

East Africa Update – July 2009 Edition

“...the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.” (Romans 4:17b)

Dear Friends,

Happy July 4th! I heard Neil Diamond himself sang “Sweet Caroline” on the Esplanade in Boston last night before the fireworks... How fun! My holiday was a little more international than it has been in the past, as friends from Switzerland, Sweden, and Paraguay joined my American friends and me for a barbecue and even some fireworks at the end of the evening!

Back to School

We just completed our first week back at the high school after a three-month summer break. Classes are a bit smaller this year, and I’m looking forward to being able to give the students more individual attention.

Michele and I were able to visit the family of the second girl from the left, Jessica, the other night. Her father passed away suddenly last week from a heart attack. We are not sure, but we think that her mother may come from a Chr*st*an background, though she has adopted *sl*m. Also, her older sister, Samantha, was one of the girls who came over to watch the J Film with us back in May. Ask that God would break through in this family!



When asked who their heros were, most of these students chose either their mothers, fathers, Opera, or Barak Obama.

A Great Debate

Back in May, Isabelle and Iris asked us to meet with them five days per week, in order to finish our study of *Luke*. During that time, several questions surfaced, such as:

- Did J*s*s really die on the cross, or did God send in a substitute to die in His place at the last minute?
- How do we know that the B*ble is not corrupt?
- Isn’t grace a license to keep sinning?
- There is only one God. How can J*s*s, the H*ly Sp*r*t, and the Father be one?

Though we have talked through all of these issues, the girls are still very skeptical, but are excited to watch a debate over these very topics between Josh McDowell and a well-known M*sl*m apologist, Ahmed Dedat. Please be asking that God would use this to show them the inconsistencies in what they have been taught about the B*ble and about who J*s*s is.

A Bold Presentation

Because we are a team of only two right now, we have been meeting all year with a much larger team of forty. This team runs two English centers for adults and a school (preschool through grade 8), whose student body is about half s-nese and half Western—mostly the children of ‘workers’. All of the teachers at the primary school are ‘workers’, but

most of the support staff at all three schools come from this country.

The school year ended for them in May, and they hosted a banquet for the whole staff to celebrate. There were games, food, special music, and a very in-depth presentation of the good news, complete with a Q&A session. As far as I know, we have not seen any decisions from that evening yet, but at least fifty lost people who otherwise never would have heard and who will continue to be part of our lives were able to learn how they could have peace with God!

Culture Note

You may be wondering what the men wear here... Well, first of all, this is a very formal culture. Bathing and cleanliness are very important, and people rarely appear in public in dirty or wrinkled clothing. In general, men wear button-down shirts and dress pants—never T-shirts or jeans. About fifty percent of the time, men wear ankle-length, white shirts/dresses called *jalabias* with matching white pants underneath and white turbans or caps on their heads. At important university events, weddings, and funerals, all of the men wear *jalabias* and turbans. Sometimes, they even carry walking sticks.



One of the VIPs at the university graduation ceremony.

Pr*y*r Requests

1. Ask that G*d would open my ears to hear Him as I spend time with Him in the mornings.
2. Ask for mercy with the water situation. As I write this, we're going on five days without running water. The neighborhood next to ours hasn't had it in three months!
3. Ask for *Anna*, that G*d would continue to give her a hunger to know J*s*s and that He would break through the lies that she has been taught about who He is.
4. Ask that G*d would break down the walls of unbelief for Isabelle and Iris. They have heard the full plan for s*lv*t**n several times, but are still not convinced that J*s*s is who He says He is.
5. Ask that we would have an opportunity to share the good news with every girl who comes to English Club.
6. Ask that G*d would raise up more women who would like to study the Book.
7. Continue to pr*y for my study of Arabic. I have found a personal tutor, and we start tomorrow!

Thank-you so much for your investment in the lives of women here,

Lindsey

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