

BAGGAO



Melanie
Baggao

LEBANON

LANGUAGE

Arabic

MINISTRY PRIORITY

Education

BIRTHDAY

1/8



LOCATION

Lebanon



ABOUT

In partnership with the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary of the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, Melanie, as a student in the seminary's master's in religion program, is focusing on learning the Arabic language and culture, building relationships, and preparing for future ministry in Arabic-

speaking cultures. Melanie, a former middle school teacher, is also volunteering as a teacher at the seminary, assisting some students in their English studies.



Melanie prays for more God-ordained surprises while helping populations of displaced people.



MINISTRY STORY

Last winter, my friends and I decided to take a day trip to some old palaces in the mountains. Upon seeing the snow-covered peaks, we decided to attempt to go up the mountains to the closest cedar grove. We had a “rah nshuf” (“we shall see” in Arabic) attitude, since my car is two-wheel drive and we weren't sure if the roads were clear.

We drove up on a dry road, only to find that the entrance was blocked by the snow, so we were forced to turn around. On our way back down, we found a party of seven university students having a picnic. They invited us to join them, and we had a lovely chat about their future and the future of Lebanon.

When asked to name the biggest problem in Lebanon for their generation, one of the students said:

“Sectarianism is killing us. More people should be like us. I'm Druze, she's Shia,

and he's Sunni. It's expected we shouldn't hang out together. We are only missing Christians.”

“Wait a sec,” we exclaimed, “we are Christians!”

The last thing I expected to experience that day was a mini interfaith gathering with a group of university students on the side of a snowy mountain.

But isn't this such a snapshot of where I serve? God-ordained surprises happen all the time. People are open to meeting Christians, even strangers on the street. I am surrounded by people who were hungry and searching. It is such a joy to serve in a place where people are seeking and wanting to know Jesus!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for wisdom, discernment, and strength to do what pleases God in ministry and not do ministry because it pleases others.

Pray for the economic crisis in Lebanon and the impact it has on the poor, the refugees, and children.

As more and more people in Lebanon lose their trust in banks and political parties tied to religious affiliations, pray that they align their lives with Christ.

SCRIPTURE

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10 (NIV)

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