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They saw him [Joseph] from afar, and before he came near to them they [his brothers] conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another: "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams."... As for you, you meant evil against me but God meant it for good – to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 37:18-20, 50:20 (ESV)

Dear friends,

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



The CBR team annual picnic

As most of you will be aware by now, I was unfortunate enough to have had a seizure a few weeks ago and sustained a few injuries; as I needed some treatment, I asked CMS whether I could return to the UK to save money and see a doctor who was familiar with my case.

I have been staying with members of my supporting churches while I receive care. Do I blame God for the incident? No way! This came at a time when we were really busy and were expecting to do much. I am sure that it was an attack from the enemy, yet just as when Satan thought that he had the upper hand when Joseph was attacked, and even when he killed God's only Son, God used it to His glory and victory. I feel the same about this incident even though I do not yet know how it will work out.

Church life

At the English congregation (ESAC) I am busy in many different activities. We celebrated the Resurrection on 4 April at Mt Nebo, at a 6am service. This was a very

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Preaching at the Alliance Church with Ayoub translating...

uplifting experience with over 150 people attending, foreign and local. It was especially nice to see two busloads of staff from the Dead Sea hotels. Unfortunately we did not get any takers for the "Christianity Explained" course but hope we can run it next term. It is nice that Yasmine invited several unchurched Filipino friends to attend the church, although many struggle to understand. Also we hope to show the "Jesus Film" in Tagalog at the Philippine Hostel.

I continue to build stronger relationships with the members of the Arabic church in Marka, Amman. Although I am not

currently involved in ministry it may develop, especially since my friend from Salt, Archdeacon Luay Haddad, will be transferring there. The Men's Ministry faces a number of changes: my friend Dick Hoogstrate is now taking on the other leadership role with me, as Pastor Justin leaves, and we must find new resources for the group.

I continue to enjoy the monthly group of young evangelical locals praying for ministry in Jordan. Through these people I have become involved in several events, especially the "Reconnect" concert. As well as helping several of them to discover and develop their giftings, it has also led to my first preaching at a Jordanian church where I spoke to the Youth group at the Itihad (Alliance) church at 2nd circle, Amman. I spoke through an interpreter on the subject of "How God can use You". Many of these friends will be working on, or attending, camps this summer.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

Following a successful meeting with the CBR Co-ordinator, Team Leader, CMS and me we have found a resolution to our problems. At the request of Mr Yusef in particular, the manager of the centre at Jofeh, I will now focus a lot of my time there. I will spend two days visiting Jofeh and another day for follow-up in Amman. I will miss the other areas but it will give me a chance to professionalise

Rev Anthony visits the Marka church



Thomas at a discipleship afternoon



the medical support for the disabled and to continue to build relationships in this very conservative area.

Hope and Trust

“Hope and Trust” is the ministry of the Hope fund in the UK working with Iraqis and poor Jordanians. We have filled in several forms for asylum, and I have visited the United Nations refugee offices (UNHCR) in Amman to see if we can find out more. I’m still visiting Ali, a blind Iraqi, and his mum, to fill in their forms – and to help him cope with his health needs. Ali has become a good friend, and we went to a concert together. If you would like help this ministry contact: whitesmv@gmail.com and specify “Jordan”.

Living liberty (Al-Fida’)

Work has continued apace, especially alongside the Philippine Embassy staff. The case of the couple getting their papers remains complex. Due to a delay in permission from the Ministry of the Interior, her bail ran out and she and her son went into hiding. It seems that initial permission was denied due to security clearance for her; we pray that this may be solved. We are now trying to get papers from the Philippines to prove she is single, and starting a process to get them all asylum abroad; this is especially difficult as she is eight months pregnant. On the positive side, they are now having marriage guidance and good medical care – thanks to Richard Coulson who raised £100 for their son’s milk.

Nana, the Indonesian who was sexually assaulted and later ran away from the Indonesian Embassy, has since been picked up by the police using a false passport; as yet we have been unable to help her. This may affect her previous court case.

Tunisia

The CMS conference in Tunisia was a great encouragement – a time for rest, relaxation and refreshment, encouraging each other and learning about developments in the organisation. I was also able to visit CBR projects there and learn about implementation in an Arab context.

Turkey

On my way to Tunisia I decided it wise to break my journey, so I stopped in Istanbul. While there I was asked to provide some advice to some friends of a friend who were considering starting up in the healthcare business. As a result this may lead to further consultation work and perhaps some teaching at the Istanbul Commerce University; please pray about this.

Friends

There are many changes here. I am so happy my prayer partner, Omar, has gone to India to minister there but this means that I am now looking for a new one. My friends Sam and Diwa have also returned to Australia, and my housemate Sam and the Manchester girls returned to the UK. Please pray for suitable replacements. However, I am developing my friendships with young Arab Christians which is a real encouragement, especially Fadi and Atallah. I now also meet up with my new CMS colleague Ruth Sayers, who works for the Bishop. During my crisis I really felt the

The South London pilgrimage visit - see text on page four



support of the church and my friends, and it built up many relationships. I am now working on those in the UK.

Visits

In April a pilgrimage group came from South London (see *photo on page three*) including John and Helen Richardson from (St Mark's, Hitchin). They visited the Jofeh centre, generously giving gifts, and invited me to their hotel where the waitresses remembered me from the Mt Nebo service. Revd Anthony (St John's, Ipswich) visited in May and visited all of my ministries, and is looking at bring a group later on this year.

Fact file: My Ministry

Due to some confusion I want to explain the current situation with my ministry, essentially as my working week is divided up into four parts:

- **Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR):** The original job I went out to do.
- **Hope and Trust Charity:** Working with mostly Iraqi refugees but also poor Jordanians.
- **Al-Fida' Charity:** Helping foreign workers, and combating trafficking.
- **Church work:** Both in Arab and English speaking churches)

Of course, there are many times when I am 'working' talking to people across Jordan, developing relationships, and I have also learnt that as I am doing this I am always 'watched', because who you are is more important than what you do; so in one sense I am always working.

Not enough?

If you have any questions, please contact me on email, Facebook or phone!

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

Why not volunteer or visit me?

Praise and prayer points:

- Praise God for the resolution of problems at work.
- Thank God for enthusiastic Jordanian believers.
- Thank God for the favour I received in high places; may it continue (Proverbs 3:3-4).
- Praise God for the rest, relaxation and direction in Tunisia and Turkey.
- Praise the Lord for help from friends in difficult times.
- Please pray for wisdom in the use of my time and help with admin.
- Pray for my recovery and to have time with God.
- Pray for the family seeking to marry and their walk with God.
- Please pray for all those I work with.
- Please pray for the establishment of an NGO and the right people to serve in it.

Good Bye (*ma9 as salaama*) and God Bless (*Allah yibaarikum*).

Yours in Christ,

Michael

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