

A sister from Lebanon (4)

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A bombing in Beirut, Lebanon

Coming back to Lebanon by the end of January 1989 to find out that the situation of the country had worsened and it became unsafe to stay. Adel and Pauline have a child now and the bombshell starts dropping near to the center. Adel decided that we should all leave. By middle of February, Adel with Pauline and their son Hassan as well me and Vera went to Cypress, the closest country to Lebanon. Half an hour by plane.

Because the dangerous situation in Lebanon due to almost 15 years of civil war, many members left the country already. Sami Ez El Deen, who was the first Lebanese member who joined after being witnessed by the French missionary Remi Blanchard moved to United States with his European wife. Elias Mourad who I met later when I joined the church, with his wife Madeleine and their two children worked very hard to build a foundation for their family both in Lebanon and in America. Alfred went to France and Sabah immigrated to Australia.

Adel never left. He was there through thick and thin. But when the situation becomes dangerous and unsafe he moves out for sometime and come back again when it's safe.

In Cypress we stayed few months with a blessed couple and help them in their farm. Vera and myself worked in the field picking up potatoes and watermelon. Almost three months had passed and the situation in Lebanon didn't improve so we moved to Greece and stayed with the continental leader Thomas and Katherine Cromwell. This time Vera and myself start going to the office of the Middle East Times Newspaper who was published in Greece and distributed to different countries in the Middle East. We tried to help in packaging and doing office work. A totally different experience than Cypress.

Finally the situation in Lebanon calmed down so Adel and Pauline came back, this time only with Vera as Thomas asked me to work for the Middle East Times but not in Greece. He needed a member who can take care of the Newspaper office in Cairo, Egypt.

I went to Egypt in the beginning of September 1989. There was no members or blessed families when I arrived. The brother who use to be the manager of the newspaper office in Cairo had left so I stayed in his apartment. The national leader Walter Gottesman was in the States with his family in that time. So suddenly I found myself all alone in a Muslim country where you hear the loud prayers at 5 O'clock in the morning waking you up and each time you leave the building there is someone standing by greeting you. Good morning madam. Good evening madam. May I help you? The overpopulated Egypt has a high degree of poverty as well illiteracy. It was a very different culture than Lebanon for sure. But at least it was a safe place even for a young sister who knew nobody there.

And a new beginning for me in the land of the pyramids.

To be continued