

## THE DEDICATION OF *THE DARKNESS AND THE GLORY*

“Is this Greg Harris?”

Long before caller ID, sometime in the spring of 1987, I received a call from a man I did not know. I was trying to identify the accent of this soft, melodious, kind voice that I was hearing. The man identified himself as Imad Shehadeh. At that time we both were in the Doctor of Theology program at Dallas Theological Seminary. I was a Bible Exposition major, and Imad was considering changing his major to the same area of study. He also told me in “the small world category” that my wife Betsy had one of his sons for a while in her class when she taught elementary school in Dallas. After Imad and I talked for about fifteen minutes, I got off the phone and told my wife, “I sure do like this man I just talked with.”

Imad did in fact switch into the same major that I was in, and thus we were able to spend segments of time together at different intervals. Daniel Wong, a current professor at The Master’s College, was also a part of that class. There were so many things I appreciated about Imad: he was an excellent student, a devoted husband and father, fluent in English as well as his native Arabic. Even at this strategic stage in his studies, Imad always had a sense of stewardship and responsibility far beyond that of most of the other students. Most of us (myself included) were trudging through a quite intensive study, primarily hoping that we would somehow be able to survive and complete the degree. Imad was not; he already knew quite well what God had called him to do and why he was studying.

One day in our conversations, at a bagged lunch as I recall, Imad told me, “Greg, I want to open an evangelical seminary right in the heart of the Arab world. There is such a strong need for a school like this.” I remember listening with my “Americanized” mindset, and though I did not say it out loud, I thought to myself, “Boy, I’m glad it’s you doing that and not me.” I came back and told my wife, “I sure do respect this man.”

So after almost three years together in Dallas, Imad and I went our separate ways and sort of lost track of each other. The Internet was just in its earliest of stages; no websites existed as they do now. In fact, years later when I wrote my very first email, I sent it to Imad. Some time later Dr. Imad, as he came to be known by those in Jordan, called me at my home and invited me to come and teach a class at Jordan Evangelical Seminary, which is called by its shortened name “JETS.” He was in Amman, Jordan when I arrived at the school for my first teaching time, and we were able to catch up over the years of what had been happening. I told of events related to *The Cup and the Glory* (which was not yet published at that time); he told me of his own cup that was involved in his own life and walk: the multitude of pressures and heartaches of getting the school going, the verbal attacks and discouragements that came against him for trying to start the school, the pressures of making decisions that literally are “life and death decisions” for many, as well as the financial burden that comes with beginning and sustaining such a work. Added to this, throughout most of dealing with the other burdensome matters, was the almost “sick unto death” ongoing illness of his most beloved wife Julia. After teaching there in my short-term summer class, I came back and told my wife, “I sure do love this man.”

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Whenever Imad and I get to sit down and talk (which is usually once a year at a professors' convention), I always sense that I had better talk with him now while we both are on earth. I surmise that Dr. Imad will be most rewarded—and most busy—when we are in heaven because of both his walk and his ministry (which as is true with any genuine man of God, these cannot be separated); it may be difficult to make an appointment with him—such is the magnitude of the people affected by either him or the school. I know to my core that this man outranks me.

It is with my utmost joy and delight that all the royalties from *The Darkness and the Glory* and *The Darkness and the Glory Study Guide* go to Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary ([www.jets.edu](http://www.jets.edu)). I very much am praying for “double fruit,” that God uses both the book and the royalties to help the school in however Dr. Imad sees fit.

One final note: all the Glory Books and study guides will be translated into Arabic. At the time this study guide is being written (August 2008), we are in the process of having *The Cup and the Glory* and the study guide translated first. *The Darkness and the Glory* and its study guide will follow. If you are interested in a tax-deductible donation to help with either with the translation costs or to donate Arabic copies of the book to students at JETS or to Christians in the Arab world, you can follow the appropriate link at the website [www.glorybooksministry.org](http://www.glorybooksministry.org). We will eventually have other links available to different translations (such as Spanish), but that will be the first one.

To God be the Glory!

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<http://www.gbibooks.com/Details.aspx?ID=9781934952016>