

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 is focusing on learning the Arabic language and culture, building relationships, and preparing for future ministry in Arabic-speaking cultures. A former middle school teacher,

Melanie is a student in the seminary's master's in religion program, and she also volunteers as a teacher at the seminary, assisting students in their English studies.

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Melanie prays with migrant domestic workers at the INSAAF Center.

“ MINISTRY STORY

Every Friday morning, a group of eighteen to twenty-five women meets for fellowship, worship, Bible study, and prayer at the INSAAF Center in Beirut, just a few hundred meters from the port that exploded in August 2020. Not only did Lebanon bear witness to one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history that day, but also since the fall of 2020 Lebanon has been sinking into one of the top three economic and financial crises in the world since the mid-nineteenth century, according to the World Bank.

It is in this dire situation that, week after week, migrant domestic workers from Africa and Asia gather to lift high the name of Jesus and allow his Word to feed our weary souls. It has been my greatest joy each week to show up and lead worship and Bible study among women who have seen their salaries sink, women who have a hard time finding basic painkillers in pharmacies, women who have come to work to support their

families back in their home countries. Most weeks, we struggle to share answers to prayer requests and praises.

But always, we are able to be amazed by how Jesus meets people in Scripture. We hopefully trust that Jesus would meet us where we are at. The special hour or two we spend together is where we are reminded that God is with us in these challenging times. As I sit with migrant women who have no workers' rights, who have seen women who look like them mistreated and even thrown at the doorsteps of their embassies like discarded goods, we rejoice together in a God who calls us beloved and has no plans to leave us.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for new reforms that will bring about sustainable economic changes for the country.

Pray for the church to be a strong witness in the country as the value of the local currency has dropped 90 percent in two years and where 80 percent of the Lebanese live in poverty.

Pray for peace in the region as the economic instability of the country has led to increased political tensions.

SCRIPTURE

“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)