

 This past year God has really burdened my heart for the people of Islam. Islam is the 2nd largest religion in the world and is the fastest growing religion in the United States, currently up by 70% since 2000. The need for the Gospel in the Muslim world is great, with statistics showing that 80% of Muslims are unreached. Even more surprising is this; there are only 3 Christian missionaries per 1 million Muslims. If you do the math, that means there is nearly 5,000 Christians working to reach a religion that consists of over 1.6 billion people. Not to mention that a majority of Muslims who convert from Islam are likely to face imprisonment, disownment from family, and in some scenarios death. Christians can also experience persecution from Muslims including departure, torture, imprisonment, and death. Despite these unsettling truths, there is an even greater truth in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus is paving way for the Gospel spread in the Muslim world and promises the proclamation of the Gospel to all peoples (Matt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15, Matt 24:14; and more).

 This upcoming April I have been given the privilege to go share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the war torn country of Lebanon. Lebanon is primarily Islamic and is the only Arab State in the Middle East where Muslims can legally convert to another religion without fear of punishment from the government. Lebanon has a population of nearly 5 million people that consists roughly of 60% Muslim, 31% Christian, 0.5% Evangelical. Due to security and economic issues, the Christian population has dropped from 62% in 1970 to a little over 30% in 2010. Lebanon is also home to nearly 800,000 Syrian refugees who have fled from the present day crisis-taking place in Syria. As you can see there is a great need for the church to come alive in the Nation of Lebanon.



While on the trip I will be able to:

* Minister to refugees (65$ can feed a refugee for month)
* Provide Arabic translated New Testament Bibles
* Equip, encourage, and empower local churches
* Minister inside of schools (many Muslims send their children to Christian schools for a better education)
* Minister through sports and recreational activities
* Street evangelism and one on one connections

 I will be going with John Thompson who is the Pastor of Life Church in Rolla, Missouri. John is a great friend of an influential Pastor in my life, Danny Fisher. John is a great leader who has a huge heart for the Muslim people. John goes on trips yearly to Lebanon as well as United Arab Emirates. John has been traveling to Lebanon for 7 years now and is building relationships there, growing ministries, and has huge future plans. With that said, I hope you can see that this is not a just a one and done deal, but to show that we are going there to build, develop, and grow.



 My trip will be ten days, dating April 3-12. The price of the trip will be based on transportation, room and board, and food. In order to fund this trip I am in need of ***$2,500***. You can donate to me via cash, debit/credit online, or check.

* If you want to donate online please visit: <http://www.davidmarino.org/donate.html> (least recommended)
* If you want to donate by check, please write all checks out to “David Marino” and in the Memo put “*Lebanon*”. (Most recommended)
* If you want to donate by cash you can give it to me in person or by mail.

***For those who wish to donate via cash or check, my mailing address is at the bottom of this page.***

 More than I need your financial support, I am need of your prayers. *Oswald Chambers* says it best,

 *“****Prayer*** *doesn’t fit us for the greater work;* ***prayer*** *is the greater work”*

 If you are praying for me, I urge that you would please write, email, or in anyway possible contact me and let me know. There is no better feeling than knowing that other brothers and sisters are covering you in prayer.

 God has given me a huge heart for missions, specifically to the Muslim Nations and I am honored to have you a part of it. This trip will open future doors for me to minister in the Middle East and the Muslim world. John Thompson has told me that he could create opportunities for me to live in Lebanon for months to years if the Lord wills. I will also be able to build relationships for future missions while I am there. I truly believe that through our partnership, God is going to do immeasurably more than we could have ever imagined as He promises in His word (Eph. 3:20).

***For the Glory of God and the good of others,***

***David Marino***

**“Let us be a people who have found something worth losing everything for”-Pastor David Platt**

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