

May update!

See what we have been up to and where we are headed.



Hello all. Thank you for continually being a part of our journey. Yas and I know and believe we really are supported by such a great group of family and friends. We often recount the blessing of having you guys pray for us and with us.

We have been in Lebanon for a little under a month now. The first 3 weeks were used to wrap up the lecture phase of the DTS. We had cross culture communication, reconciliation and peacemaking, and ecumenism as the final topics. Lebanon is a land plagued by sectarianism so the topic of peacemaking is so important if we want to see any impact here. With that, for ecumenism we had a Catholic priest teaching us how to move in unity as the body of Christ. The Christian population in both Ireland and Lebanon is primarily Catholic and

to not strive to work alongside our Catholic brothers and sisters is to tie one hand behind our backs in feeding the hungry.

Outreach started this week. We have so many opportunities to love God's children in different ways. We have 3 mini teams going everyday to either teach forgiveness and conflict resolution (a Jesus ethic) to kids in schools, to tutor Syrian refugees and young people who are illiterate, or to teach life skills to the young women in poverty, some of whom are the children of prostitutes.

With that, we are building lasting relationship with the upcoming young leaders of this nation through weekly youth meetings. Their youth leader asked us to attempt to activate their faith into action and i had the privilege of teaching on the beach about God's forgiveness that energizes us to change the world with the love of Jesus. It was such a great night.

Finally we are visiting families as they are fasting for Ramadan. With our good friend, we will be cookin for a few families their Ramadan evening meal. These are no small dinners, these are feasts! The point is to join in with these people and to show them that we are no threat. Actually, we accept them and love them as Jesus does. Jesus often got in trouble for eating with people that His society deemed 'other'. In the same way, we hope to make a statement of God's character, He loves all, always.

Yas and I are doing great. She is taking on more leadership responsibilities and I am taking on a support role. This is to show our all female school 2 things. 1, women can lead. 2, men can make space for women to lead. They know I can lead, they have seen it. What is accomplished when we keep doing the same thing? What happens when we see new people lead? New things. Who does new things? Our God.

On an unfortunate note, I lost my debit card the first week we were here. There are upsides and downsides to that. An upside is I spend less money on the amazing Lebanese food that is around me! In all seriousness, American taxes

really took us to the cleaners this year so having my accounts go untouched for a while is a blessing in disguise. However, the downside is we are limited in some ways here and need to choose carefully what to use/borrow etc etc. On the whole, all is well and God is moving.

Please continue to pray for us. Pray Jesus will continually use us, not just the lives of the locals but in the lives of our trainees, whom we have poured our attention and love into the past 3 months.

We leave Lebanon on June 14th to return to Northern Ireland and to move house! We are excited for our new place but will miss our old one.

Yasmine has 2 weddings in the family coming up. Sweden is way closer than California but still, flights can be expensive. Pray we can have enough to make those dates.

Thank you all for reading our updates! Feel free to contact us anytime at Sotomayor@YWAMRostrevor.com



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