

Link Letter No.25 February 2010

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Act 2:46-47 (NKJV)

Dear friends,

as salaam 9alaykum (Peace be upon you), *kull 9am intu bi khayr* (every year and you're in goodness).

I am constantly amazed by the work that God has for me here and how it is full of the unexpected – not to mention how stunned I am that God wishes to use a wretch like me to fulfil His plans. I am also awed by seeing how He prepares my way, and how through what may be perceived as 'good works' He



Christmas at Jofeh - see text on page two



Michael Green

CMS mission partner
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opens doors in order to spread the gospel. Thanks to Him we have found favour at the embassies, and amongst locals – but not because we are important, but rather through the outworking of His Love. Frequently what He calls us to do seems crazy and sometimes debasing, but He knows the fruits that we reap, and we must be faithful – even when we cannot comprehend what is ahead.

Church life

Again this year I am on the Expatriate Church (ESAC) council, and hosting a home group – *'The Bible as a whole'*. This has been a great blessing, even with only a few of us; in the coming year we hope to run a 'Christianity Explored' course. At the International Men's Breakfast we have been studying *'The Barbarian Way'*, a challenge for us to live on the edge! Unfortunately I have had many interruptions to my attending Arabic Church in Marka which hinders developing relationships; however, they are growing slowly. Regrettably I was not invited to Diocesan Synod this year, but enjoyed the opening ceremony and seeing my friends Fursan Zumot & Eyad Ajji ordained as Deacons.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

Although officially I have been given no programme since the summer, I still go to Jofeh with the consent of the

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Hussein and family at the Palestine Hospital

centre manager. I am also attending team meetings until a resolution is found to the impasse.

Jofeh

With some new classes starting health checks, minor health problems such as warts are also being dealt with. Maha, the deaf woman, is of some concern due to her illness (unknown cause) but she is making progress.

A highlight in Jofeh was the Christmas Party, in which all the disabled participated and the Special Ed class performed adaptation of "A Christmas Carol". See photo on page one.

Nursing

Much of this period has been taken up caring for Hussein Fauwmy, a 44 year-old Jordanian with a fungal infection (*Mucormycosis*). Initially he was treated in the Palestine Hospital under the Sania Poor Fund, before then being treated with the King's permission at the King Hussein Medical City (an army medical facility). Through treatment, he progressed well but finally died of multi-organ failure. Special thanks to Drs Hani Abdul-Aziz, and the team at the Palestine Hospital, and Dr Faris Haddad and his team at the Military Hospital. May God be with his family.

Living liberty

While we have continued to take women to the Philippine Embassy and to the National Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), most attention has been focused on three cases:

- We continued to care for Zahira, and her unborn twins, after she was admitted to the Philippine Hostel, as well

as making preparations for her safety on her return to the Philippines. She had permission to travel at the beginning of the New Year. But we are still unable to get the papers to marry the couple and establish the status of their son, as the former employer is holding on to documents, and such an overstay needs to be paid for.

- Another runaway we were helping was arrested with her boyfriend, for immoral activities. We are currently trying to help her, while they await obligatory marriage (or prison).

- We continue to visit the Philippine Hostel, and they have requested Bibles and a woman to teach the Word in Tagalog.

Special thanks go to Mr Atef Majali (NCHR), and Letah, the Philippine Welfare Officer.

We hope in the next year to set up a Jordanian NGO in order to access funding. We now also urgently require contacts at the Indonesian Embassy.

Home

It has been great to share a house with Sam and, until recently, Andrew (from the USA); they have made living here a touch of heaven with our communal meals and weekly prayer breakfasts. The big change in the house has been the arrival of my friend Rabe9a and his family, until they find a home.

Feasts etc

- First was *Eid-il-Adha* (the Feast of Sacrifice – Abraham and the Ram), a big event in Jordan. Many families went out to buy their

Presenting Tagalog Bibles to the Philippine Hostel





Trip to the Burq'u in the Eastern Desert with friends



On the way there... (near the Iraqi border)

sheep to slaughter.

- *Eid-il-Milad Sayid* (the Feast of the Birth of Christ) started with midnight communion at ESAC, and continued the next morning with fellowship with Naimeh, Mary and Nahiel at Marka before going together to church; I then had dinner with my friends at the Deaf School in Salt.

- I also had the pleasure of attending the wedding of my colleagues Jawdat and Yasmine (physios).

- NB: Here the Feast of the Resurrection will be 4 April.

Friends

Living in Amman has meant that I have seen little of my friends in Salt, but I have managed to briefly see Emran and Adel. I have been busier than usual, making this

harder still, but I have spent some time with my friends Meziane (Algerian), and Rabe9a (Jordanian). I have also started to meet with Omar, a local believer, and we will perhaps become prayer partners. I also had a great trip to Burq'u, a Roman fort and lake in the desert, with Andrew, Sam and his fiancée Fay, and her friend Miriam.

National news

This year the King dissolved parliament, and there will be elections in the coming year.

Fact file: *Al 9azaa'* (The ceremony of mourning)

In both Christian and Muslim Arabic culture, the *9azaa'* is an important tradition. Although slightly different the ceremonies are very similar and even among Muslims the ceremony is not always strictly in accordance with Islam. The ceremony lasts three days and takes place in a tent, religious or family hall, or sometimes in

Buying rice for the *9azaa'* of Hussein



the home. Among stricter families the men and women will be separated.

On arrival you greet the family before sitting down. Although not the strict Islamic condolence, Muslims in Jordan normally say: "Allah have mercy on him", while Christians say "God grant you his years". You then sit down and have a cup of Arab coffee, and a sweet or a date. When you finish the coffee, you must not shake the cup or say "daa'maa" (always); these are signs of an event you wish to repeat. People will come and go, talk with the family, and perhaps a 'holy-man' will speak or pray. Each day the family will provide *Mensaf* (the national dish) for guests to eat. For this reason, guests who are close to the family will bring a sack of sugar or rice for the family.

Praise

- Praise God for the new work and favour in high places.
- Praise God for my great new housemates, and living as a family.
- Thank God for our study, and how we have grown in Him.
- Thank God for good relationships here in Jordan.
- Praise God for He is at work in the most surprising places and amazing ways imaginable.
- Thank God for the provision of Bibles for the Philippine Hostel.

Prayer

- For all those we help to know true liberty (Luke 4:18-21).
- Please pray for a new prayer partner for me.
- Pray for the changing Government: for peace during the elections and that they might be rightly guided (Proverbs 25:5).
- Please pray for Mr Sabri, my CBR Team, and our work.
- Join us in prayer for the rains to come (Deuteronomy 11:13-17).

- Pray for our house group in the coming year, that we would all grow in His knowledge.

I hope that when you read this letter you are not only moved to pray for these issues and the wider context but also to consider about what God is asking from you, however unusual it may seem, or belittling to you, and to have the courage to then follow His call. I assure you that you will be amazed at the results, and probably overwhelmed by how God can, and wants to, use you.

Not enough?

If you have any questions contact me!

- For more information, to become a member of CMS and receive *Prayerlines* and *Mission Update*, contact: info@cms-uk.org
- For a colourful version of my letter join my E-link at: jamespat@btinternet.com or view it on the CMS website www.cms-uk.org
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Good Bye (*ma9 as salaama*) and God Bless (*Allah yibaarikum*).

Yours in Christ,

Michael

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