

Lebanon: The Victim Of Two Enemies

My father is a member of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. On May 10, 1982 I returned to Israel from school and he arranged that I become a member so that I would be able to visit in Lebanon every now and then. On weekdays I would shuttle between Lebanon and Nahariya, an Israeli city in the north, one half an hour away from Lebanon. The only time I could see my family would be on weekends in Jerusalem.

The United Nations headquarters in Naqura, Lebanon was established to preserve peace. The U.N. formed a barrier between Israel and Palestinian strongholds in Lebanon so neither forces could cross over. In spite of this barrier, Israel has crossed over to Lebanon and made military assaults on Palestinian campsites. The U.N. cannot use arms to stop Israel because its existence in Lebanon is on the basis of peace.

On June 6, 1982, Israel invaded South Lebanon in retaliation to Palestinian guerilla shelling on the Northern Israeli frontier. This invasion by the Israelis was called, "SHLOM HAGALIL," - "Peace For Galilee."

The Israeli Army threatened to shoot at the U.N. soldiers on duty at the barrier. When they crossed over, some Scandinavian soldiers would not give way and a Norwegian was killed.

On their arrival to East Beirut, Israelis were greeted with a warm welcome by the Lebanese because they were tired of hosting the Palestinians in their country. Lebanon could not get rid of the Palestinians because she had no form of government since the Civil War. Lebanon has been through a warp of political instability. There are about sixty different factions that fought against each other for power, but of these the most popular were Major Hadad and his army, and a Christian group who favored Israel's policy towards the P.L.O. (Palestinian Liberation Organization.)

Furthermore, during the Israeli offensive, Major Hadad sided with the Israeli army. Major Saad Hadad runs a small portion of South Lebanon and calls it "Free Lebanon." The Israeli army mobilized their supplies freely from Hadads area, Tyre, to Beirut.

During this war between the Israelis and the Palestinian guerillas, Lebanon became the victim. Eventually the Lebanese realized that it was not a minor attack but a major one. Many buildings were destroyed, and families

were left homeless.

The P.L.O. would force their way into Lebanese homes and the Israeli Air Force would have no option but to strike at the enemy wherever it attacked from. This caused the death of many families and left thousands injured. I spoke to some Lebanese that were brought for treatment to the United Nations Medical Center. Some children said they know not where their parents are, and others would say their parents are dead among shattered buildings. Many homeless children were transported to Northern Israel for adoption.

This catastrophe led to many riots in Jerusalem. University students would go and demonstrate outside the Prime Minister's office. The death of three-hundred Israeli soldiers between the ages of 18-21 angered many families. The Israeli Defense Minister, Areil Sharon disregarded this and continued to wage the war.

Meanwhile, the United States was trying to achieve peace by sending envoy Phillipe Habib to Israel. There were a number of cease fires but none of them lasted. Eventually Israel made a heavy air raid attack. This vexed the American President and he asked Israel for an immediate cease-fire. Through peace talks and future promises, the Paestinians finally withdrew. Towards the end of September there were no P.L.O. left in Lebanon. The Israelis also withdrew. Behind them these two enemies left a shattered Lebanon both physically and politically. In result a multi-national peace keeping force has been established. These include 800 Marines from America, 800 from France and 400 from Italy.

However, there are many men, women and children at the U.N. Medical Center even today still trying to recover. I have seen mutilated bodies of children, and the grief of many citizens, "When will it end," said a Lebanese woman who was no longer a mother, or a wife. Such were the tragedies in Lebanon.

Now remains the problem of establishing a stable government. I very much doubt that this will be achieved because just recently Bashier Gemayal (a Christian leader and the first President after this conflict between the P.L.O. and Israel) was assassinated by Moslem Fanatics. Five contenders remain eligible for the Lebanese Presidency.

—Naod Dimetros

Coming Home To God — A True Homecoming

As I knelt before the Lord recommitting my life and my studies to Him Saturday night at the Cross Band concert, He gave me this theme for an editorial, "Coming Home to God - A True Homecoming." I got up to return to my seat when I saw forty to fifty of my friends all kneeling around me. Some were recommitting their lives, receiving spiritual healing and receiving Jesus as their Lord for the first time. We became a stronger body because of the union the Holy Spirit created.

That next week the Lord provided Dr. Paul Long to minister to us at Spiritual Emphasis Week. This got our eyes off of ourselves and onto what God was calling us to do. His desire is not that we keep our salvation to ourselves but to share it so that everyone will know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. We see as the alumni return this weekend that they are no longer in this little Christian society. Most of them don't have every professor being a Christian. Within the next year or two we will be out of this shelter and into the world to spread The Gospel. This is not to alarm you, but to spark you into a deeper personal growth with our Father. In Psalm 91:1 David writes, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty." We need to dwell with our Lord and get to know who He is. Only then will we truly love and serve Him. We might be leaving this shelter He has provided at Montreat, but we abide in the shadow of the Almighty God. This Homecoming has a greater meaning than the return of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Now, it is coming home to God, so that we can fulfill that which each of us is called to do, spread the salvation of Christ.

—Linda Mylene Fross

Your Turn

by Jeff Parker

Many people here at Montreat-Anderson do not have any idea of what is going on in the world today. A sad statement but true. In an attempt to find student opinions on the Beirut Crisis I found that many students knew little or absolutely nothing about the situation there. I did find a few people who were informed, however; and asked them a few questions. The Questions were as follows: 1. What do you think the role of the U.S. should be in the Lebanese Crisis? 2. Do you think Israel should have entered Lebanon with armed forces last spring? 3. On the basis of what you know -do you think the Israeli govt. was fully, partially or not responsible for the massacres in W. Beirut? Explain. 4. What is the answer for peace between Israel and the P.L.O.? Many people had interesting answers.

In answer to question number one, most people thought that we should stay out of it, or "Keep a low profile" as Ben Smith so profoundly said.

On question number two there was a mixed reaction. Kathy Sanborn said, "No, I think they had the right to do something, but I don't agree with the way they did it; whereas Jim Oxford, said, "Yes, they should have gone in and destroyed, and taken complete control of Lebanon."

When I asked question number three, people looked dumbfounded, some said "What massacres." Those who did have answers seemed to feel that the troops did it, and the government didn't know about it. In other words "partial." Rich Ward felt that the government was fully responsible however, "A massacre of a scale that large could not have happened without some form of organization."

Question number four took everyone by surprise, many in depth and interesting answers came from this question: Lee Owen said: "Eventually Israel will have to recognize the P.L.O. and the P.L.O. will have to have their own state." Ben Smith added: "There is not one singular answer. All sides will have to be willing to bring peace, but there will not be peace

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