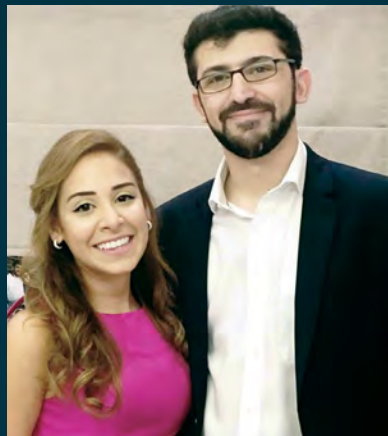


Joe and Mira Costa

Lebanon

joe.costa88@gmail.com

We focus on reaching young people who are mainly unchurched and meet them where they are. We challenge them to think about their relationships with God and others by focusing on three areas: 1) social media in partnership with Lifeword where we create Arabic content that young people can watch and engage with, 2) Bible studies and discipleship groups in different contexts so young men and women can grapple with tough questions and grow in their faith in God, and 3) training new pastors and young leaders to build sustainable youth ministries and reach young people creatively and practically. Our vision is simple: Reach. Engage. Integrate. Reaching young people with the message of the gospel, engaging with them through one-on-ones and discipleship, and integrating these young men and women to the local church while training its young leaders and supporting them.



The mission field is beautiful and intense, hard yet rewarding. Lebanon is a weird country to be honest, in that it is in the middle of the worst economic crisis since the 19th century, yet restaurants are full and people want to live and enjoy life. It is diverse and rich in culture with twenty percent of the population claiming Christianity (evangelicals are around 1% of the population) and the majority is Muslim. We are not persecuted for our faith, yet there are places that are hard to minister in. People are well educated and very ambitious—that's why we can see high numbers of immigration, especially of young people. The crisis is a curse and a blessing. People are depressed, feel unsafe, and constantly want to get out. That is sometimes frustrating for us, especially because we sometimes feel all those things as well. Yet the crisis is a blessing because people are asking questions. Whether it's them seeking to know God more or them ridiculing God and being sarcastic, both groups are asking questions and are open to having conversations. And we just love that people want to talk and are thirsty to give and take, especially when it's about God, good and evil, and topics of hope and despair.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for protection, as things are tense right now in Lebanon. Pray that God may give wisdom to our leaders to make right and Christ-like decisions.
- Pray for young people, as they are lost and feel hopeless in a country that is corrupt and helpless.
- Pray for the Lebanese who are suffering, that God can prepare their hearts to see him in the midst of it.
- Pray for us as we continue ministry and work with young people. Pray that God gives us guidance and strength in the midst of hardships.

Praises:

- Open doors to talk to many youth who want to know more about God through social media and answering their questions.
- The opportunity to train young leaders in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, and support them as they minister in difficult cities and show young people the gospel.
- Our staff in Lebanon. The Lord has provided us with great people that are skilled, that love him deeply, and are passionate in spreading the gospel.

