



Beirut // Lebanon

*I felt embarrassed. I had arrived unprepared. I had not done the appropriate research and studying that I usually take.*

Rohan, our youngest child at age 7, accompanied me on a trip to Lebanon to meet the local national staff and scout out a potential location for our International Briefings. My director Chris, who is half Lebanese and half Syrian, had brought his daughter Norah too. She was a year younger than Rohan, and it would give them each a buddy to experience Lebanon with. Plus Rohan and Norah are anagrams of each other! It was perfect! After arriving, we had a briefing to familiarize us with the context we were entering into:

On August 4th, 2020, shortly after 6pm local time, there was a colossal explosion that sent a mushroom cloud into the air and a supersonic blast wave radiating through the city of Beirut. The blast wave leveled buildings near the port and caused extensive damage over much of the rest of the capital, which is home to two million people. Hospitals were quickly overwhelmed. It is estimated that 218 people were killed, 7,000 were injured, \$15 USD billion in property damage, and 300,000 were left homeless. I felt embarrassed. I had no idea that this tragic event had even happened.



After sharing about Lebanon's past and recent history, I approached Andrew, one of the Lebanese staff hosting us. Embarrassment. Apologetic. Humbled. What I tried to communicate, made little difference to Andrew as he warmly hugged me. "It's okay", he said. "You are here now. Listening. Learning. Loving." Not ignoring or explaining my faux pas, I pray I will continue to lean into peoples' stories and experiences, learning how I can better love and serve them. Thankful for those like Andrew, and even Rohan - our own children - who guide us graciously, in spite of our shortcomings.



Andrew, Lebanese staff

As we trust God to open our eyes and hearts to stories, cultures, and histories that are not our own, would you prayerfully consider a year-end gift of \$100, \$500, \$1000, or some other amount significant to you? This year we have experienced attrition in giving, as well as significant medical bills due to doctor visits associated with Tricia's cancer diagnosis, surgeries and continued treatments associated with Lynch Syndrome.

As you feel led, you may give a tax-deductible gift online at [www.give.cru.org/0533048](http://www.give.cru.org/0533048). If you prefer to give by check, please make your gift payable to *Cru* and use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation by December 31st to be credited for the 2023 tax year. Some ministry partners have chosen to give directly to us rather than through Cru. If you are interested in giving to us \*\*directly, you may do so at [www.linktr.ee/beebeefamily](http://www.linktr.ee/beebeefamily) or by scanning the QR below. \*\*This would *not* be a tax-deductible gift.

Whatever you decide, our deep appreciation for you is unwavering. Whether it has been 1 year or 21 years and longer, we are incredibly grateful for you standing beside us as we, along with our young kiddos Naomi, Tosh and Rohan, continue to communicate the love of Jesus to all we meet. Thank you for being our friends, family and partners in ministry.

Much love in Christ,

NICH & Tricia

