



## Michael Green

*CMS Mission Partner in Jordan*

PO Box 1954, Sweileh,  
11910, JORDAN  
Telephone: 00 962 (0) 5 35 33 097  
Alexdar@yahoo.co.uk

**Letter No. 10**

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*Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, THE-LORD-WILL-PROVIDE; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."*

**Gen 22:13-14 (NKJ)**

### **Dear Friends**

*as salaam alaykum* الصَّلَام عَلَيْكُمْ (Peace be upon you).

This letter's text is taken because the period covered began with Eid-il-adha, (the Islamic celebration of this event, more in the Fact File) and finishes at the start of Lent. This Old Testament text points us to the true meaning of this event, not that a Sheep was provided in place of a human sacrifice, but that the Lord will provide, it shall be provided; it points to Calvary. This time of year - Lent, points us to Calvary too. A time to remember why God provided his only Son for our sins. Only then was it declared "finished". The work is finished so then He makes us to become who we are.

### **CHRISTMAS.**

The biggest surprise at Christmas was the snow (even if it couldn't land). Unlike last year it was a day off wedged into a busy work schedule with a nasty cold! Still culture hopping, finishing clinic at the hospital, I went for a Chinese meal with members of the English speaking Anglican Church. They are not sure how to celebrate Christmas, but sharing a meal is a good start. Later I was serving the cup at the midnight service in English, though I was nervous with so many new faces present, the Lord reassured me in such a worldwide gathering. Due to my cold and a 6am start on Boxing Day, I took time to sleep in before returning to Salt. Thanks for all the lovely gifts and many cards.

### **CHRISTMAS II.**

It is the tradition of the Diocese of Jerusalem to consecrate their Bishops on Epiphany. To show my support, and learn about my Church, I went to the ceremony in Jerusalem, this was my first visit. Despite St George's being a small, overcrowded Cathedral I got a good view, and it was a moving service. Controversy was avoided by having only a few Bishops present to consecrate (The Episcopal Church of USA was only represented by its Presiding Bishop's wife; Mrs Griswald). During my visit I was able to see the hardships of the Palestinians; like the wall & checkpoints. The new Bishop is from Ramallah, so we visited it. I took part in the traditional "Debkeh" dance at the celebrations. As my stay

was short I saw little of Jerusalem - the western wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and this during Orthodox Christmas! On Sunday I visited Christchurch in the Old City - the first Anglican Church, and a place I wanted to visit. It's also the home of the Messianic Congregation. After the service there was some traditional Jewish Dancing, but to me it looked just like the "Debkeh"! I returned via Eilat & Aqaba.



**Bishop Suheil**

### **CONSULTATION.**

CMS held a regional conference this year for all kinds of CMS workers in the M.E. This year it was in Jordan, good for me. Despite having two clients admitted the weekend before, I was able to have a restful week, a great blessing. It was good to be encouraged by other workers, hear of their situations and especially pray together. Prayer formed a bigger part than planned, praise God. We also had a few sessions on CMS direction and a "walk through the Bible" taking us to Pella. High on our mountain top retreat we had all four seasons, with hot sun on Tuesday and cut off by snow on Thursday!



**At the Palestine Hospital, Amman**

### **THE PALESTINE HOSPITAL.**

Work here has really picked up with many referrals to Sat Clinic, and some admissions: chest infection with respiratory arrest and, schizophrenia with obesity. These have respectively highlighted the need for a specialist to assess swallowing, and admin problems regarding patient funding. It is hoped we can establish a separate budget/fund for CBR and shortly a department recognised by the Ministry of Development. I have recently been tasked with drawing up a Medical Protocol for CBR follow up. We also have opportunities for short-term volunteer nurses.

### **JORDAN VALLEY (Jofeh).**

The valley has recently produced several severe cases of chest infection in cerebral palsy cases. This is a result of food taken into the lungs and highlights the need for swallow assessments. I have had problems with my new helper and may well get yet another, hopefully with more commitment. Fortunately, Ayaa, the 4½ yr old severely multiply disabled girl, has been assessed by Elizabeth Hume's (CMS) Deafblind Team. We hope it might be possible for her to stay at the unit in the week and to train her sister there in her care. The family seems to be gaining some hope.

### **MUWAQQAR.**

The work here is progressing very well mostly due to the dedication of Noor to the community. Most cases continue to be epilepsy management, but now also a psychiatric case and a stroke case. Follow up is the biggest challenge.

I have an unusual position working with women in a way that most men don't. At all centres, but maybe especially here, I have to walk a difficult line. Friendliness and flirting have no clear boundary!

### **KHALDIYA.**

There are very few cases here at the moment but I am building relationships. The continence training for spina bifida cases, with the OT, seems to be developing well.

### **JORDAN STUFF.**

I am still without language learning. However as I concentrate on relaxing I am getting more time to see Jordan. I have now seen Pella & Jerash, both worth the visit. This is a good time for it, as Jordan is now turning green again. Hopefully I will see more in March as I have 3 groups of friends visiting. My bird spotting is also now coming to life, even with a few unusual sightings.

### **GOD STUFF.**

This seems to be a real roller coaster, but little has changed since the last letter. The English youth group has begun again, initially the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. I still hope to make church on Sundays, if I get them off. I am most thankful for my fellowship with my neighbour Matthew and the Arab young adults group. I really need prayer for spiritual strength; God doesn't send spiritual giants to difficult places, just those who say 'yes'.

### **EXTRA INFO!**

For more information on CMS, become a member of CMS and receive their magazine 'Yes', contact: Elizabeth Martin [action@cms-uk.org](mailto:action@cms-uk.org)

For a colourful version of my letter join my E-link by contacting: [jamespat@btinternet.com](mailto:jamespat@btinternet.com)

### **DATES**

A reminder! In Jordan we celebrate Eastern Easter (23/04/2006). For the rest of the diocese Easter is as the UK (16/04/2006). I hope to be in UK ~ 20/05-05/06/2006 for my sister Rachel's wedding and a friend's too!

### **FACT FILE: EID IL ADHA.**

*On my return to Jordan it was eid-il-adha, the Feast of the Sacrifice. This is an important event in the Muslim calendar. It is celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> day of Thul-Hijjah, the month of the pilgrimage to Mecca, and marks its completion. Muslims believe Ibrahim and his sons were the first pilgrims to Mecca. During the feast, a sheep is slaughtered, this is in commemoration of God's provision of a ram when Ibrahim, went to sacrifice his promised son. The Bible mentions this in Genesis Ch22. The slaughtered sheep should also be used to*



**Middle-Eastern sheep**

*feed the poor. Islam requires that the Eid day Sermon should be about the "duty of sacrifice". It is emphasised that God does not accept the meat or blood of the sacrifice, but the piety of those offering it. To the Muslim both eid's (Fitr & Adha) represent thanksgiving to God, remembrance of all, Victory over desires, Harvest of spiritual providence, Forgiveness and Peace. However for many it is as one friend shared with me "...like Christmas has become, all party and no Spiritual".*

Good Bye (ma aṣ salaama) and God Bless (rabbii yibaarikum).  
If you require any more information please contact me, or CMS.

Yours in Christ,

*Michael*

### **PRAISE:**

- Thank God for Good health.
- Praise God for the growth of the Church, especially youth.
- Praise God for giving his promised Son.
- Thank God for my many relationships.
- Thank God for my family, at this time also pray for Rachel as she gets married.

### **PRAYER:**

- Please pray for my adapting to life here.
- Please pray resolution of Admin problems.
- Please pray for my CBR Team.
- Please pray that I may be strong in Body & Spirit.
- Please pray for the Church here, especially Bishop Suheil.

