



Michael Green
CMS mission partner
Jordan

Link Letter no. 30 May 2011

Dear friends,

"The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love."

Psalms 33:17-18 (ESV)

Dear Friends,

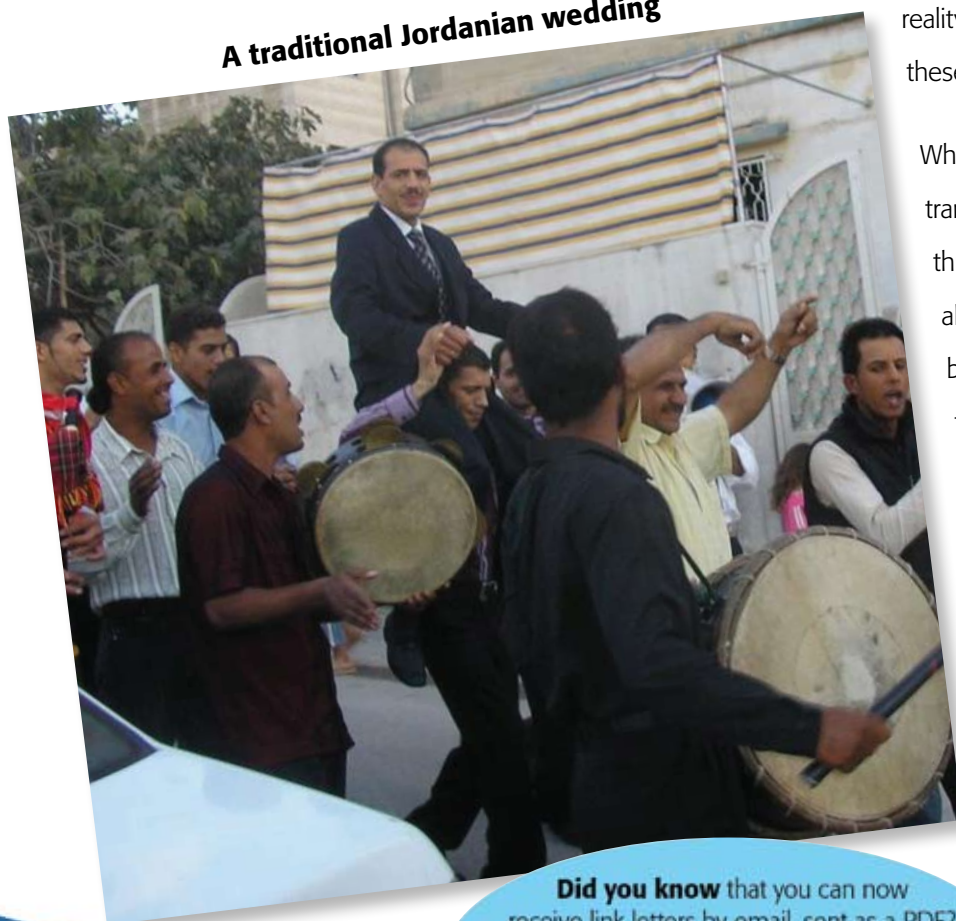
as *salaam 9alaykum* (Peace be upon you). At this time many people are asking about the Middle East situation; with popular risings against long ruling dictators, and protests at the economic crisis. I think this moment in history is a critical one in the Middle East and not just politically (although it

is especially critically politically, as countries have to find stability and good governance, and can be easily exploited at this time by some extreme parties).

However this is a key time also spiritually. The force that has driven this has been the pent up hopes of the younger generation for change, transformation, and a future. Joyful celebrations burst out as suddenly these hopes seem to be realised; it reminds me of many young people who in 1997 witnessed a new political reality and looked forward with promise. However, these are false hopes.

While men offer much, the only true transformation for nations or individuals is through Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. He alone will stand when all else fails, and I believe that even if they are not aware of it, this is what the young people of the Middle East long for. The church must respond to this with prayer for these people, through practical ministry, and by people going to share the hope that we have.

A traditional Jordanian wedding



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The many faces of deputation

My health

I saw an oral surgeon for correction of my lip damage and this was successful. I will have my dental replacement done in Jordan. Otherwise, praise God as I am in good health.

Prayer warriors

This letter is designed to direct people to pray for my ministry, as I believe that God is calling me to boost the prayer support. So if God is calling you to stand alongside me, please do get in touch to become a partner in prayer; without which I cannot stand.

Ministry to Jordan

The couple in the criminal court regarding a legal marriage are making progress. There was a risk that the family would be split with the wife deported, the children put in an "orphanage" and he and the witnesses sent to prison. Encouragingly however, they were transferred from a criminal court to both civil and Shariah courts. But in February, we discovered that the lawyer representing them was not experienced in this type of law, and was leading us on, including withholding documents. We thus had had problems getting court dates, but we got a new hearing on 2 March.

On 13 March, they both had to appear with their witnesses and the children's birth certificates. They then had to give reports on their fictitious wedding: where it was held, the date and time, the names of some guests, including family members. Two of his brothers asked for 200JD payment to give false testimony to this effect.

On 16 March, they and their witnesses' Shariah court fines were paid (a total of 800JD) by the Hope Fund, but sadly not the 400JD of the kids; an unexpected transfer fee from the criminal court (300JD) was also announced.

Following hearings on 30 March and 3 April, the civil court sentenced them to one month in prison plus fines. We are working on this as the chief judge will set the fines (this could be any amount) and he has yet to review the file. However, paying each 2JD per day could be paid to avoid imprisonment. Meanwhile, the Shariah court process is nearly done. We are waiting for a paper to issue a marriage certificate but have no idea how much this certificate costs. The judge wants to see the children to decide if DNA tests are required to prove parentage to start a family book (Red book).



Bishop Suheil

Only once all these are paid, and the marriage certificate issued and validated at various departments, can anything be done about the wife's overstay fines and getting her residency. Monies for this are handled separately from those for my work. They have been unable to have fellowship for about a year, which hinders their growth in the Lord.

The Jordanian Church

Please pray especially at this time for Bishop Suheil, Bishop in Jerusalem, as he and his family have had their residence permit for Jerusalem denied them; this is needed for him to carry out his ministry and duties. Pray that the problem will have a swift and amiable resolution. Pray also for the safety of all believers during the "Arab Spring".

Al-Fida' (Redemption) Charity

The formation of Al-Fida' is in progress again. I am currently working on a project proposal and talking with contacts in the Middle East regarding how to put it together. Special thanks to Ian and Wilma (ex-ESAC) who helped me start the process. Please pray for my contacts, that we might be able to get a Magindanaon believer to work with women. We wish every blessing upon Carmelita

(Philippine Embassy) and Kathryn (US Embassy), both such a help, as they go to their new postings, and God's protection and good fellowship for them. Thank God for meeting here with people involved in anti-trafficking and human rights.

UK ministry

During CMS's 34th Miner tour, I helped at two venues. As I met Jose and Blanca Henriquez (the 24th miner and his wife) and Alf Cooper (a CMS mission partner), I was touched not only by their passion for God and for prayer, their humility and their humour, but also by the real depth of God's love leading them to love others furiously. The warm smiles of Jose and Blanca stirred me, and I was knocked sideways by Alf. From a far flung continent, in the midst of a busy schedule and meeting important people, they nevertheless recognised me and took time to find out how I was, a worker many miles away – and to pray and encourage me personally.

You can read Jose's story on: <http://www.cms-uk.org/NewsandViews/34thManTourAChileanminerspeaks/tabid/562/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

I continue relating to Muslims in Woking. I see my friends less often while on deputation but please pray for "Ishti", his Uncle Mohammed and Rashid. Also now that there are more Arabs in town, please pray for Ahmed the Egyptian Barista, Hosni and Khaled the Libyan. Also please pray for Haithin a Libyan on the south coast.

"Krishna's" story continues, the homeless Nepali man living in Woking. He initially got enough money to pay rent but soon lost his room and his college position due to his behaviour. He was once more on the streets penniless, which in turn led to a serious assault which put him in hospital. Shortly after discharge he was again on the streets of Woking, receiving food parcels from the church. Negotiations were made with the Nepali Embassy and eventually he was repatriated in March.

I made contact with a Christian drug and alcohol rehab centre there, and the church agreed to pay for treatment. But at present he has neither gone to the centre nor risked returning home. Here he continued to go to church irregularly, and made many profound remarks. We must pray for Christian contacts in Nepal, and that he will be enwrapped in the Father's arms to be set free.

I continue my 'mission' to introduce Grace and community to my house: please pray for Manish (returned to Nepal), Santos and Santi, (Hong Kong Nepalese), Punith (Sri Lankan), Derek (Polish) and my new Nepalese housemate.

Praise points

- Praise God for the progress made on the family's case, and God's mercy upon us.
- Thank God for the preparations being made for my return to Jordan.
- Thank God for the ministry of healing and those who perform it.

■ Praise God that in Him we have a sure and firm hope (1 Peter 1:3).

■ Praise God for uplifting and blessed link visits and that they grow deeper relationships.

Prayer points

■ Pray for a swift and safe return to Jordan and adapting to the life (and heat) there.

■ Pray that the family be united and established in God's Love, and in turn they may bless others.

■ Ask God that those in the Middle East may have peace and discover the true hope.

■ Pray for boldness and perseverance in my ministry.

(1 Thessalonians 2)

■ Bring individuals from this, or previous, letters before God. He knows each of us by name!

Not enough?

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

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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?

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

Yours in Christ,

Michael