplified the message. Our online presence

garnered 775,000 views in a week, creating unprecedented opportunities for follow-up and discipleship. In response to this interest, we plan to launch Alpha Courses in January to nurture these new connections in their faith journey.

This collaborative and creative endeavor highlights our commitment to reaching the unreached and nurturing relationships among local churches. The “Experience Christmas” event is a beacon of light, illuminating the Gospel message during a season celebrating God’s greatest gift to humanity. The fruits of this labor are evident in the lives touched, the connections forged, and the seeds of faith planted throughout Beirut.

We sincerely thank our partners who make such impactful ministry possible. Your support fuels our mission to share Christ’s love and strengthen His Church’s unity. Together, we are reaching the unreached.



# Baghdad to Beirut

## Faith, Healing, and Transformation

by Elia Chmeis



**M**y name is Elia, and I was born into a Muslim family in a small village in the Bekaa region of Lebanon. After high school, I dreamed of becoming a doctor and enrolled at a university to pursue that goal. However, Lebanon's revolution brought widespread chaos and economic instability, forcing me to abandon my education.

Seeking new opportunities, I moved to Baghdad, Iraq, where I enrolled in an online vocational school to study hotel management. I worked in a restaurant for a year and a half while continuing my studies. Life in Baghdad was difficult, but I remained determined to succeed. Eventually, I returned to Lebanon to take my official exams, with plans to return to Iraq. However, upon my return, I learned that the restaurant where I worked had closed, and a series of unforeseen events led me to stay in Lebanon.

### NEW BEGINNINGS & DIVINE CONNECTIONS

Back in Lebanon, I began searching for work and applied to McDonald's and a Lebanese restaurant. At McDonald's, they required official papers that were difficult to obtain due to the political situation. In the meantime, I started training at a Lebanese restaurant. On my first day, I contacted McDonald's again, asking if I could use my passport as a substitute for the missing documents. Once approved, I began working there.

During this time, I reconnected with my cousins, who also worked at McDonald's. Through their friends, I met members of GoChurch Beirut and began to develop friendships with them. Eventually, I was invited to attend a Big Sunday event at the church and later joined an Alpha course. Although my cousins stopped attending, I continued because of the deep friendships I had formed. I remained

quiet during the sessions, avoiding conflicts over our differing beliefs, but I felt immense love and acceptance from everyone.

### AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD'S HEALING POWER

In March 2023, during a Big Sunday service, I experienced intense nerve pain in my hand. At the end of the service, I was encouraged to ask for prayer. As I prayed, I felt the pain leave my hand and travel through my body before completely disappearing. At that moment, I also heard a voice prompting me to give everything in my pocket to the church. Though I did not fully understand what was happening, I obeyed and gave what I had.

### A LIFE-CHANGING DECISION

Two weeks later, during an Alpha Holy Spirit weekend, I was unsure whether to share my experience. I prayed for guidance and soon after watched a video where someone said, "If something happened to you, share it with others." Immediately after, I was called on to share my story. Surprised by the timing, I spoke up despite being known for my quietness. That day, I prayed the prayer of salvation and embraced my new faith.

Soon after my decision, I faced conflicts at work that prevented me from attending grow groups regularly. This led to my decision to leave McDonald's. However, God provided me with a new job with better hours and, eventually, an even higher-paying position. At the end of my probationary period, I was blessed with the opportunity to work for the church. Today, I am grateful to God and those who have guided me on this incredible transformation journey.



# Grow Groups

## GoChurch in Beirut is a Groups-Centered Church



Joining together as a community, we at GoChurch Beirut believe that the church is not a building or a Sunday service but a living, breathing fellowship of believers who love, grow, and go together. Our church model revolves around a Groups-Centered approach. This distinctive focus brings discipleship, community, and spiritual growth into the daily lives of our members. This article explores the heart of this model, detailing how GoChurch Beirut's groups serve as the primary setting for connection, spiritual maturity, and missional engagement.

The vision of GoChurch Beirut centers on three pillars: Love, Grow, and Go. These pillars embody the mission of creating a space where people can experience genuine love, grow in their relationship with Christ, and be empowered to fulfill the Great Commission. While these principles may seem familiar, our approach to realizing them is unique. Everything at GoChurch happens within the framework of small, relational groups known as Grow Groups. These groups form the bedrock of our community, fostering deep relationships and spiritual growth in a way that larger gatherings often cannot achieve.

### THE HEART OF GOCHURCH: GROW GROUPS

At the core of GoChurch Beirut's model are our Grow Groups—small, intimate gatherings where individuals share their lives, support one another, and walk together in faith. Grow Groups meet regularly in homes and other casual

settings throughout Beirut, creating an environment where genuine relationships flourish. Here, members gather to study the Word, share their personal journeys, pray for each other, and offer encouragement through life's highs and lows.

Our Grow Groups operate under four guiding values: Care, Accountability, Activation, and Communication (CAAC). These values serve as a foundation for each group, ensuring every member is seen, valued, and encouraged to grow in their faith. This commitment to CAAC is inspired by the early church model found in Acts 2:42-47, where believers met in homes, broke bread together, and supported one another in all things. At GoChurch, this relational discipleship is practical and essential for an authentic Christian community.

The first value, Care, reflects our commitment to creating a safe, nurturing environment within each Grow Group. Members are encouraged to care for one another as they navigate the challenges of daily life. This includes practical support, such as helping with personal needs, and emotional and spiritual support through prayer and encouragement. Care is the first step toward creating an atmosphere where people feel genuinely known and valued.

In a world that often emphasizes individualism, accountability can seem countercultural. However, Accountability is crucial for spiritual growth. In our Grow Groups, accountability is not about judgment but about lovingly challenging each other to live according to God's Word. Members hold each other accountable to the values and teachings of Christ, fostering a culture where everyone can be open

about their struggles and celebrate their victories. This value helps people stay grounded in their faith and encourages them to pursue Christlikeness.

Our third value, Activation, reminds us that faith is not passive. Grow Groups encourage members to activate their faith, using their gifts to serve the church and the world around them. This activation takes many forms, from serving within the church to participating in outreach projects that address real needs in our city. Activation is a practical expression of our faith, ensuring our beliefs translate into action. Jesus' command to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19, NIV) inspires us to move beyond passive belief and engage actively in our communities.

Finally, Communication is essential for building trust and deepening relationships. Healthy, Christ-centered communication enables Grow Group members to share their thoughts, experiences, and questions openly. This value promotes transparency and fosters stronger connections, making each member feel supported and understood.

### GATHERINGS & TEAMS

While Grow Groups form the core of our church, we also have larger gatherings that unite all groups. Our church family meets twice monthly for BIG SUNDAY Gatherings and Believer's Gatherings. BIG SUNDAY is held on the second Sunday of each month, providing a time for corporate worship, teaching, and fellowship. These gatherings allow our entire community to unite, worship as one, and receive a unified vision for the church's mission.

Believer's Gatherings, held on the fourth Friday of each month, are focused on deeper worship, prayer, and spiritual growth. They provide a setting for more intense ministry and reflection, helping our community grow in its relationship with God. While these gatherings are vital for unity and encouragement, the strength of GoChurch remains in the relationships and discipleship found within Grow Groups.

Supporting these gatherings are our Serve Teams, which consist of volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to ensuring that our meetings run smoothly. Serving on a team is a practical way to contribute to the church and a profoundly spiritual experience that activates members' faith. Whether they are welcoming attendees, setting up spaces, or managing technical aspects of the gathering, Serve Team members play a crucial role in creating an environment where people can encounter God.

### STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION: HOW GROUPS IMPACT LIVES

The impact of Grow Groups extends far beyond church meetings. Over the years, we have witnessed countless stories of transformation as members find healing, purpose, and community through their involvement in these groups.

Emile, a father of 3, shared that he came to a place in his life where he screamed at a God he did not know for help. He did not know what to do, but knew that his life had to change. Then he got a phone call from someone in the





GoChurch family. Emile said he did not know why, but he said yes to the invite to come to the BIG SUNDAY. That was one year ago. Now Emile leads a Bible study at his work sharing the unconditional love of Jesus he received with others.

### GOING BEYOND: GROW GROUPS AS MISSION ENGINES

At GoChurch, we see our Grow Groups as more than spaces for discipleship; they are engines for mission. Each group is encouraged to seek ways to serve the local community, engaging in outreach that meets real needs. From distributing food to vulnerable families to offering practical assistance during times of crisis, our groups embody the love of Christ through their actions. This approach allows GoChurch to respond quickly and effectively to needs within Beirut, leveraging the relationships and networks built through Grow Groups.

This missional focus is rooted in Acts 1:8, where Jesus instructs His followers to be His witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (NIV). For GoChurch, Beirut is our Jerusalem, and our Grow Groups are the means through which we reach our city with the love of Christ. By empowering members to serve, GoChurch enables them to experience the joy and fulfillment of being a part of God’s mission.

### LOVE, GROW, AND GO

The Groups-Centered model at GoChurch Beirut is more than a structure; it is an invitation. We believe everyone has a place in God’s family to be loved, grow, and go. Whether you are new to faith or have been walking with Christ for years, there is a Grow Group that can help you deepen your relationship with God and others. By joining a Grow Group, you are not just becoming part of a

church—you are joining a family where you are known, valued, and supported.

Through Care, Accountability, Activation, and Communication, our Grow Groups create a setting where discipleship is authentic, practical, and transformative. The stories of people like Krystel and Elia remind us that God is at work within our community, using relationships to bring about lasting change. As our groups continue to serve the city of Beirut, we are excited to see how God will use GoChurch to make a difference.

### YOUR PLACE AT GOCHURCH

At GoChurch, we believe that the church is more than a place to attend—it is a community to belong to, where faith becomes action and lives are transformed. Our Groups-Centered model reflects this conviction, creating spaces where people in Beirut can experience love, grow in their faith, and engage in the Great Commission.

We want you to know that every group meeting, every act of service, and every story of transformation at GoChurch is a testament to your support and generosity. By standing with us, you are helping us build a church in Beirut and fueling a movement that empowers believers to live out the Gospel in one of the world’s most complex regions.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your prayers, encouragement, and contributions are instrumental in making GoChurch a place where people can Love, Grow, and Go. The seeds you help plant in Beirut will bear fruit for generations. Through your partnership, we are impacting the nation for Christ—one life, one community, one city at a time.





# New Book

## A Personal Reflection of the Dangers of Shipwreck

**A**s believers, most of us imagine that a spiritual downfall will never befall us. It is easy to assume the signs are clear, the choices stark and sudden. I have learned that the path to spiritual shipwreck is often unremarkable, made up of small, seemingly innocent decisions that slowly pull us off course. In my book, *The Drift: How Everyday Choices Lead to Spiritual Shipwreck and the Way Back*, I invite readers through an honest exploration of how this subtle drift can happen to any of us (starting with me) and, most importantly, how we can find our way back.

In writing *The Drift*, I hoped to reach anyone who has felt a growing distance from God or questioned how they ended up in a place so different from where they once stood. We all have dreams of staying on track with our calling, keeping our faith strong, and navigating life's distractions with wisdom. Yet, it is easy to find ourselves living with habits, mindsets, and subtle shifts that pull us away from God's purpose, often without our even noticing. *The Drift* is my attempt to make that process visible, to give words to what many of us experience, and to offer a guide that reconnects us with God's purpose and presence.

### UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL DRIFT

So, what is "the drift"? It is the gentle, nearly imperceptible process by which our spiritual vitality and commitment to God's purpose start to wane. It might begin with something seemingly innocent, such as skipping prayer time for an important meeting or prioritizing things like food, work, or entertainment when life feels overwhelming. Often, it is only after a series of these minor shifts that we realize just how far we've drifted from where we intended to be.

In *The Drift*, I recount some of my own experiences with this subtle shift. Early in my ministry, I pursued my calling to share the Gospel with those who have never heard. But gradually, as I stepped into different roles and responsibilities, I let other things—my career, financial security, personal ambitions—take priority in my life. What started as a devotion to my calling became a pursuit of recognition, and before I knew it, I was living in a way that felt alien to the man God had called me to be. The drift crept in slowly until I felt distant from God and uncertain of my purpose. I share these experiences not to dwell on my own failings but to show that I, too, have walked this path and found my way back. You are not alone in this struggle.

### THE CONSEQUENCES OF SPIRITUAL DRIFT

When we drift, we experience loss. Proverbs warn about this through the imagery of poverty and raggedness: "For drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags" (Proverbs 23:20-21, NIV). In *The Drift*, I explain how gluttony, drunkenness, laziness, and idolatry—characterized by spiritual apathy and insensitivity—lead to being dressed in rags instead of receiving God's abundant provision.

One of the most dangerous aspects of this drift is its quiet nature. It is rarely obvious in the beginning, and it is often excused or rationalized. I explore this insidious process by looking at common indulgences, like excessive ambition or the idol of comfort, which might not initially seem harmful. Yet, these behaviors create a slow drift, like a boat nudged off course by the gentle push of currents. Eventually,



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if unchecked, the drift leads to a shipwreck—where we are no longer anchored, tossed by every wave, and without clear direction. My life, at one point, reflected this reality. I had once been so clear on my purpose and yet found myself living a life that no longer felt aligned with God's will.

### FINDING THE WAY BACK

While *The Drift* examines the dangers of spiritual drift, it is ultimately a book about hope. There is a way back. The study is based on Biblical wisdom and practical steps to rebuild a life centered on God's calling. For those already experiencing the results of drifting—spiritual barrenness, weariness, or a sense of emptiness—my goal is to show that restoration is possible. Jesus is always ready to guide us to a life of purpose and spiritual health. The book offers a message of hope.

For me, the journey back meant taking a hard look at where I had allowed gluttony, laziness, and idolatry to creep into my life. My work became a form of gluttony as I prioritized career recognition and achievement over spiritual growth. Conversely, laziness appeared as rationalizing the neglect of time spent in the Word, prayer, and fellowship with other believers, deeming it unnecessary or trivial due to the priority of my work. And idolatry was wrapped up in the security and achievements I believed I needed to achieve. Recognizing these areas allowed me to repent and begin realigning my heart and life with God's call.

In *The Drift*, I provide tools to identify the signs of

spiritual drift in their own lives. With practical advice, reflection questions, and Biblical insights, I lay out steps for realignment in spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, community, and active pursuit of God's purposes. These disciplines are not simply good habits but anchors that keep us connected to God's heart and help us resist the drift.

### A CALL TO REALIGN WITH PURPOSE

*The Drift* invites us to make intentional choices to stay spiritually aligned. Each of us has a calling and a purpose, but the distractions and pressures of modern life often work against it. My journey—and the experiences shared in this book—remind us that staying spiritually healthy requires ongoing vigilance, a commitment to address the subtle choices that can, over time, lead us off course.

Whether you are on track or sense a distance between yourself and God's plan, *The Drift* offers a practical and spiritual roadmap. It is a guide for those seeking to reconnect with their first love, shed the rags of indulgence and distraction, and put on the garments of purpose and holiness.

In today's world, where distractions abound and the pressures of success and self-fulfillment are louder than ever, staying connected to God's purpose is challenging. In this environment, we need to be intentional, watching for the subtle drift and steering back to the safety of God's purpose. Get your copy of *The Drift* and take steps to protect the health and vitality of your spiritual life. Drift does not have to end in shipwreck. There is always a way back.



# Level 1 Training Complete

## Certificate Celebration

### Milestone

November, 2024, marked a significant milestone as 79 students completed the first level of our Bible training center. These dedicated individuals walked across the stage, demonstrating their commitment to spiritual growth and their readiness to take the next step in their faith journey. These are not just students; they are nation changers—individuals who have prioritized God's Word and committed themselves to advancing His kingdom. Please pray for them as they continue along this journey. May the Lord guide them, empower them, and keep them at the center of His purpose, bringing light to the darkest corners of the earth. Together, they represent a powerful force for change, equipped to transform lives for God's glory.

### Mission

With over 500 million people in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and less than 0.5% identified as born again, the need for the Gospel has never been more urgent. More than 99% of the population in this region is without Christ—many have never even heard His name. This staggering reality fuels our mission: to train and equip leaders

and church planters who will bring the life-changing power of the Gospel to these nations.

We are training a new generation of believers with a pioneering spirit, characterized by extravagant love, a strong "Spirit of Faith," and the power of God. These leaders are being prepared to reach the lost in the least-reached areas of Lebanon, the MENA region, and beyond.

### On Fire

The Ministry Training School is igniting a passion for ministry in students nationwide. Designed to be accessible, it features a modular format. Students meet for intensive training sessions two weekends each month. Students complete weekly assignments, engage with Christian literature, memorize Bible verses, and participate in online classes from Keith Moore's Faith School. This combination of resources fosters a dynamic learning environment that integrates faith, practical ministry, and prayer.

Ultimately, this approach helps students grow spiritually, apply biblical principles in daily life, and prepare for impactful ministry in their communities, resulting in a generation of believers ready to transform the world around them.

### See Change

When Jesus walked with His disciples, the most profound impartations took place during their moments of fellowship. These encounters had a lasting impact, shaping them for their mission. Similarly, we believe that faith and prayer are not just taught but caught through the Spirit. This divine impartation empowers believers for ministry, going beyond words to transform lives. While hearing the Word is essential, something extraordinary occurs when we gather for training. The anointing of God's Word flows into the students' hearts, touching them deeply and leaving them forever changed. This dynamic process fosters spiritual growth and boldness, equipping students to live out their faith effectively. Through these transformative sessions, believers are prepared to carry the power of the Gospel into every corner of the world.







**THANK**  
*You*  
**PARTNERS**







# Reaching Out

## Spotlight | CityGate Church, Zahle, Lebanon

midst challenges and uncertainty, CityGate Church in Zahle, led by pastors and leaders from our ministry center, accomplished something extraordinary this summer. This summer, they organized the largest Gospel outreach event we have ever witnessed in Lebanon. Over 500 people gathered just 10 kilometers from the Syrian border to hear the transformative message of Jesus Christ. This was more than just a well-organized event—it was a bold step of faith that illuminated the power of the Gospel and God’s provision in the face of challenges.

The outreach began with a vision to reach the unchurched and unreached in Zahle and the surrounding Bekaa. However, the team faced significant obstacles. CityGate Church didn’t have the funds to make this dream a reality, and at first glance, the logistical challenges seemed overwhelming. Many would have hesitated or turned back, but these faithful leaders—trained in our ministry center—chose

to act in faith. They believed that where God calls, He also provides.

And provide He did. Miraculously, people outside the church, including some with no ties to any faith community, began contributing. Equipment, materials, and venue were donated or available at significant discounts. It was as if God had gone ahead of them, opening doors that no one could have anticipated. This outpouring of generosity affirmed the truth of Philippians 4:19: “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (NIV).

This outreach event was held during heightened tension in the region. On the very day of the gathering, the U.S. Embassy issued a warning about potential danger in Zahle and surrounding areas. The team pressed forward despite these concerns, demonstrating unshakable trust in God’s

protection. Their confidence was not misplaced—there was no danger during the event. Instead, the true disruption occurred in the spiritual realm, as the kingdom of darkness suffered a blow, and the light of the Gospel shone brightly.

The outreach was a beautiful representation of the body of Christ in action. The students and graduates of our ministry training center handled every detail—from the planning to the execution—with excellence. These leaders organized, promoted, and executed the event. Their commitment to prayer, teamwork, and Spirit-led ministry was evident at every turn. This wasn’t just an event; it was a movement of faith in action that will resonate in the hearts of the people reached for years to come.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this outreach was its impact on the people of Zahle. The 500 attendees were individuals and families who had never heard the Gospel.



Many were drawn by curiosity, some by the community atmosphere, and others simply by the sense of hope that permeated the event. The Gospel was presented boldly, unapologetically, and with love. As the message of salvation was shared, you could see lives being touched and hearts being opened to the truth of God's Word.

CityGate Church's faithfulness in hosting this event reflects their larger mission: to reach the unchurched and the unreached with the hope of Jesus Christ. This is a vision they carry not only for Zahle but for Lebanon as a whole. Their efforts demonstrate the power of equipping local leaders who understand the cultural context and can minister effectively to their communities. It is a testament to the importance of raising faithful men and women, as Paul instructed in 2 Timothy 2:2: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others" (NIV).

Pastors Elie and Nisreen, the leaders of CityGate Church, are living examples of this verse in action. They are preaching the Gospel and mentoring others to carry the mission forward. Through their work, the church in Zahle is growing stronger, and the seeds planted during this outreach already

bear fruit. Those who attended the event are now connected to local believers, ensuring that this was not just a one-time experience but the beginning of a journey of faith for many.

The significance of this outreach extends beyond Zahle. It is a powerful reminder of how God can use ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things when they step out in faith. It also highlights the critical role of ministry training. The pastors and leaders of CityGate Church are products of intentional discipleship, equipped not only with biblical knowledge but also with the skills to organize, lead, and inspire others. Their success underscores the importance of investing in leaders passionate about advancing God's kingdom.

At a time when the region is facing numerous challenges—social, economic, and spiritual—events like this outreach offer hope and light. They show that the Gospel still has the power to change lives and transform communities, even in the most challenging circumstances. They also remind us of the importance of partnership. This event would not have been possible without the prayers, support, and generosity of people who believe in the mission of equipping leaders and spreading the Gospel.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by what God is doing through CityGate Church and others like it. Their story encourages us to consider how we can be part of this great mission. Whether through prayer, financial support, or active involvement, each of us has a role to play in bringing the message of Jesus to those who have never heard it.

This summer's outreach in Zahle was more than an event—it was a declaration of faith, a demonstration of God's provision, and a glimpse of the eternal impact of the Gospel. As the light of Christ continues to shine in Zahle and beyond, we give glory to God for His work through His people.





2024–2025

# IMPACT REPORT

MATT & JULIE  
HATTABAUGH



**GO MIDDLE EAST**

Train Leaders Church Planters Reach The Unreached