

## A sister from Lebanon (16)

Marie Bond  
December 30, 2018



*Lebanese Lentil Soup*

Within few months of my mom's passing in February 2014, I received a phone call from Korea. It was Vera telling me that she has cancer. It was a shocking news. Stage 4 ovarian cancer. The doctors gave her 5 years maximum to live. She started her chemotherapy. Her kids were still very young. The youngest was 9 years old.

My heart starts aching. I can't wait. I need to go and see her. Oh God, please help Vera. My most beloved friend. All our time together, from four years college to five years fundraising. From sharing the bedroom in our

center in Lebanon to traveling to Greece and Turkey for workshops

All these memories that I cherished every day. She was the one who supported me and stood by me through thick and thin. Oh God, please help Vera.

I packed and left to Korea in October, within two weeks from hearing the news. I needed to visit my beloved Vera and stand by her side. Nothing else matters. Vera couldn't believe that Marie Therese is on her way. She was so excited to see me. When I arrived to her house, we hugged and cried like never before. I stayed with her for 10 days. I went with her to the hospital for her chemo treatment. I cooked for her lentil soup and shared Turkish coffee in the mornings. I listened to her eldest daughter Sara playing piano and took her youngest daughter Mina to the park. I watched her son Arman playing soccer and went shopping with Ahmad, her husband to many Korean markets.

Then it was time to leave. My heart was very heavy. I promised Vera to come and visit often. On my way out, she brought a bucket of water and throw it on the street. She said this is a Korean tradition. If you want your guest to come back soon, through water on his way out.



*Turkish Coffee*

In December 2014, Vera passed away. Two months after my visit. The doctors gave her few years to live. She only lived few months.

She was full of life. She knew 5 languages: Arabic, French, English, Persian and some Korean after living for over 15 years in Korea.

She taught English and she helped in translating Father's books to Arabic. She also participated in Women's Federation activities in Korea.

Vera was my hero. She and my mom passed to the spirit world in the same year, 2014.

Both of them were my spiritual daughters and both of them I loved so dearly.

Today I stand on their foundation. My dearest mom and my beloved friend, you will live forever in my heart.

To be continued