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“For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

- 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ESV



Some fun photos with friends!

Left: My Arabic tutor, roommate, and I having dinner

Right: My Arabic class/teacher to the left of me.

Hi, Brian

Praying that all is well with you.

A Couple of Updates:

New Arabic Language School

As of this week I'll be starting a different language school. Since I've been in Egypt for a long while now, I've been given the option by my team leaders to change language schools. By default, all M* associates on my team attend a particular language school in our home district of Giza. It's a great program for beginners, however as I've gotten to a more advanced level I need to find a different program that can push me to the next level. So, I'll be transferring to a different school that is across town.

This other school has a more customizable program, 1-on-1 student to teachers classes, and is a little more suited for advanced learners. So, I'm excited to get started. The only downside is that it's about an hour commute by subway from where I live. But, it will be worth it. Please pray that God will continue to grow my Arabic proficiency!

Next Steps/Lebanon

I mentioned in my previous newsletter that I'll be going to Lebanon on a "vision pray trip" to meet with a couple of church planting teams out there to see how they operate, and pray about potentially moving to Lebanon as my long-term location. I'm still going to Lebanon at the beginning of August, however there are some new developments.

From what I understand, several of our M* units in Lebanon have been experiencing some security issues as of late, and the Lebanese government has unfortunately been denying long-term visas for some of our team members currently working there. Likely due to the recent regional conflicts, however I haven't been given specific details on why this is the case. One of our main teams there has been forced to change course, and several of its members are

relocating to other neighboring countries to continue their work. The leader of that team in Lebanon is actually moving to the Cairo Launch Team, where I'm currently based, to lead my team as our main leader here goes on Sabbatical. That being said, this could potentially throw a wrench in my future plans to work in Lebanon — but the Lord still may open the door. Time will tell. Otherwise, my second most preferred option is to stay in Egypt, and work with a church plant that is being started in the town over from where I'm currently located. This would also be a great option for me since I wouldn't have to learn a new dialect (though, part of me thinks it would be fun to learn the Levantine dialect of Arabic), and I'm already close friends with the leaders who are launching this new church plant — so there would already be some team familiarity/synergy. Either way, I'm open to going wherever the Lord leads. I have my preference towards Lebanon, however I trust the Lord's will. Regardless, my ultimate prayer is that the Gospel would be preached, and people would be discipled — in any location. Please pray with me about this. Lord willing, I'll be able to have more clarity within the next few months about what the future will look like.

Pray for the Middle East

Please take a moment to pray for our colleagues and team members living in the Levant. There's been on-and-off fighting, and the past few days have been even more intense. Some of our teams live in areas where seeing ballistic missiles flying overhead has become increasingly more — normal. Pray for their protection and courage, and that the Lord would open doors for them to reach their neighbors in the mist of turmoil. In a world full of malice the Lord calls us to make the **conscious decision** to not allow the evil around us to erode our love and compassion for people — even enemies, persecutors, and the worst of sinners.

*"And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' An falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, '**Lord, do not hold this sin against them.**' And when he had said this, he fell asleep." - Acts 7:59-60*





Pray for my little brother David (on the right)— the son of one of my colleagues — He just graduated, and is leaving us to go off to Germany for college. He grew up on the mission field so this is a big change for him.

Prayer Points:

- Continued growth/learning at this new Arabic language school
- Direction, clarity, and wisdom on future long-term location/team, and other decisions
- Open doors for the Gospel, while I'm still here on the Launch Team
- Spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Please let me know if you have any specific prayer requests of your own that I can pray over. I read every message and pray for each request.

God bless and Maranatha,
Bram

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