

## A sister from Lebanon (5)

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*Cairo, Egypt*

Working at Middle East Times office in Cairo was full of surprises and challenges. I took my job very seriously. I use to go to the office around 8 a.m and stay all day until 8 and sometime 9 p.m

There was nobody in the office other than coffee maker office boys. One in the morning and one in the afternoon. Actually, they were old men who were hired because they needed

a job. So my first responsibility was to let them go. And of course, it was hard to do that.

Then, I start contacting the freelancers who use to send their articles to the office in Greece and to whom we owe them money. I assured them that we will pay them and I encourage them to continue.

The office was really neglected so my job was mostly to put things in order and report to the main office in Greece. Also to stop any abuse or misuse happening and that was challenging because I needed to face the Egyptian men who were working there for many years. One of them was Hisham. He is the one who picked me up from the airport with a Limousine. He was using the office money for his interest and to show off. He did marketing and advertising. He gets a monthly salary and he just brings one or two ads in a month.

So I really felt that my job is to clean the office from the lazy and corrupted employees.

Also I start myself visiting few companies and businesses and introduce the newspaper to the and ask them to subscribe. I got few subscribers and even few ads that made our main office in Greece very excited and they wanted to support me and encourage me to hire new people.

To tell you the truth, I never dealt with this kind of administrative work. I studied Journalism but I worked as a bureau manager. So I was learning with every step how to deal with people and protect our

office.

Within a year Adel joined me to work at the newspaper as the situation in Lebanon remained unsafe and the economy was failing. Then Pauline joined him this time with an additional baby girl. Vera was sent to France to join a fundraising team and raise money for Lebanon. And the interesting part was when my parents left Lebanon and traveled for the first time in their life and came to Egypt to stay with me for six months.

And while they were there, Larry came for a short visit so he can meet my parents.

For the first time after I left home and joined the church, I had the chance to witness to my parents and teach them Divine Principle. My mom specially was very inspired and she even starts seeing True Father in her dreams. Later on when they came back to Lebanon they participated in the blessing through the satellite with two other couples in 1995.

Adel and his family came back to Lebanon within a year and Vera went to Korea to attend the blessing in 1992. She was matched and blessed by picture to an Iranian brother. Later on, to everyone's surprise, she was able to convince the Iranian consulate to give her a visa to join her husband in Iran as it was difficult in that time to go to Iran. Beside, being blessed by picture to a Muslim brother wasn't an easy matter. But Vera had a faith that moved mountains. She is a hero. My hero.

She didn't care about what her family and relatives will say when she gets married to a Muslim Iranian. She accepted True Father's choice and went all the way to join her husband in a foreign Muslim land.

Meanwhile, Larry as well left his country and came to join me in Egypt and to start our family.

Now both of us were working at the Middle East Times, Larry as a copy editor as well writing a weekly column. The office starts having new writers and a marketing team. It improved tremendously and new people start showing up.

And one of the newcomers was my first child, Donald.

To be continued