

Missionary Volunteer Program



Mar 2023

Dear Friends of MVP Missions,

Our amazing time in three Arab nations continued into March. What a wonderful experience it's been!

OMAN

*(See last month's prayer letter for our first-half report in Oman). In Oman we enjoyed a short walk along sand dunes before having a service at a remote church-plant. We enjoyed worshipping together, and had a big, group meal afterward.



That week, Joanie and I met two local ladies and they immediately “hit it off” with Joanie—so they invited to take us to lunch at a place that had authentic Omani food. We loved the experience and had some of their rice, chicken, lamb...and camel! The main service was on Friday; the church was full and there were several visitors, too. After the service, all the visitors were

taken to a quiet room where I shared the simple plan of salvation: six visitors were saved! Amen. Joanie had a wonderful meeting with the ladies, so most of the men went to a beautiful plaza area and found a Starbucks where we could visit and fellowship for awhile.

We look forward to returning to Oman mid-May and speaking on the importance of Missions' giving.

Ras al Khaima



RAK is one of the seven emirates in the U.A.E. We landed at one of the airports in Dubai and then drove 1 ½ hours north. Along the way, we passed dozens of camels along either side of the freeway.

The church in RAK is a new ministry, just about 6 months old. The young pastor who started the work

began meeting in the hallway of a house where he and his wife rented one room. The hallway could only hold about 8 chairs! But God has been blessing and providing for their work and when we arrived they had just relocated to another building where the church could meet in the living room area.

How exciting it was for us to meet the faithful members and the (newlywed) pastor and his wife. For two services that week, two other churches attended as well, so we had a houseful each time. One night we had a late-night Bible study at an apartment building (“accommodation”) across town and led 3 folks to the Lord; *and* they asked for regular Bible studies in the future.

Joanie and I met a Filipino waitress near our hotel and she wanted to visit church that week—right after she got off her shift at work. She ended up coming, and she, plus four others were saved that day!

Dubai (U.A.E.)

Since the main service in RAK was on Saturday, we were able to commute to Dubai to preach on Sunday for Pastor Reyvie. We had visited and preached at his home church earlier when we first arrived in February, but that was the midweek service and he wanted us to meet all the folks at one of their main services. We’re so thankful that the Lord allowed the opportunity to see them again and to meet all their folks. We had a great service and, of course, had a good meal afterward.

Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.)

Our last scheduled stop was in Abu Dhabi, located south of Dubai. This place is known as the safest city in the world. Even though Abu Dhabi is a big city, it was very clean and modern. When we met the pastor and his wife, it was like we were meeting old friends... what a wonderful ministry they have.

As is the norm, services were held in the pastor’s (apartment) home. When people come over, they limit themselves to groups of two or three in the elevator so as not to raise suspicions among the neighbors.

I preached several times for Pastor Marlon and Joanie held a ladies’ meeting. We were encouraged to hear the pastor’s testimony of how he left the Philippines years before, to work in Qatar. There, he was involved in an active Baptist Mission Church (Berean



Baptist church in Qatar) and then God called him to preach and start a work in the U.A.E. Joanie got ill there and in God's perfect provision, the missionary wife was a nurse! Joanie got a fast appointment with a thorough Doctor, and she received the needed meds to fight a lung and sinus infection. We thank God for that.

Dubai

Once again, because weekly services were held on a Saturday in Abu Dhabi, we were free to travel Saturday evening back to metro Dubai. Pastor Anthony in Sharja requested that if it was at all possible to be with them on a Sunday, he wanted us to be there. We realized if we left Abu Dhabi immediately after their service, we could! He was the pastor who in February moved his mid-week service to Friday, allowing Darrell to preach for his church. They have a large attendance on Sunday so they meet at a hotel conference room. It was wonderful to see the pastor, his wife and several church members again, and to preach for that wonderful church. Joanie had a Ladies' Meeting after the main service, which they enjoyed very much.



At every church we visited, we were able to deliver a new KJV Bible, a copy of Joanie's book, and another book (or study guide) for the missionary's library. Joanie packed gifts including jewelry and lotions for each pastors' wife. They were very pleased to have been thought of, and to receive something special.

Once we arrived back to Florida, we ordered a shipment of Bibles to be sent to someone we know in the Middle-East. He will distribute them to several churches, and to new believers and others who need a copy of the Word of God. And, there is another large shipment of Bibles currently on its way to Qatar! What a blessing it is to get the Word of God into these Arab nations where Bibles are otherwise not available. Thank you all for helping us encourage Missionaries!

--For a Greater Harvest.

Darrell & Joanie Bolton