



## LEBANON

### **There's no such thing as a holiday**

*Milard and Joyce Sleiman, church related ministries in Lebanon*

After the war had ended, we decided on a family holiday before the children went back to school. We planned to go to the north of the country where the famous cedars of Lebanon grow, featured in Scripture because of their strength and awesome beauty. I resolved to be a good father, enjoying family time and forgetting ministry concerns. I did not tell any pastors or leaders in the area of my visit.

The first morning we ate breakfast in front of the majestic cedars, spent the day sight seeing and went out for dinner at night. This was the pattern for three days and all was going well.

On the fourth day I spoke to the owner of the holiday house and found that he was newly converted through the Catholic charismatic movement. He was like a young Godfather character from the movies, but God had touched his life and was changing him. He was encouraged by our conversation and asked me to come in the evening and share some more about Jesus.

When Joyce and I arrived, his house was packed with people and we stayed talking until 2.30am. It was an amazing night – we shared the gospel and prayed with five people who gave their lives to Christ. There were some interesting conversations. One man said, "I used to grow marijuana and I would pray and ask Mother Mary to bless my crops, promising to go half with her in the profits." Our host said, "While I was running my night clubs I would go to the most important church to pray, promising Mother Mary that if she blessed my night clubs I would put more money in the plate."

We all laughed, because both men could see how silly they had been trying to bargain with God over their sinful works.

My new friend then introduced me to several other people and I had the privilege of mentoring four key leaders in that area, people I would never have been able to meet otherwise. We continued our sight-seeing during the day and engaged in ministry in the evening. I can say that it was the best holiday of our lives. The kids did not want to leave and neither did I. So next time you go on holidays, stay open for business and do not shut up shop!





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### **Concern for a war-torn country**

*Milard and Joyce Sleiman, church related ministries in Lebanon*

This morning two bombs went off in two buses, just up the road from our house. The people in the buses were all civilians. There were many killed and injured and the targeting of civilians has sent a message of great fear across Lebanon. Tomorrow there is to be a public strike and a huge demonstration because of the assassination of the prime minister and fourteen political leaders. Pray for the peace of Lebanon and the safety of the people. The country is in bad shape both inside and out.

