



## Michael Green

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**Letter No. 15**

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*'To everything a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is  
planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a  
time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
... He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their  
hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to  
end.'*

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-7, 11 (NKJ)**

Dear friends,  
as salaam 9alaykum السلام عليكم (Peace be upon you).

This season has really brought the above passage close to me, both due to my illness and as I prepare to go back to the UK. I have been able to see the hand of God in all that has happened, learning many things during the time that I was 'made' to take it easy. My learning has been both through reading and reflecting on the events of the last few years, especially in my weakness. Now as I return to the UK, I must continue - as we all must - to seek the Lord's calling upon my life and to see how He uses my weakness in His strength.

### **Sickness**

As many of you will know, since my last Link Letter I have been unwell. I have had several epileptic



Me in Wadi Shuwaib

seizures, the worst of which – occurring on 19 April – resulted in surgery and a short stay in the Palestine Hospital. I've had several attacks this year and will see a consultant neurologist on my return. Fortunately, however, my family were here to offer support as did my friends, but it has resulted in me doing very little work since my last letter. Thanks to my colleagues at the Hospital, especially Dr Ra9fid.



Arrival in ER

### **The Christian Feasts**

I enjoyed Palm Sunday, including walking up much of Wadi Shuyaib (Jethro's valley), from South Shuna. It was still very verdant and Dick Hoogstrate came too; we had many deep discussions on the way. For a change, this year I attended the joint Good Friday service of the Arabic and English speaking congregations (ESAC) in Amman. As usual I celebrated the Resurrection at the ESAC dawn service on Mount Nebo, then attended the Salt service and Salt's annual greeting ceremony. The following week I went to Jerusalem to attend the inauguration of the new Bishop, Suheil Duwani. It was a lovely ceremony. The next day Tannas Al Qassis, from CMS, took a group of us to visit Bethlehem.



Dad and Jan at Umm Qais

### **Holidays**

After my visit to Bethlehem, I travelled to Aqaba to meet my Dad and Jan, to share a holiday in Jordan. We had a lovely time despite my illness. Starting in Aqaba, we then went to Wadi Rumm, Petra, Salt, Umm Jamal and Umm Qais where we had a wonderful view of Lake Tiberius and the Golan. Finally, we took a VIP trip around the Baptism Site before Dad and Jan spent a relaxing few days in Aqaba. Special thanks for all of this must be paid to Revd Cameron (Seamen's Mission), Yousef Rizik (HLID), Matthew & Aline Hanning, and the McCordic family.

### **Nursing news**

SA9YDIYA: The young girl with Lamellar Ichthyosis was admitted at An-Noor Sanatorium, Mafraq, and is said to be making progress. In my last days there, I saw many cases that ought to be followed up.

THE JORDAN VALLEY (Jofeh): There has not been much change here but the greatest significance has been an assessment of the project by CBM and we await the results with baited breath.

MUWAQQAR: Muwaqqar has seen a good progression in the Continenence Programme and this will be left in the hands of Nawaal (OT) and Dr Fadi Haddad. However it will

benefit greatly from the opportunity to co-operate with the Royal Jordanian Medical Services (Military Hospitals).

KHALDIYYA: Ahmed has made little improvement, yet we praise God that their family are able to buy medicines now thanks to a local donor. Also, Salaama has returned home now that the family feud has finished and she is no longer the bargaining tool.

THE PALESTINE HOSPITAL: Both of the two boys with Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica were admitted in this time and are now doing much better; during my home assignment I should visit Great Ormond St Hospital to learn about their care and make a plan for funding for this.

OTHER: During my time in Bethlehem, I was able to visit the Bethlehem Arab Rehabilitation Centre and talk to the director. In the future I hope to return and get a fuller picture of how to integrate hospital and CBR services.

### **Church and other news**

The Children's Church continues to go well. This term, we have studied the church - Acts to Revelation (including church history) – and are now studying the theme of Christian living (i.e. prayer). We praise God that the Woo family is returning to fellowship and Woodie still hopes to go to university in Birmingham this September.

We are all very sorry that Malcolm & Veronica White (CMS Mission Partners) are leaving in June, but we should receive some CMS Australia replacements soon. We all wish them well in their new ministry, and had a big party to send them off. It is a pleasure that Elizabeth Hume (from CMS) is again able to attend ESAC and she brings us pleasure through her wonderful musical gifting.

*The above part of the Link Letter was written before Michael returned to the UK.*

### **Home assignment**

I have now returned to the UK, and am gradually settling in. I have many deputation visits to make as well as studying, health check-ups and other CMS duties to do while back. I am looking forward to meeting many of you, and hope to get some rest too.

### **Extra info**

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. For more information or to become a member of CMS and receive their magazine Yes, please contact: [action@cms-uk.org](mailto:action@cms-uk.org)



Mum collects me from the airport

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

**Please be aware of the change in my address and telephone numbers.**

## Fact file

### The Tribes of Jordan

According to the *Lonely Planet Guide for Jordan*, 60 per cent of all Jordanians are of Palestinian origin. Despite this, while some of my clients are Palestinians (even tribal), most of my work – and life – is spent among the Jordanian Tribes; therefore a little explanation may be necessary. Two misnomers should be dealt with immediately: Firstly, that the Bedouin were nomadic camel raisers. As this is no longer viable, many have settled and/or taken to raising sheep. This, and the fact that many East Bank Arabs call themselves Bedouin, makes any distinctions hard. Secondly, not all tribes are Muslim and even some 'Confederations' may consist of both Christian and Muslim tribes. There are three kinds of Tribesmen – the *Hadari* or settled tribes, the *Bedu* or Bedouin and the *Sharwaya* or sheep raisers. A tribe is a group of related individuals who share their allegiance to a Sheikh (chosen by a combination of blood ties, merit, and democracy), and follow the rules and rulings therein. Even today, sheikhs can still judge certain matters in Jordan. These are the three most complex issues – blood crimes (*dam*), rape (*ard*) and violation of protection (*taki' wajih*). Contrary to popular belief, 'Honour crimes' have always been illegal under tribal law. Each tribe can further be subdivided into clans and families, and may itself be part of a larger confederation. For brevity, I will only include the tribes I deal with. In Salt, the main tribes are the *9Abbad* & the *Belqawiyyah* Confederation, now nearly all settled, and many smaller *Hadari* clans. In Sa9diyya, I deal with the *Ahl al-Jabal* Confederation (most of whom live in Syria), mostly of the *Msaa9id* Clan. In Khaldiyya, the majority of people served are Palestinian origin but also many *Beni Khalid* naturally. In Muwaqqar, the people are mostly from the infamous and powerful *Beni Sakhr* Confederation, among whom CMS worked at the beginning of their ministry in Jordan. In the Jofeh area, the main clan is the *L'udwaan*, who I think may be part of the *Belqawiyyah*.

### PRAISE POINTS:

- Thank God for my family
- Praise God for the growth of the church, especially its youth
- Praise God for His care in difficult circumstances
- Thank God for my many relationships
- Thank God for Christians in the Middle East.

### PRAYER POINTS:

- Please pray for my adapting to life in the UK
- Please pray for the families that I have left behind in Jordan
- Please pray for my CBR Team
- Please pray that I may be strong in body and spirit
- Please pray for Godly wisdom as I visit my link churches.

Goodbye (ma9 as salaama) مع السلام & God Bless الله يُباركُكم (Allah yibaarikum).

Yours in Christ

*Michael*

