

UPDATE

July 16th, 2006

Dear friends,

It's been quite some time since we worshipped God with sounds of bombs falling in the not-so-far a distance. Yet, as Rev. Jimmy Pritchard, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Forney (Texas) noted *"We are in the palm of His hand ... and the safest place in the world is the center of God's will."*



Figure 1: Rev. Jimmy Pritchard & Nabil Costa at Evangelical Baptist Church - Badaro

With this encouraging reminder and with peace in their hearts, our friends from FBC Forney prayed with their local sisters and brothers. It was a very touching Sunday morning service that we highly needed.

Preaching at another local Lebanese church, Rev. Bruce Mewbourne, Pastor of Global Outreach and Evangelism at the Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church of Atlanta, reminded the congregation that *"When the storms of life come our way, we can rely on Jesus Christ to be present with us and to see us through them. He not only wants to see us through them, He wants to draw us into a deeper relationship with Him."*

Indeed despite the raging storm on and off throughout the day and the mounting death toll, we felt strengthened both by the morning messages of our visiting brothers as well as by the prayer meeting that was held this afternoon at ABTS.

The meeting led by Rev. Jimmy Pritchard included beautiful worship both in Arabic and English Languages; testimonies, meditations, and last but not least prayer groups that brought together Arab and non-Arab members of the Body of Christ...

The prayer meeting ended with an invitation from Elie Haddad, Provost of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, to the local churches to join hands together and with LSESD ministries in spreading the message of Hope to the hopeless.



Figures 2: Prayer Meeting at ABTS

Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development
- Lebanese Baptist Society -

July 16th Update (Cont'd)

Dear friends, one thing we know is that He is in control, and that *“God will ultimately deliver us to safe harbor”* as Rev. Bruce Mewbourne reassured the people of the Faith Baptist Church – Mansourieh El Maten.

Please pray that God’s children hold on to God’s promises... There is so much pain and misery all around... with families who have lost their loved ones, and their homes – internally displaced people staying in public gardens under open air rather than risk being buried underneath the rubble of their homes.

Prayer meetings will continue to be held at ABTS throughout this week... join us in prayer from your own part of the world.

Pray for God’s intervention; pray for the safety and protection of our visiting friends and that they be able to return home soon; and pray for us that we may use this crisis to give glory to God.

Blessings,

Nabil Costa



Figure 3: Eagle's Landing brothers leading worship at ABTS' Prayer Meeting



Figure 4: Prayer Groups at ABTS