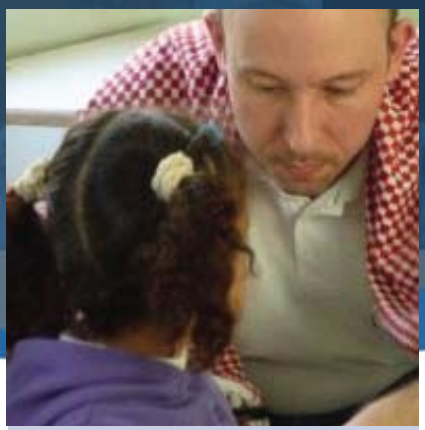
CMS link letter

MIDDLE EAST



Michael Green
CMS mission partner
Jordan

Link Letter no. 31 July 2011

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces patience, and patience proves the character, and the character proves the Hope, and yet Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. "

Romans 5:1-5.

Dear Friends

as salaam 9alaykum (Peace be upon you). It's not been an easy year. Suffering is not something that comes easy to us, especially us in the West, and many Christians try and claim that suffering is not part of Christian life. Strange then that time & time again the Bible points to suffering as part of Christian life, but suffering that we may overcome. This in turn produces patience, another commodity in short supply in our modern world. Yet this is a sign to those around us of the hope, the expectation, that we have of the Glory of God and to us also, and in that again we can rejoice.

Ministry at Mafraq

Prayer warriors

This letter is naturally designed to direct people to pray for my ministry. However, during my time in the UK I believe that God is calling me to boost the prayer behind my ministry. My ministry survives on prayer. Please join in praying that God would bless and grow my ministry in the Middle East so that many would experience the saving and healing message of Jesus Christ as we share medical cures in one hand and spiritual cures on the other. If you therefore feel called to a ministry of prayer and believe that you are called to stand alongside me in my ministry, please contact me to become one of a group of dedicated individuals praying for the ministry and encouraging others to pray; there is also a possibility of organising "locality" prayer meetings.

Did you know that you can now receive link letters by email, sent as a PDF? If you would like to receive them this way, and help CMS save money, please contact **jonathan.self@cms-uk.org** or **01865 787527**

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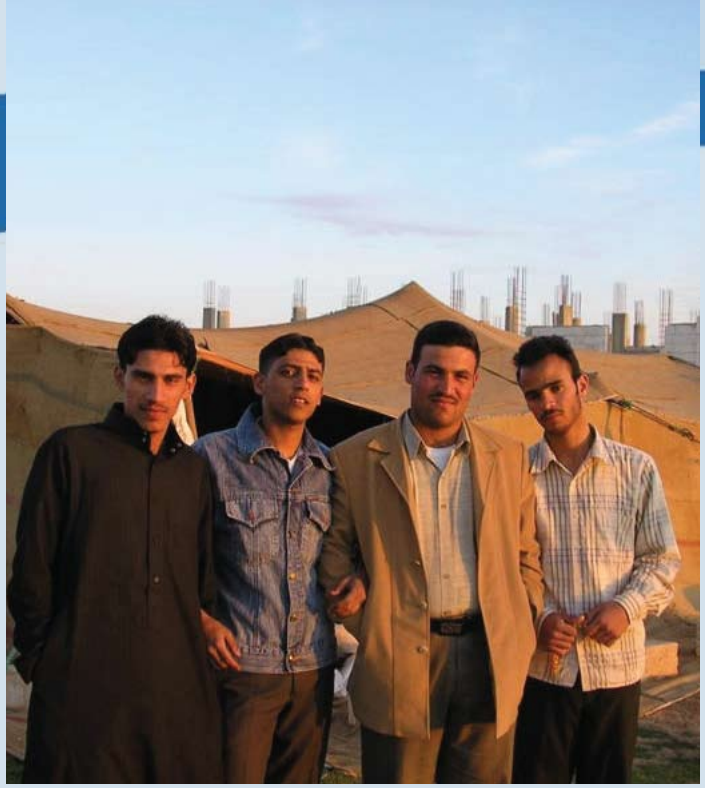

Ministry at Mafraq

They're married at last!

Perhaps the most dramatic news from Jordan is that the couple trying to get married are finally officially husband and wife – hallelujah! The wife also now has the visa stamp *"married to a Jordanian"* and their youngest child has Jordanian nationality. A formal hearing is pending for their son as he is over a year old. Funds are being raised to pay-off fines but we are so grateful for this news and that they were spared prison. They now need our prayers that they may cope as a family; and for the growth of their relationship with the Lord.

My health

I am delighted that both my neurologist and oral surgeon have discharged me with both saying that if I have any future problems (none are expected), that I should contact them personally, which is very kind. I hope to have my dental replacement done in the field.

Previous ministry

Unfortunately, while I was away the founding of the Al-Fida' (Redemption) Charity was disrupted, but thank God that it is in progress again. A project proposal is nearly complete, just awaiting details now regarding social workers. Please pray for my contacts though, that we might be able to get a Magindanaon (S. Filipino) believer to work with women.

The family

Marion, a proud Jordanian

Archdeacon Luay at St Lukes, Lebanon

Haithin and me

Thank God for meeting here with people involved in anti-trafficking and human rights.

The post that I hoped to go to in Jordan has not worked out and at present we are in negotiations regarding my next posting. Options include: nursing in Menouf, Sadat City (Egypt), or Mafraq (Jordan). Other options include Beirut (Lebanon). However, it is anticipated that by the next link letter I will be in a post.

FACT FILE: Possible locations.
See the maps below and right.

Possible locations

UK ministry

I've often mentioned the importance of doing ministry "everyplace you are", and this continues while in the UK.

I continue relating to Muslims in Woking. Please continue to pray for "Ishti", his Uncle Mohammed, and Rashid. Woking suddenly seems awash with Arabs so please pray for my contacts at the new Lebanese café, and the Arabs in Maybur; pray especially for Ahmed, the Egyptian Barista; Hosni, and Khaled the Libyan. Also pray for Haithin, a Libyan on the south coast.

"Krishna", the homeless Nepali in Woking, was repatriated in March, and is living with his family. Through CMS contacts we arranged for treatment at a Christian Drug and Alcohol rehab project there (the church agreed to pay for treatment); at present though, he has not gone to the centre. We pray for Christian contacts in Nepal, and that he will be set free.

I continue with my 'mission' to introduce grace and community to my household, even though at times it is quite a struggle.

Deputation

I don't believe it would be over the top to say that this has been the best deputation I have ever done. Returning to my supporting churches, I have felt that the relationships and involvement have increased and we have become closer. I have also been blessed with some lovely new links. Unfortunately, it was not possible to visit three existing churches.

A special pleasure for me was to attend a Baptism service in Ferndown, and a "Messy Church" in Bournemouth on Good Friday. Most surprising of all was the Resurrection Sunday service which I translated into Arabic for a young Libyan, Haithin, who took my new English/Arabic Bible afterwards; he has since taken refuge in the UK.

The Jordanian church

Please continue to pray for Bishop Suheil Dawani in Jerusalem, as he and his family continue to have 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.

Furthermore, please pray for Archdeacon Luay Haddad, my former minister, who had a heart attack earlier this year; pray that he may make a full recovery.

Praise

- Praise God for my healing and good treatment.
- Thank God for the opportunity to practice my Arabic and to make Arab friends.
- Praise God for the general peace and stability in Jordan so far.
- I am grateful for a chance to catch up with friends and family in the UK.
- Praise the Lord for a legal marriage of the couple and the establishment of their children's status!

Prayer

- For stability across the Middle East, with freedom for Christians.
- For the couple to grow in the love of Christ and raise their family in His love.
- For clarity for my new placement.
- For me to return renewed and revived by Him.
- For my contacts in the UK (and possibly Jordan) to meet others who will share with them.

Opportunities

Michael will be travelling in Jordan and Lebanon to look at opportunities from July 12 until July 23, and will have an interview with the Bishop of Egypt on 25 July.

- To receive this by e-mail, contact: **Jonathan.self@cms-uk.org** or view it at www.cms-uk.org .
- For more information become a member of CMS and receive *Prayerlines* and *Mission Update*: info@cms-uk.org
- If you have any questions, please contact me by email, Facebook, telephone or letter!

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

Yours in Christ,

Michael

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