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*"I will give them a new heart and a new mind. I will take away their stubborn heart of stone and will give them an obedient heart."* Ezekiel 11:19 (GNB)

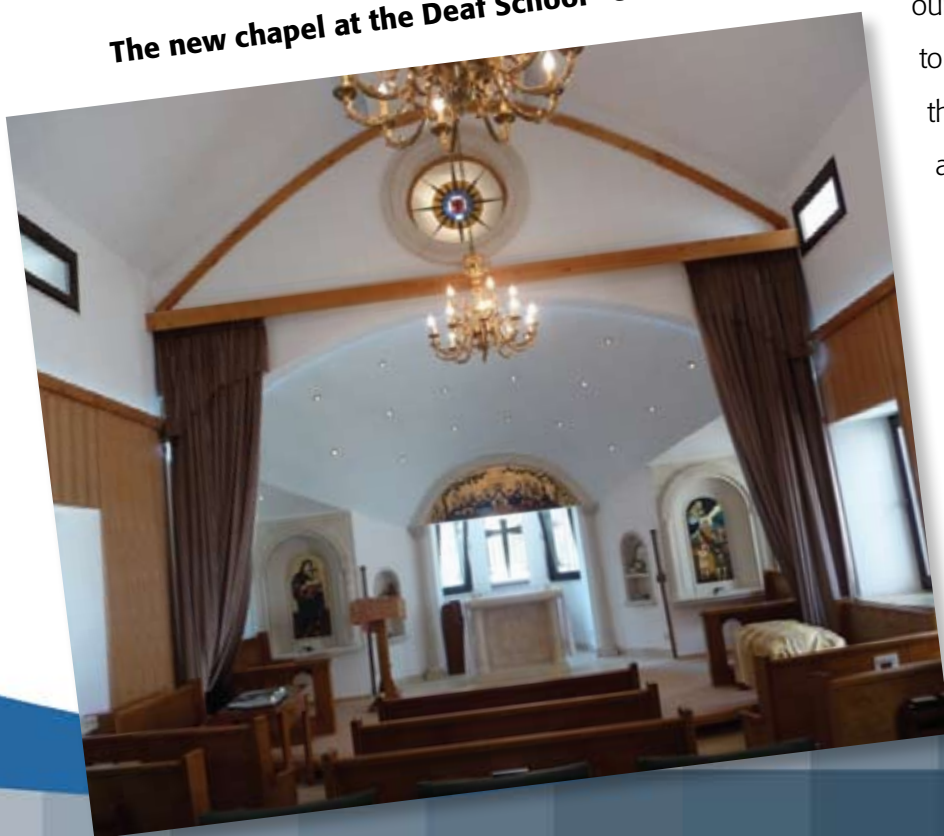
**Dear friends,**

as *salaam 9alaykum* (Peace be upon you). Here we see amazing healings of patients' illnesses (An-Noor is probably the only TB sanatorium specialising in heart transplantation). Here we have a great physician who regularly performs amazing surgery on patients. It is an amazing feat to witness. I believe all of this is the result of prayer within the sovereign work of God fulfilling His promises!

**New beginnings...**

I arrived in Jordan on 1 November, landing in a country

**The new chapel at the Deaf School - see text right**



that seemed familiar. Little changed physically over the course of 16 months spent back in the UK, but prices rose and people seemed to be publically expressing their opinions; there were some protests, but mostly it was just "chat". There is a desire here to see greater democracy, accountability and a purge of corruption – especially as the rich seem to get richer and the poor poorer.

The first month I stayed at my old pad in Amman, tying up loose ends before moving north. A crucial event was going to Salt to meet Brother Andrew as we parted ways. It was a pleasant and blessed meeting, and our paths continue to cross. He invited me to the consecration of the new chapel at the Deaf school, which was a pleasure to attend and I met many old friends. I am pleased that it will be used to extend the Kingdom of God. I was also able to meet Yusef Rizik (Manager at Jofeh) and chat.

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**A ward decorated for Christmas by the patients**

Shortly after arriving I attended a biannual spiritual refreshment weekend organised by An-Noor. It was a superb chance to get to know them, and for spiritual motivation. The theme "*Love & Unity*" was good for bonding us together in the Lord; this is especially vital now as several are serving here who departed their country of service. At the end of November I moved to Mafraq.

#### **New ministry at An-Noor**

Induction to An-Noor is challenging, exciting and fun all at the same time. New skills have to be learned or developed such as giving injections, learning about TB and chest disease symptoms, medications and chest physio, nebulisers and



**A Bedu lady who visited from the south**

inhalers, Arabic medical terms, and judging the thickness of cloth to see if you can take a woman's blood pressure through it. Thankfully there is never a shortage of practice. Much of the nursing may seem repetitive, boring or mundane, but the long term care gives a chance to build relationships and a quiet moment may be spent sharing food or drink with a patient. I even return off-duty to spend further time with them.

One lovely thing is the way that God has combined my past ministries here: working with the disabled, the Bedouin, proclamation and discipleship, community visiting and even migrant workers, as many come here

**Hassan**



**Sayed and me**





### **Christmas Day 2011 - the kids' programme**

for treatment (this will include a cooking ministry too!). This is most dramatically shown by the people I have met here who God has brought from my previous time in Jordan: a near neighbour from Salt and several people that I know from my previous work. The knowledge of the local villages around Mafraq also seems to be a great asset.

#### **Married at last...**

However, whilst married, the couple I worked with are struggling to maintain a relationship with God and with each other, especially because they moved in with his parents. The husband especially seems to have backslidden. Pray that someone will be able to disciple them but give thanks for the money given by a local church for Filipino bibles.

#### **The local church**

Thank God that Bishop Suheil Dawani has Jerusalem residence permits now. Archdeacon Luay Haddad has made a good recovery from his heart attack but has changed little.

I now attend the only protestant church in Mafraq, the C&MA or Alliance Church. It is a very nice church. Morning services

are attended by many foreigners from the hospital, and so has some English hymns and translation, while the evening service is younger and very Arabic. I hope to get to know some of the local members. The pastor is Rev Noor Sahawaneh, who currently runs a great ministry among Syrian refugees as well as occasionally visiting An-Noor.

#### **Fact file: 3id il milad (The Feast of The Birth)/ Christmas**

The biggest event of the year at An-Noor is the Christmas party. All hands were on deck as people queued up from dawn to attend. Although many attended from the expectation of a gift (especially Christmas Child Shoeboxes), we now – mostly – limit gift giving on the day, in order to focus people on the purpose but their expectancy and persistence keeps them coming.

This year there must have been over 300 people attending. These are split into two groups – the adult programme and the kids programme. The adults

have a session in the waiting room of the clinic and the kids' is in the garage of the dental truck; there must have been at least 200 kids, all supposedly under the age of 13. I was on security detail and was assigned to controlling the older boys, while others acted as "traffic cops". The kids programme included singing, games, a message and a prayer at the end, after which we joined with the adults. The adults and inpatients programme included all the normal components one might expect. After this they went for a few small gifts for the children and the patients were served with the Jordanian National celebratory meal – Mensaf.

### UK ministry

Please pray for people to carry on my ministry in Woking, the Pakistanis "Ishti" and his Uncle Mohammed; Rashid (with mental health issues); Qumran, who expressed an interest in going to church, and the Arabs Ahmed the Barista; Hosni the Palestinian; Khaled the Libyan; Sheikh Mohammed the Imam, and his family; lastly for homeless Tony who is now unfortunately in prison.

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### Praise and prayer...

■ Praise God for giving back that which was taken by the Locusts: Joel 2:25.

■ Thank God for An-Noor, and their faithful service to the Lord.

■ Praise God for peace and stability in Jordan.

■ Rejoice that God changes hearts through His Word.

■ Praise the Lord... for the gifts provided to keep the hospital in ministry.

■ Pray for gospel openings.

■ Pray that I may soon settle into the team and serve God here.

■ Pray that my language may develop to enable my ministry here.

■ For the couple to grow in Christ and raise their family in His love.

■ For the patients here.

Goodbye (ma9 as salaama) and God bless (Allah yibaarikum). I plead with you to regularly re-read this letter and pray as you feel led; also do be encouraged by what the Lord is doing in the Middle East raising up a people for Himself.

Yours in Christ,

*Michael*